



First Christian Church

Disciples of Christ

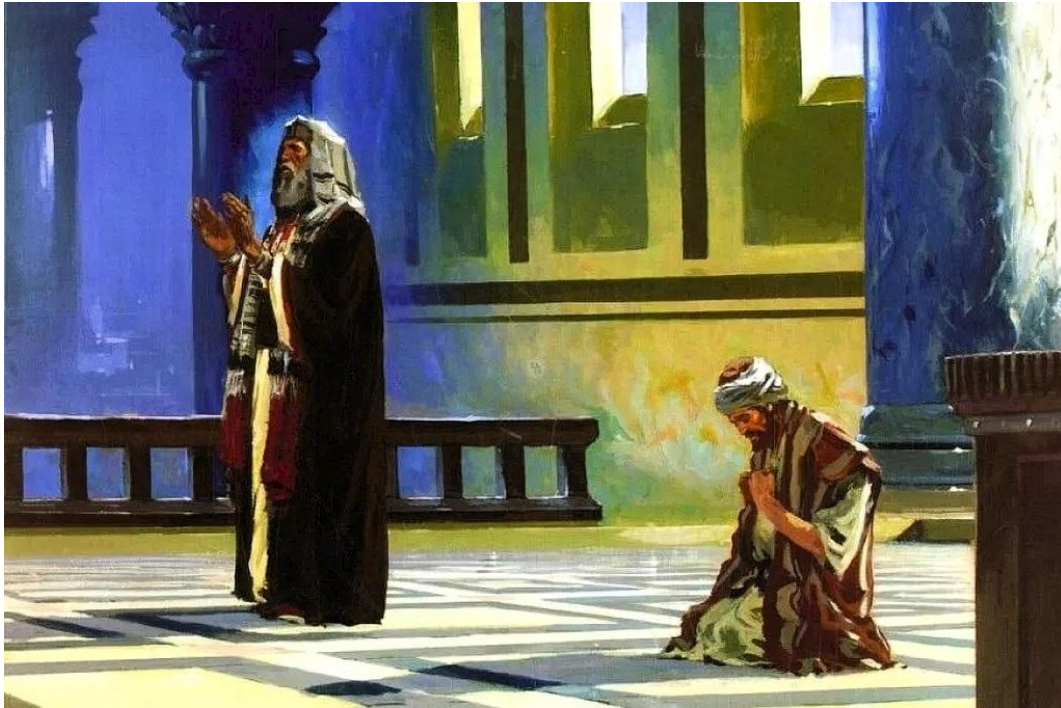
430 S. 16th St. Lincoln, NE 68508 402.475.4289

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 October 26, 2025
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Community Prayer

O God, the strength of those who humbly confess their sin and place their hope in you, save us from vain displays of righteousness, and give us grace to keep faith with the true humility of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

“Reprinted and Revised Common Lectionary Prayers,
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Call to Worship

One: This is the day the Lord has made:

Many: a day for praise and prayer.

One: This is the time God has given us:

Many: a time for singing and silence.

One: This is the life to which God calls us:

Many: a life of humility and service.

Sermon

From The Rev. Kara Hillhouse

Luke 18:9-14

Expunged

This week we'll take a look at the parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector, in which Jesus speaks of two men praying in the Temple, in very different manners. He finishes his parable with a caution, saying, "*for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted.*" Jesus said these exact words one other time, in Matthew 23, where he was also criticizing the Pharisees, because, "*Everything they do is done for people to see: They make their phylacteries wide and the tassels on their garments long; they love the place of honor at banquets and the most important seats in the synagogues; they love to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces and to be called 'Rabbi' by others.*" In both situations, a religious leader was living in a boastful manner, because they were faithful in following God's laws, and they knew it. Jesus told his followers to listen to what these religious leaders *taught*, but he warned them not to do what they *did*, because they did not live lives in accordance with God's will. And, because of their arrogance, they disregarded how much they still needed God's mercy. So, Jesus held up a different role model for his listeners, and for us, and it's not one we would expect. Join us for worship Sunday where we'll take a look at yet another one of Jesus' topsy-turvy parables, and explore what it has to teach us today. We'll see you at First!

Pastor Kara



Scripture Readings

Psalms 65

“Praise is due to you, O God, in Zion; and to you shall vows be performed, O you who answer prayer! To you all flesh shall come. When deeds of iniquity overwhelm us, you forgive our transgressions. Happy are those whom you choose and bring near to live in your courts. We shall be satisfied with the goodness of your house, your holy temple. By awesome deeds you answer us with deliverance, O God of our salvation; you are the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas. By your strength you established the mountains; you are girded with might. You silence the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves, the tumult of the peoples. Those who live at earth’s farthest bounds are awed by your signs; you make the gateways of the morning and the evening shout for joy. You visit the earth and water it, you greatly enrich it; the river of God is full of water; you provide the people with grain, for so you have prepared it. You water its furrows abundantly, settling its ridges, softening it with showers, and blessing its growth. You crown the year with your bounty; your wagon tracks overflow with richness. The pastures of the wilderness overflow, the hills gird themselves with joy, the meadows clothe themselves with flocks, the valleys deck themselves with grain, they shout and sing together for joy.”

Luke 18:9-14

“He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt: ‘Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, “God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.” But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying, “God, be merciful to me, a sinner!” I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other; for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted.’ “



Prayers & Praises

October 26, 2025

In Our Church Family:

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

Prayers for Jim Christ as he continues to recover following open heart surgery on October 10, 2025.

Prayers for Roger & Jessica Vocasek. They both have health issues.

Prayers for Katelyn Long. Katelyn is continuing to work with 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.*
- Ron Collamore, *prayers for his health.*
- Deidra Parman, *sister-in-law of Elaine Parman. Deidra has been diagnosed with B Cell Lymphoma of the eyelids. She will be at MD Anderson in Houston for treatment.*

Our Timothy:

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

In the Nebraska Region: Western NE UCC - Sandy Denton

Our Global Ministries Missionaries in: Palestine

"Lord, when our people are starving, we cry out to you for help. Bring food to the hungry and water to the thirsty. Open the eyes of the world so that they may witness the suffering of your children and act. Soften the hearts of leaders so that they may become advocates for peace. Loving God, give us today our daily bread. Nourish us with the bread of life that comes from you. Strengthen us to serve our community and to be voices for peace and justice in our homeland. We pray in the name of our savior, Jesus Christ. Amen."

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



A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing. Our helper he, amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing. For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe. His craft and power are great, and armed with cruel hate, on earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing, were not the right man on our side, the man of God's own choosing. Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is he. Lord Sabaoth his name, from age to age the same, and he must win the battle.

And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us, we will not fear, for God hath willed his truth to triumph through us. The Prince of Darkness grim, we tremble not for him. His rage we can endure, for lo, his doom is sure. One little word shall fell him.

That word above all earthly powers, no thanks to them, abideth. The Spirit and the gifts are ours through him who with us sideth. Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also. The body they may kill; God's truth abideth still. His kingdom is forever.

