



**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 31, 2025**  
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### Community Prayer

Almighty God, in your goodness, you provide for the needy. Remove from your people the pride of place and the pursuit of power that mocks humility. Open our hearts in generosity and justice to the neglected and lonely, that in showing esteem for others, we may honor and please you through Jesus Christ in the Holy Spirit. Amen.

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

**One:** We come to worship our God, to shout with joy to the God of all people.

**Many:** We come to the Creator of all things, to be bathed in the waters of life.

**One:** We come to the Feast of God's faithful, to be fed by the one who never forsakes us.

**Many:** We come to worship our God, to sing aloud to the one who saves us.

# Sermon

From The Rev. Kara Hillhouse

Luke 14:1, 7-14

*Etiquette Lessons by Jesus*

Growing up I was fascinated with etiquette. I'd read the old fashioned advice columns in the newspaper every day, where there were answers for questions concerning what the proper etiquette was for *x, y, and z*. I'm not sure why this interested me so, but I think I was drawn to the notion that there was a right way to act and a wrong way to act, and I knew which side I wanted to be on. Today, older and (hopefully) a wee bit wiser, I am more skeptical because: 1) who gets to define "right" and "wrong"? And 2) Why should I listen to them anyway? For Christians, Jesus is the one who gets to define "right" and "wrong" and it is to him that we look for guidance. This week we find Jesus at a Sabbath meal at a Pharisee's house, giving lessons on table etiquette, culminating with this familiar verse: *"For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."* Join us for worship, where we'll consider this passage and what we should learn from it. Come for a time of rest, rejuvenation and renewal. We'll see you at First!

Pastor Kara



# Scripture Readings

## Psalm 81:1, 10-16

“Sing aloud to God our strength;  
shout for joy to the God of Jacob.  
I am the Lord your God, who brought  
you up out of the land of Egypt. Open  
your mouth wide and I will fill it. But  
my people did not listen to my voice;  
Israel would not submit to me. So I  
gave them over to their stubborn  
hearts, to follow their own counsels. O  
that my people would listen to me, that  
Israel would walk in my ways! Then I  
would quickly subdue their enemies,  
and turn my hand against their foes.  
Those who hate the Lord would cringe  
before him, and their doom would last  
forever. I would feed you with the fin-  
est of the wheat and with honey from  
the rock I would satisfy you.”



## Luke 14:1, 7-14

“On one occasion when Jesus was  
going to the house of a leader of the  
Pharisees to eat a meal on the Sab-  
bath, they were watching him closely.  
When he noticed how the guests  
chose the places of honor, he told  
them a parable. ‘When you are invited  
by someone to a wedding banquet, do  
not sit down at the place of honor, in  
case someone more distinguished than  
you has been invited by your host; and  
the host who invited both of you may  
come and say to you, “Give this person  
your place,” and then in disgrace you  
would start to take the lowest  
place. But when you are invited, go  
and sit down at the lowest place, so  
that when your host comes, he may  
say to you, “Friend, move up higher”;  
then you will be honored in the pres-  
ence of all who sit at the table with  
you. For all who exalt themselves will  
be humbled, and those who humble  
themselves will be exalted.’ He said  
also to the one who had invited him,  
‘When you give a luncheon or a din-  
ner, do not invite your friends or your  
brothers or your relatives or rich  
neighbors, in case they may invite you  
in return, and you would be re-  
paid. But when you give a banquet, in-  
vite the poor, the crippled, the lame,  
and the blind. And you will be blessed  
because they cannot repay you, for  
you will be repaid at the resurrection  
of the righteous.”

# Prayers & Praises

## August 31, 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:** SouthPointe Christian Church, Lincoln - Abby Conley

### Our Global Ministries Missionaries in: Chile

*"Gracious God, we give thanks for the transformative work of EPES (Popular Education in Health) and all who labor for health, dignity, and justice in vulnerable communities. Bless the hands and hearts of those who teach, organize, and advocate for change, and empower every health promoter trained to be a beacon of hope in their neighborhood. Strengthen the women, families, and leaders who rise with courage to challenge systems of inequality and bring healing where there is pain. May their work continue to ripple across Chile and beyond, spreading your love through education, compassion, and collective action. In Christ's name we pray, Amen."*

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



## Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above

Sing praise to God who reigns above, the God of all creation, the God of power, the God of love, the God of our salvation. With healing balm my soul is filled, and every faithless murmur stilled: to God all praise and glory!

What God's almighty power has made God's gracious mercy keepeth; by morning glow or evening shade God's watchful eye ne'er sleepeth. Within the kingdom of God's might, lo! all is just and all is right: to God all praise and glory!

The Lord is never far away, but, through all grief distressing, an ever-present help and stay, our peace and joy and blessing, as with a mother's tender hand God gently leads the chosen band: to God all praise and glory!

Thus all my toilsome way along I sing aloud thy praises, that all may hear the grateful song my voice unwearied raises. Be joyful in the Lord, my heart; both soul and body, take your part: to God all praise and glory!

