



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 November 16, 2025
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Community Prayer

O God, in Christ you give us hope for a new heaven and a new earth. Grant us wisdom to interpret the signs of our times, courage to stand in the time of trial, and faith to witness to your truth and love. Amen.

“Reprinted and Revised Common Lectionary Prayers,
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Call to Worship

One: This day! This day we will give thanks to God, who cradles us in the waters of baptism.

Many: This day! This day we will trust in the One who has saved us, who strengthens us.

One: This day! This day we sing God's praises; testifying to all creation of our God.

Many: This day! This day our songs are filled with joy, for God is with us, this day and in all days to come!

Sermon

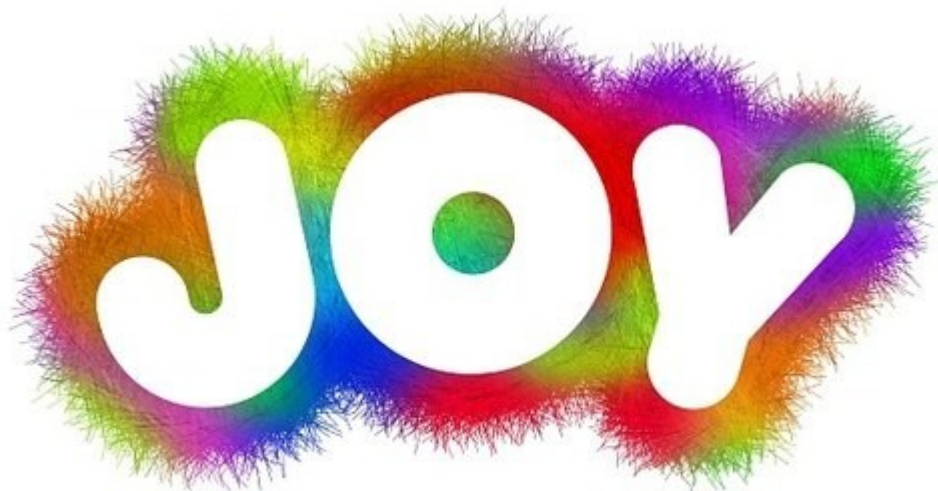
From The Rev. Kara Hillhouse

Psalm 98

Joyful, Joyful

Joy is a gift from God, that he intends and desires we experience fully. Perhaps no writings in the Bible express the experience of joy better than the book of Psalms. Amazingly, the same can be said of sorrow, as so much of the book also speaks of our struggles. The contrast of these two emotions, joy and sorrow, makes the joy even more poignant. Andrew Murray, a South African pastor and author in the 1800's and early 1900's, wrote, "[J]oy is an essential characteristic of the life of the believer who fully abides in Christ. ... Paul understood the paradox of the Christian life as the combination at one and the same moment of all the bitterness of earth and all the joy of heaven, when he wrote in 2 Corinthians 6, 'As sorrowful, yet always rejoicing.' [Those] words teach us how the joy of Christ can overrule the sorrow of the world, can make us sing while we weep, and can maintain in the heart, even when cast down by disappointment or difficulties, a deep consciousness of a joy that is unspeakable and fully of glory." Join us for worship Sunday where we'll explore how to experience the Joy God has already given us, but which sometimes gets covered up by the burdens of this world, and needs to be unearthed. Come and be rejuvenated by a time of worship and fellowship. We'll see you at First!

Pastor Kara



Scripture Readings

Isaiah 12

“You will say in that day: I will give thanks to you, O Lord, for though you were angry with me, your anger turned away, and you comforted me. Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid, for the Lord God is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation. With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the Lord, call upon his name; make known his deeds among the nations, proclaim that his name is exalted. Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth. Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.”

Psalms 98

“O sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things. His right hand and his holy arm have gotten him victory. The Lord has made known his victory; he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations. He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel. All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God. Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises. Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound of melody. With trumpets and the sound of the horn make a joyful noise before the King, the Lord. Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; the world and those who live in it. Let the floods clap their hands; let the hills sing together for joy at the presence of the Lord, for he is coming to judge the earth. He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with equity.”



With joy
you will draw water
from the wells
of salvation.
Isaiah 12:3

Prayers & Praises

November 16, 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:

- Lucy Reuter-Masek, mom of Kristie Christianson. *Prayers for healing as she has been diagnosed with melanoma, with a rare tumor on her face. A procedure to remove it will be on Tuesday, November 18th, followed by reconstructive surgery on Friday, Nov 21st, if all goes according to plan.*
- Jody Schrage, friend of Katelyn Long, prayers are appreciated.
- 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: Retired Ministers in Nebraska

Our Global Ministries Missionaries in: Colombia

"We pray to you, God, for the children and their families who are displaced today or affected by the violence of the armed conflict. Thousands of families feel anguish and still see no way out of the war. We ask you, O God of mercy, to fill these homes with comfort, and through your Holy Spirit, to strengthen them in the depths of their being, so that through faith, Christ may dwell in their hearts and they may be grounded in love (Eph 3:16-17). Amen"



For the Fruit of All Creation

For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God. For the gifts to every nation, thanks be to God. For the plowing, sowing, reaping, silent growth while we are sleeping, future needs in earth's safe-keeping, thanks be to God.

In the just reward of labor, God's will be done. In the help we give our neighbor, God's will be done. In our world-wide task of caring for the hungry and despairing, in the harvests we are sharing, God's will be done.

For the harvests of the Spirit, thanks be to God. For the good we all inherit, thanks be to God. For the wonders that astound us, for the truths that still confound us, most of all that love has found us, thanks be to God.



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

