



**First Christian Church**

Disciples of Christ

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## 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 24, 2025**  
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### Community Prayer

Merciful God, as we pour out the wealth you have entrusted to us, the parched places are watered; as we cease our evil talk, the rising light of peace dawns in the darkness. So lead us into faithful living that your promises may unfold in us as a woman's back, long bent, unfolds at Christ's command, to the praise of your holy name. Amen.

"Reprinted and Revised Common Lectionary Prayers,  
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### Call to Worship

One: Before we got up this morning and decided to come to church,

Many: God was waiting for us, to welcome us with grace.

One: When we are unsure of what to do; when we falter before the next step,

Many: we come to listen to God's voice, to learn from the One who teaches us all we ever need to know.

# Sermon

From The Rev. Kara Hillhouse

Luke 13: 10-17

*Unstoppable*

I was pretty much an ideal teenager: I didn't date anyone, so no drama there; I didn't engage in any dangerous behavior; and I never disagreed or argued with my parents. None of that kicked in until my 20's (joking/not-joking). So, while I am by-and-large a rule follower now (please come to a complete stop at all stop signs), there's a part of me that revels in pushing the envelope. Which is good, otherwise Jesus would really frustrate me, because he seemed to delight in turning everything upside down, which of course was desperately needed, as the world is broken. But people continually tried to contain Jesus and prohibit his attempts to teach us a better way, the ways of his Kingdom. And it was usually done by telling Jesus his actions were a violation of either religious laws or cultural norms. What are we supposed to learn about God in those moments? And what are we supposed to learn about our own calls to follow him? Join us for worship Sunday, for a time of rest and rejuvenation, a time of exploring God's Living Word, and a time to be renewed at Christ's Table. We'll see you at First!

Pastor Kara



# Scripture Readings

## Psalm 71:1-6

“In you, O Lord, I take refuge; let me never be put to shame. In your righteousness deliver me and rescue me; incline your ear to me and save me! Be to me a rock of refuge, a strong fortress, to save me, for you art my rock and my fortress. Rescue me, O my God, from the hand of the wicked, from the grasp of the unjust and cruel. For you, O Lord, are my hope, my trust, O Lord, from my youth. Upon you I have leaned from my birth; it was you who took me from my mother’s womb. My praise is continually of you.”



## Luke 13:10-17

“Now he was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath. And just then there appeared a woman with a spirit that had crippled her for eighteen years. She was bent over and was quite unable to stand up straight. When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said, ‘Woman, you are set free from your ailment.’ When he laid his hands on her, immediately she stood up straight and began praising God. But the leader of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had cured on the sabbath, kept saying to the crowd, ‘There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be cured, and not on the sabbath day.’ But the Lord answered him and said, ‘You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger, and lead it away to give it water? And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen long years, be set free from this bondage on the sabbath day?’ When he said this, all his opponents were put to shame; and the entire crowd was rejoicing at all the wonderful things that he was doing.



# Prayers & Praises

## August 24, 2025

### In Our Church Family:

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

*Prayers for the Carlin Family as Mike passed away on August 4.*

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

### Friends:

- Sympathy for Ron Collamore, Ron's cousin, Johnny, was killed in California.
- Jody Schrage, friend of Katelyn Long. She is back in Lincoln, undergoing extensive testing.
- Nikki, friend of Katelyn Long. She is recovering from recent gastric bypass surgery.

### Our Timothy:

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

**In the Nebraska Region:** Plattsmouth First Christian Church - Michael Lincoln

### Our Global Ministries Missionaries in: India

"Dear Lord, Our Liberator, have mercy on us—the millions of women, men, children, and transgender individuals in India who are suffering due to HIV and AIDS. As our nation celebrated its 78th year of freedom this Independence Day on August 15, many continue to live in bondage—like the Israelites in Egypt—crying out in pain, hunger, and rejection. These siblings are denied food, medicine, dignity, and hope, and are crushed under the weight of stigma and discrimination. Lord, especially bless the orphaned children, and the aged who feel forgotten. Yet, we thank you, Lord, for the Diocese of Calcutta, and Arunima Hospice and Snehakunja Children's Home, who offer light in this darkness. We give thanks to you, Lord, for the support of Global Ministries of the Disciples of Christ and the United Church of Christ, who walk with us through the struggle. Bless their commitment to serving the socially excluded, especially aged people living with HIV, and the women in sex work, facing exploitation and rejection. Lord, empower us to prevent the rising cases of HIV among adolescents and youth. Help us to restore the dignity of those suffering through education, nutrition, care, and love. Strengthen us to integrate them back into society. Amen.

For more information and stories about our Global Ministry partners visit [www.globalministries.org](http://www.globalministries.org)



## Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty

Open now thy gates of beauty, Zion, let me enter there, where my soul in joyful duty waits for God who answers prayer; O how blessed is this place, filled with solace, light, and grace.

Gracious God, I come before thee; come thou also unto me; where we find thee and adore thee, there a heaven on earth must be; to my heart O enter thou; let it be thy temple now.

Speak, O Lord, and I will hear thee; let thy will be done indeed; may I undisturbed draw near thee, while thou dost thy people feed. Here of life the fountain flows; here is balm for all our woes.

