



First Christian Church

Disciples of Christ

430 S. 16th St. Lincoln, NE 68508 402.475.4289

Weekly Worship

love all • live spiritually • rejoice in hope • show hospitality

The Rev. Kara Hillhouse, Pastor
Mark W. Miller, Director of Worship, Music & Sacred Arts
Amy Johnson, Administrative Assistant

Week of August 17, 2025
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Community Prayer

God of all the nations, you rescued your people out of the Red Sea and delivered Rahab from battle; you rescue the lowly and needy from injustice and tribulation. Surround us with so great a cloud of witnesses that we may have faith to live by your word in our time, courage to persevere in the race set before us, and endurance in the time of trial. Amen.

“Reprinted and Revised Common Lectionary Prayers,

Call to Worship

One: The One who commands the clouds,
calls us to be poured out for others.

Many: We can, by faith, be the waters of
peace which quench the fires of hatred.

One: The One who is with us in every mo-
ment, composes a love-song for our hearts.

Many: We can, by faith, teach this song to
everyone we meet.

Sermon

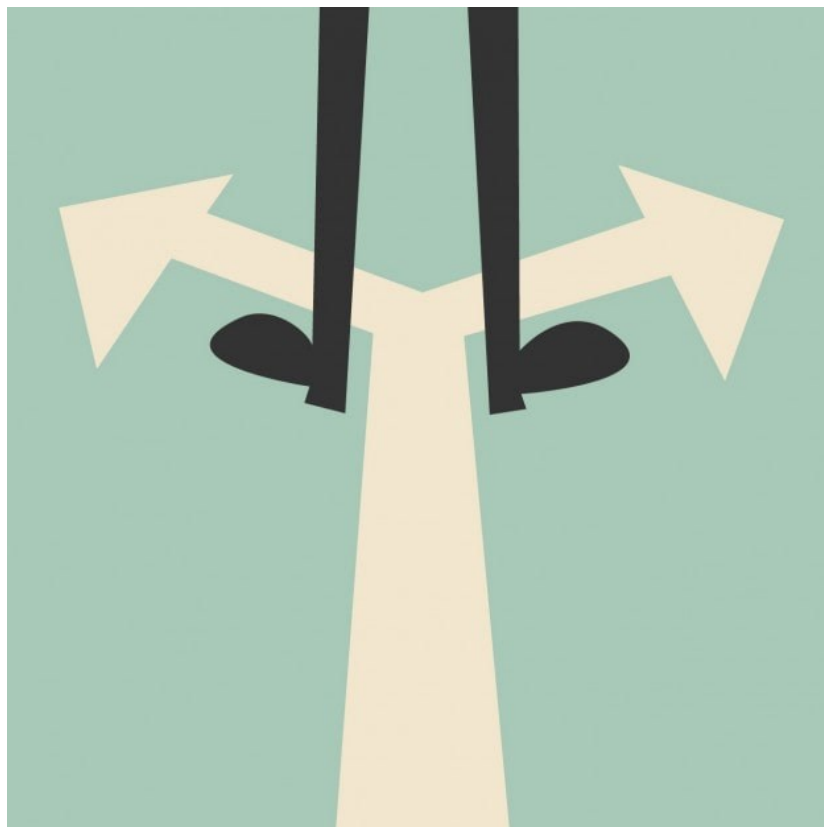
From The Rev. Kara Hillhouse

Hebrews 11:29-36; 12:1-2

The Intersection

The New Testament book of Hebrews is a letter that was written to Jewish Christians roughly 30-40 years after Christ's resurrection. These people of the early church were being persecuted and considering walking away from their faith in Jesus Christ because of how hard things were; so the writer reminded them of God's faithfulness to their ancestors (and their ancestors' faithfulness to God), which was made apparent especially in times of deep struggle. These people endured hardship, uncertainties, suffering, imprisonment and even death. But still, they went out in faith that God would be true to His promises. The conclusion the author of Hebrews impresses upon us is that *faith is made manifest at very difficult intersections*: the place where uncertainty and trust meet. Join us for worship Sunday when we'll ponder what that means for us today. Come and be rejuvenated by a meaningful time of worship, music, fellowship and the Lord's Supper. We'll see you at First!

Pastor Kara



Scripture Readings

Psalm 80:1-2, 8-19

“Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock! You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh. Stir up your might, and come to save us!

You brought a vine out of Egypt; you drove out the nations and planted it. You cleared the ground for it; it took deep root and filled the land. The mountains were covered with its shade, the mighty cedars with its branches; it sent out its branches to the sea, and its shoots to the River.

Why then have you broken down its walls, so that all who pass along the way pluck its fruit? The boar from the forest ravages it, and all that move in the field feed on it. Turn again, O God of hosts; look down from heaven, and see; have regard for this vine, the stock that your right hand planted. They have burned it with fire, they have cut it down; may they perish at the rebuke of your countenance. But let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, the one whom you made strong for yourself. Then we will never turn back from you; give us life, and we will call on your name. Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.”



Hebrews 11:29-36, 12:1-2

“By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned. By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace. And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets—who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment.

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.”

Prayers & Praises

August 17, 2025

In Our Church Family:

- Donna Baker
- Phyllis Thurber
- Polly Putney
- Jessica Vocasek
- Marvin Thurber
- Roger Vocasek

Prayers for the Carlin Family as Mike passed away on August 4. The service will be Saturday, August 16th at 2 pm in the sanctuary.

Prayers for Roger & Jessica Vocasek. Roger is recovering from shoulder surgery and Jessica has back issues.

Prayers for Cecilia Burkhart for the passing of her brother James.

Friends:

- Sympathy for Ron Collamore, Ron's cousin, Johnny, was killed in California.
- Jody Schrage, friend of Katelyn Long. She is hospitalized in Wyoming.
- Nikki, friend of Katelyn Long. She is recovering from recent gastric bypass surgery.
- Linda De Los Santos, sister of Vincent Ortega. Linda is home and continues rehab.

Our Timothy:

- Rev. Bruce Frogge, Cypress Creek CC in Spring, TX

In the Nebraska Region: Peru Community Church
- Ray & Becky Girard

Our Global Ministries Missionaries in: Greece

"As a body united in service, we ask that You breathe life into Perichoresis' mission and empower our partners in the work of proclaiming Your name. Let every word spoken and every act of love point to Your glory. We are Your servants, Lord. May we remain rooted in Your Word and steadfast in obedience, so that in all we do, we reflect the light of Your Kingdom. We seek Your guidance in managing our programs: the educational project, the Agkalia (Hug) project, and the Food Bank project. Both for our employees, that they may work with the wisdom of the Lord, and for the beneficiaries, that they may see in our faces the hope and light of the Lord. We also ask for the protection of our country from natural disasters (such as fires) that occur during the summer months, as well as for peace and justice in our region and in our wider region and especially in Ukraine and the Middle East.

For more information and stories about our Global Ministry partners visit www.globalministries.org



How Firm a Foundation

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord, is laid for your faith in God's excellent Word! What more can be said than to you God hath said, to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

"Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed, for I am thy God, and will still give thee aid; I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand, upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.

"When through the deep waters I call thee to go, the rivers of sorrow shall not overflow; for I will be near thee, thy troubles to bless, and sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.

"When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie, my grace, all sufficient, shall be thy supply; the flame shall not hurt thee; I only design thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.

"The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose, I will not, I will not desert to its foes; that soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake, I'll never, no, never, no, never forsake."

