



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 23, 2025
info@fcclincn.org
www.fcclincn.org



Community Prayer

Holy God, our refuge and strength, you have redeemed your scattered children, gathering them from all the corners of the earth through your firstborn, the Christ, in whom all things are held together. Make of us a just and righteous people, worthy by grace to inherit with him the kingdom of light and peace where he reigns with you and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

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

Call to Worship

One: Blessed be the Lord God who looks with kindness on us.

Many: We are the inheritors of the promises made long ago to our ancestors.

One: Blessed be the Lord God who gathers us here in this place.

Many: From across the street, from half-way around the world, God brings us home to the heart of grace.

Sermon

From The Rev. Kara Hillhouse

Colossians 1:11-20

Patience, Child

In Paul's letter to the Colossians he implores the people to look to Christ alone for strength, so that they might persevere in their faith journey. He wrote, "may you be prepared to endure everything with patience." It seems a timely scripture for the week before the beginning of Advent, since Advent is a season of waiting. Patience and waiting are both really hard, so we need seasons where all we can do is wait: we wait for the birth of Christ during Advent, and we wait for the Resurrection during Lent. Both force us to slow down and marvel in what God is doing in his Creation. Join us Sunday for a time of listening to and learning from God's living Word, a time for praising how good God is, and a time to give thanks for the fellowship God provides in this community of faith. We'll see you at First!

Pastor Kara



Scripture Readings

Luke 1:68-79

“Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them. He has raised up a mighty savior for us in the house of his servant David, as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us. Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors, and has remembered his holy covenant, the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham, to grant us that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give knowledge of salvation to his people by the forgiveness of their sins. By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

Colossians 1:1-20

“Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, To the saints and faithful brothers and sisters in Christ in Colossae: Grace to you and peace from God our Father. In our prayers for you we always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, for we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. You have heard of this hope before in the word of the truth, the gospel that has come to you. Just as it is bearing fruit and growing in the whole world, so it has been bearing fruit among yourselves from the day you heard it and truly comprehended the grace of God. This you learned from Epaphras, our beloved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on our behalf, and he has made known to us your love in the Spirit. For this reason, since the day we heard it, we have not ceased praying for you and asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of God’s will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you may lead lives worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, as you bear fruit in every good work and as you grow in the knowledge of God. May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.”

Prayers & Praises

November 23, 2025

In Our Church Family:

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

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 for healing 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: Trinity Chapel Church, Lincoln - Abby Conley

Our Global Ministries Missionaries in: Lesotho

“Heavenly Father, we lift before You the work entrusted to the Executive Secretary’s office of the Lesotho Evangelical Church in Southern Africa (LECSA). Guide our hearts and minds to serve with integrity, wisdom, and humility. Let every decision we make, every word we speak, and every act we perform bring glory to Your name and growth to Your kingdom. Strengthen our pastors, elders, and members to live faithfully and serve courageously in the mission You have given us. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.”



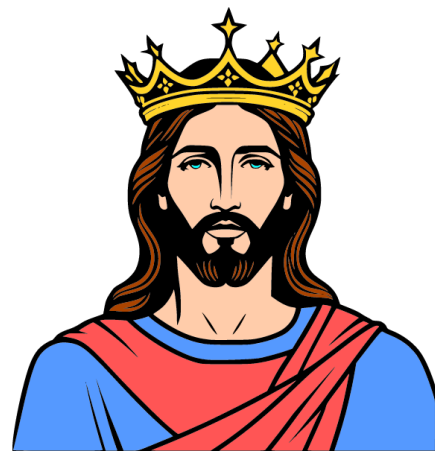
Rejoice, the Lord is King!

Rejoice, the Lord is King! Your Lord and King adore! Rejoice, give thanks, and sing, and triumph evermore. Lift up your heart; lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

Our Savior, Jesus, reigns, the God of truth and love; when he had purged our stains, he took his seat above. Lift up your heart; lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

His kingdom cannot fail; he rules o’er earth and heaven; the keys of death and hell are to our Jesus given. Lift up your heart; lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

Rejoice in glorious hope! For Christ, the Judge, shall come and gather all the saints to their eternal home. Lift up your heart; lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!



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

