



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 28, 2025
info@fcclincn.org
www.fcclincn.org



Community Prayer

Holy God, you reach out in love through Jesus Christ to save us so that we may live as faithful servants of you alone. Unchain us from our desire for wealth and power so that we may, in turn, release others from the prisons of poverty, hunger, and oppression. Amen.

“Reprinted and Revised Common Lectionary Prayers,
copyright 2002 Consultation on Common Texts”

Call to Worship

One: The word has come for us from God:
Many: who promises to shelter us under
the wings of hope and grace.

One: The word has come to us from Jesus:
Many: who encourages us to remember
the good news we have received.

One: The word flows to us from the Spirit:
Many: who reminds us to place our hope
and trust in God.

Sermon

From The Rev. Kara Hillhouse

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

The Abundant Life

There's a difference between being physically alive and being alive on a deeper, spiritual level. One is mere subsistence (where the minimum amount of things are in place to sustain life), while the other goes beyond that to a place of thriving, prospering and flourishing. One is akin to going through life on auto-pilot, while the other savors the journey. Life is indeed a gift, for which we need to daily give thanks; yet, God desires more for us than just being alive—God desires we have the *abundant* life. We read of this in John 10:10, when Jesus says, “*I came that they may have life and have it in abundance.*” This week we'll take a look at Deuteronomy 30, where God told the Israelites to “choose life” before they entered the Promised Land. What he wanted them to choose was *him*. Because only he could give the people the abundance they needed. It's the same choice we face today. Join us for worship, for a time of rest for our souls, and a space to connect with God and each other. We'll see you at First!

Pastor Kara



Scripture Readings

Psalm 91: 1-6, 14-16

“You who live in the shelter of the Most High, who abide in the shadow of the Almighty, will say to the Lord, ‘My refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I trust.’ For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the deadly pestilence; he will cover you with his pinions, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness is a shield and buckler. You will not fear the terror of the night, or the arrow that flies by day, or the pestilence that stalks in darkness, or the destruction that wastes at noonday. Those who love me, I will deliver; I will protect those who know my name. When they call to me, I will answer them; I will be with them in trouble, I will rescue them and honor them. With long life I will satisfy them, and show them my salvation.”

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

“ ‘See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the LORD your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, loving the LORD your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the LORD swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.’ ”



Prayers & Praises

September 28, 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.

Prayers for Katelyn Long. Katelyn is having more testing and seeing a specialist.

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: Chadron UCC - Russ Seger

Our Global Ministries Missionaries in: Indonesia

"Lord our Father, by this prayer, we lift up the Christian Church in West Sulawesi (Gereja Kristen Sulawesi Barat/GKSB) and the West Sulawesi Seminary. Grant us wisdom in facing all of the social problems, poverty, and limited education of our children. We keep asking these so that the Holy Spirit would take us to be Christ's witnesses and to be a reform agent for our members and for the people of West Sulawesi and Indonesia. We beg for Your wisdom and guidance for this ongoing partnership between GKSB and our friends and fellows at the Global Ministries of the United Church of Christ and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). We seek for Your strength in shepherding our work and programs, especially for the mission development for the congregations, to improve the quality and capacity of education, to guide the children and teenagers to be our church's future leaders, for the ministers and church leaders, and for our program to give illumination and stimulus to improve the economy of our members and the community around us. Amen"

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



The God of Abraham Praise

The God of Abraham praise, who reigns enthroned above, the Ancient of Eternal Days, the God of love! The Lord, the great I AM, by earth and heaven confessed, we bow before your holy name, forever blest.

Your spirit still flows free, high surging where it will. In prophet's word you spoke of old and you speak still. Established is your law, and changeless it shall stand, deep writ upon the human heart by your strong hand.

Your goodly land we seek, with peace and plenty blest, a land of sacred liberty and Sabbath rest. There milk and honey flow, and oil and wine abound, and trees of life forever grow with mercy crowned.

You have eternal life implanted in the soul; your love shall be our strength and stay, while ages roll. We praise you, living God! We praise your holy name: the first, the last, beyond all thought, and still the same!

