



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
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Week of November 30, 2025
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Lighting the Advent Wreath

One: The Gospel of John speaks of Christ as the true light coming into the world. In commemoration of that coming, we light candles for the four weeks leading to Christmas and reflect on the coming of Christ. It is significant that the church has always used that language -- the coming of Christ -- because it speaks to a deep truth. Christ IS coming. Christ IS ALWAYS coming, always entering a troubled world, a wounded heart. And so, today, we light the first candle, the candle of HOPE, and dare to express our longing for peace, for healing and the well-being of all creation.

Many: Loving God, as we enter this Advent season we open all the dark places in our lives and memories to the healing light of Christ. Show us the power of HOPE. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you that we may walk in the light of Christ.

One: Take time, in the busyness of this season, for quiet reflection, for the light of God's love is discernible everywhere. Welcome Christ into your heart this season and go forth with the knowledge that Christ is coming and is our Hope.

Sermon

From The Rev. Kara Hillhouse

Matthew 24:36-44

Another Depressing Apocalyptic Story

The Advent season always begins with an apocalyptic (a description or prediction about the end of the world) scripture reading, which seems odd because this time of year is supposed to be a time of Joy, Peace and Merriment. After all, Christmas is when we celebrate the Advent (from the Latin “coming”) of our Savior. But, while apocalyptic texts are, granted, a bit of a killjoy, they help us enter Advent mindful of the bigger picture of Christ’s life. Join us for worship on this first Sunday in Advent, as we prepare ourselves for the coming of our Savior. We’ll see you at First!

Pastor Kara



Scripture Readings

Isaiah 2:1-5

“The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. In days to come the mountain of the Lord’s house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. Many peoples shall come and say, ‘Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.’ For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation; neither shall they learn war any more. O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

Matthew 24:36-44

“But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in the days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

Community Prayer

Unexpected God, your advent alarms us. Wake us from drowsy worship, from the sleep that neglects love, and the sedative of misdirected frenzy. Awaken us now to your coming, and bend our angers into your peace. Amen.

“Reprinted and Revised Common Lectionary Prayers,
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Prayers & Praises

November 30, 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 recovery after the removal of a facial tumor.*
- 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: Chuukese Christian Church - Moses Joshua

Our Global Ministries Missionaries in: Egypt

"Almighty Father, we praise you and thank you for this country. We pray for our country's safety. Every border we have is being ignited by calls of war and destruction. We ask that you keep those that live here safe from others who would do us harm. We pray, Lord, that we one day see an end to all the calls for power and destruction, whether in Palestine, Israel, Sudan and Libya. In Your Name, Amen."

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



Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates; behold the King of glory waits; the King of kings is drawing near; the Savior of the world is here.

Fling wide the portals of your heart; make it a temple, set apart from earthly use for heaven's employ, adorned with prayer and love and joy.

Redeemer, come! I open wide my heart to thee; here, Lord, abide. Let me thy inner presence feel; thy grace and love in me reveal.

