



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
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Week of September 7, 2025
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Community Prayer

Creator God, you form us on the wheel of life as a potter molds the clay. Shape us into holy vessels, bearing the mark of your wise crafting, that we may remain strong and useful through years of faithful and obedient service in Christ's name. Amen.

"Reprinted and Revised Common Lectionary Prayers,
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Call to Worship

One: We gather in the presence of God:

Many: Who knows us when we wake up
and when we go to sleep, and in all the
moments in between.

One: We gather to be the people of God:

Many: who appeals to us to follow in love,
in faith, in service

Sermon

From The Rev. Kara Hillhouse

Jeremiah 18: 1-11

By His Hands

As with other Old Testament prophets, Jeremiah had a really hard task: to speak words of warning on God's behalf, that, if the people (God's *chosen* people) did not change their ways, there would be devastation. Yet in the midst of these warnings, here is this hopeful text, where God shows Jeremiah a potter making a clay pot. The clay pot was "spoiled in the potter's hands," but then he remade it into something good. Likewise, God said, I will remake my people into the beautiful thing I intended them to be, if only they will turn from their evil ways and follow me. It's a tough text to hear because we wonder what we are doing that is evil in God's eyes, yet it continues to apply to us today, so it's important we take it seriously. But behind God's anger there is love and hope. Join us for worship as we ponder God's Living Word for us, so we can be encouraged to continue forward in faith and trust in our God of Grace. We'll see you at First!

Pastor Kara



Scripture Readings

Psalms 139:1-6, 13-18

“O LORD, you have searched me and known me. You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away. You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways. Even before a word is on my tongue, O LORD, you know it completely. You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it.

For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well. My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. Your eyes beheld my unformed substance. In your book were written all the days that were formed for me, when none of them as yet existed. How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them! I try to count them—they are more than the sand; I come to the end—I am still with you.”



Jeremiah 18:1-11

“The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD: ‘Come, go down to the potter’s house, and there I will let you hear my words.’ So I went down to the potter’s house, and there he was working at his wheel. The vessel he was making of clay was spoiled in the potter’s hand, and he re-worked it into another vessel, as seemed good to him. Then the word of the LORD came to me: Can I not do with you, O house of Israel, just as this potter has done? says the LORD. Just like the clay in the potter’s hand, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel. At one moment I may declare concerning a nation or a kingdom that I will pluck up and break down and destroy it, but if that nation, concerning which I have spoken, turns from its evil, I will change my mind about the disaster that I intended to bring on it. And at another moment I may declare concerning a nation or a kingdom that I will build and plant it, but if it does evil in my sight, not listening to my voice, then I will change my mind about the good that I had intended to do to it. Now, therefore, say to the people of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem: Thus says the LORD: Look, I am a potter shaping evil against you and devising a plan against you. Turn now, all of you, from your evil way, and amend your ways and your doings.”



Prayers & Praises

September 7, 2025

In Our Church Family:

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

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

Friends:

- Prayers for Ron Collamore, *for his health concerns.*
- 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: Southview Christian Church, Lincoln - Kerry O'Bryant

Our Global Ministries Missionaries in: Mozambique

"Eternal and ever-blessed God, you are the Lord of all good life. We do not know what will come to us and what will happen to us in this world. Whatever comes to us, be with us to guide, strengthen, comfort, and control. We pray that peace and reconciliation must be a slogan everywhere in Mozambique, that people love one another. We pray that the healing balm of your love will be poured upon all those who have been devastated, mutilated, and violated by the war in the Northern part and all over the country. We pray that all Mozambicans will be empowered to forgive and that your kingdom of love will prevail. "

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



All Things Bright and Beautiful

All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small, all things wise and wonderful, the Lord God made them all.

Each little flower that opens, each little bird that sings, God made their glowing colors; God made their tiny wings. All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small, all things wise and wonderful, the Lord God made them all.

The purple headed mountain, the river running by, the sunset, and the morning that brighten up the sky. All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small, all things wise and wonderful, the Lord God made them all.

The cold wind in the winter, the pleasant summer sun, the ripe fruits in the garden, God made them every one. All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small, all things wise and wonderful, the Lord God made them all.

God gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell how great is God Almighty, who has made all things well. All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small, all things wise and wonderful, the Lord God made them all.

