



First Christian Church

Disciples of Christ

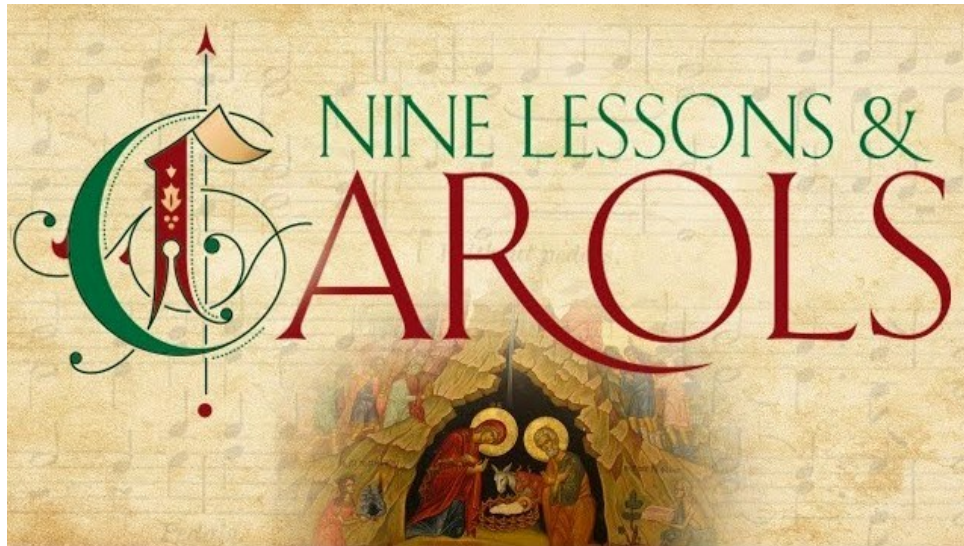
430 S. 16th St. Lincoln, NE 68508 402.475.4289

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 December 21, 2025
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Lighting the Advent Wreath

One: The first three candles we lit were for HOPE, PEACE, and JOY. Today we light the fourth candle -- the candle of LOVE. With this flame we testify to the love of God that surrounds and fills us at all time, but that especially reveals itself in the Christmas story. There is no greater power than LOVE. It is stronger than rulers and empires, stronger than grief or despair, stronger than even death. We love, because God first LOVED us.

Many: Loving God, we open ourselves to you this Christmas season. Light our lives with your imagination. Show us the creative power of hope; teach us the peace that comes from justice; fill us with the kind of joy that cannot be contained, but must be shared; and magnify your LOVE within us. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you that we may walk in the light of Christ.

One: Depart with the knowledge that you are LOVED and take with you the promise that God is always coming into the world. Seek LOVE not in a long ago stable or ancient manger, but in the people we meet and the depths of our own hearts. May the blessing of Christmas make you a blessing to others. Go forth in hope, peace, joy, and love.



Nine Lessons & Carols

1st Lesson - Genesis 3:8-15, 17-19 *Adam and Eve rebel against God.*

2nd Lesson - Genesis 22:15-18 *God promises to faithful Abraham that his descendants will be a blessing to all the nations of earth.*

3rd Lesson - Isaiah 9:2, 6-7 *Christ's birth and rule of peace and justice are foretold by Isaiah.*

4th Lesson - Isaiah 11:1-4, 6-9 *The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown.*

5th Lesson - Luke 1:26-35, 38 *The angel Gabriel announces to Mary that she will be the mother of Jesus.*

6th Lesson - Luke 2:1-7 *St. Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.*

7th Lesson - Luke 2:8-16 *The shepherds go to the manger.*

8th Lesson - Matthew 2:1-12 *The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.*

9th Lesson - John 1:1-14 *St. John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.*

Community Prayer

Shepherd of Israel, may Jesus, Emmanuel and son of Mary, be more than just a dream in our hearts. With the apostles, prophets, and saints, save us, restore us, and lead us in the way of grace and peace, that we may bear your promise into the world. Amen.



“Reprinted and Revised Common Lectionary Prayers,
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Poinsettias - 2025

The poinsettias that grace the sanctuary this Christmas were given as follows:

<u>Name:</u>	<u>In Memory of:</u>	<u>Name:</u>	<u>Honoring:</u>
Donna Baker	Harold Baker	Bobbi Carlin	Children & Grandchildren
Gwen Belden	Jim Belden and Albert & Darleen Watsek	Sara Lugn	Ashley & Ryan Lugn
Blosser Family	Our parents, Wilma Hogarth, Della Eggelston, Etta Neunaber, & Doris Hazen	Debby & Vince Ortega	Our children & grandchildren
Cecilia Burkhart	Hank & Charlotte	Kevin & Carla Pinneo	Carol Tienken and Barbara Pinneo
Bobbi Carlin	Mike Carlin	Geoff Putney	Polly Putney
Kristie Christianson	Arlin Reuter & Roger Christianson	Jeanne & Garrett Shruck	Meghan & Dan Cowger
Wayne Duncan & Susan Pallas-Duncan	Ed & Mary Ellen Duncan and Rick & Sharon Pallas	Friends	Jim & D'Arcy Blosser
Monte D. Dietrick	Roy, J.R., Wilma, Scott, and Mary Jo Dietrick	Friends	Brad & Kristi Bowker and family
Casey, Marcia & Evan Foster	Stan Foster and our grandparents	Friends	Jim Christ
Greg & Tezra Greder	Gary & Doris Greder and John Schmidt	Friends	Wayne Duncan & Susan-Pallas Duncan
Sara Lugn	Eugene & Mildred Brockemeyer	Friends	Kara Hillhouse
Debby & Vince Ortega	Our parents - JB & Marge Miller, Joe & Isabel Ortega	Friends	Amy Johnson
Elaine Parman	Loved Ones	Friends	Mark Miller
Kevin & Carla Pinneo	Bob Tienken and Virgil Pinneo	Friends	Donna Ruhl
Geoff Putney	Rae-Hope Putney		
Donna Ruhl	Loved Ones		
John & Bev Schenkel	Marilyn Leaders		
Jeanne & Garret Shruck	Karen Cowger		



The poinsettias at the rear of the chancel are given to the Glory of God and honor the saints who have served this congregation since 1869.

Prayers & Praises

December 21, 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 Gwen Belden, whose brother, Al Watsek, recently passed away.

Prayers for Monte Dietrick, whose brother, Roy Dietrick, unexpectedly passed away on December 7th.

Prayers for Jim Christ as he continues to gain strength with cardiac rehabilitation.

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.*
- Darlene Shaw, *friend of Katelyn Long. She is having an ablation on her heart; pray for her to be at peace regarding the procedure and for it to go well.*
- Ron Collamore, *prayers for his health.*
- Deidra Parman, *sister-in-law of Elaine Parman. Deidra has lymphoma only in her eyelids, and it is treatable with low dose radiation. Thank you for the prayers.*

Our Timothy:

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

In the Nebraska Region: Center on Church in Mission - Regional Church

Our Global Ministries Missionaries in:
Nicaragua

"Beloved Lord, today we raise our voices for the nation of Nicaragua. We ask that you extend your hand of mercy upon its people, bring peace where there is conflict, hope where there is pain, and unity where there is division. Bless its leaders with wisdom and justice, and strengthen every family so that they may live with dignity, faith, and love. Amen."

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



Once in Royal David's City

Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed, where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed; Mary was that mother mild; Jesus Christ, her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all, and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall; with the poor and meek and lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.

Jesus is our childhood's pattern; day by day like us he grew; he was little, weak and helpless; tears and smiles us he knew; and he feels for all our sadness, and he shares in all our gladness.

And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love; for that child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heaven above; and he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.

