



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 September 21, 2025
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Community Prayer

When joy is gone and hearts are sick, O God, you give us Christ as our healing balm. He came in human flesh that he might give himself as a ransom for our salvation and anoint us with the Spirit of consolation and joy. Hear the cry of your people, that we may rejoice in the richness of your love and be faithful stewards of your many gifts. Amen.

“Reprinted and Revised Common Lectionary Prayers,
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Call to Worship

One: Turn us, O God,

Many: away from the world's temptations
and distractions.

One: Return us, O God,

Many: to the quiet calm of your presence.

One: Restore us, O God,

Many: to the path you call us to follow.

Sermon

From The Rev. Kara Hillhouse

Luke 16:1-13

A Puzzle Indeed

This week we look at the Parable of the Dishonest Manager. It's hard. Really hard, and we don't know what to make of it. But clearly Jesus had something important to impart to his listeners. The story is about stewardship, honesty, and caring for the things God entrusts to us; and, like all parables, it serves as a caution, yet a promise of hope. Join us for worship as we explore this story, and be fed by a time of worship and fellowship. We'll see you at First!

Pastor Kara



Scripture Readings

Psalm 79: 1-9

“O God, the nations have come into your inheritance; they have defiled your holy temple; they have laid Jerusalem in ruins. They have given the bodies of your servants to the birds of the air for food, the flesh of your faithful to the wild animals of the earth. They have poured out their blood like water all around Jerusalem, and there was no one to bury them. We have become a taunt to our neighbors, mocked and derided by those around us. How long, O Lord? Will you be angry forever? Will your jealous wrath burn like fire? Pour out your anger on the nations that do not know you, and on the kingdoms that do not call on your name. For they have devoured Jacob and laid waste his habitation. Do not remember against us the iniquities of our ancestors; let your compassion come speedily to meet us, for we are brought very low. Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of your name; deliver us, and forgive our sins, for your name’s sake.”

Luke 16: 1-13

“Then Jesus said to the disciples, ‘There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. So he summoned him and said to him, “What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management, because you cannot be my manager any longer.” Then the manager said to himself, “What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.” So, summoning his master’s debtors one by one, he asked the first, “How much do you owe my master?” He answered, “A hundred jugs of olive oil.” He said to him, “Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.” Then he asked another, “And how much do you owe?” He replied, “A hundred containers of wheat.” He said to him, “Take your bill and make it eighty.” And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly; for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone, they may welcome you into the eternal homes. Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. If then you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? No slave can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.”



Prayers & Praises

September 21, 2025

In Our Church Family:

- Donna Baker
- Joan Dietrich
- Ron Hile
- Polly Putney
- Marvin Thurber
- Phyllis Thurber
- Jessica Vocasek
- Roger Vocasek

Prayers and sympathy for Pastor Kara Hillhouse and family in the sudden loss of her sister Heather.

Prayers for Roger & Jessica Vocasek. Roger will begin harvesting soon, and Jessica continues to have health issues.

Friends:

- 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: Unadilla Christian Church - Pulpit Supply

Our Global Ministries Missionaries in: Lebanon

“Strong and loving God, You who share in the sufferings of your people, hear us in Lebanon as we pray for the people of Lebanon and Syria, those who hunger, those who flee, and those who grieve. Have mercy, God, on the homeless, the widowed, the grieving, and the sick. Shine your light upon them in the midst of their pain, and grant them comfort. God of the hope of humanity and the safe harbor who grants peace, bestow love and unity upon this troubled world, drowning in a sea of hostility, injustice, and lust for power. Let wars be silenced and the power of enmity be broken, so that peace may dwell among us, and the nations of the earth may acknowledge your generosity, abundance, and mercy. Teach us to remove from our hearts all anger, bitterness, and misunderstanding. Draw us nearer to You so that we may live always in fellowship with one another. In your name we pray, Amen.



We Praise You, O God

We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator; in grateful devotion our tribute we bring. We lay it before you; we kneel and adore you; we bless your holy name; glad praises we sing.

We worship you, God of our fathers and mothers; through trial and tempest our guide you have been. When perils o'er take us, you will not forsake us, and with your help, O Lord, our struggles we win.

With voices united our praises we offer and gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise. With you, Lord, beside us, your strong arm will guide us. To you, our great Redeemer, forever be praise!



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

