



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 January 4, 2026
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Community Prayer

Gracious God, you have redeemed us through Jesus Christ, the first-born of all creation, whose birth we celebrate as the child of Bethlehem. Bless us with every spiritual blessing, that we may live as your adopted children and witness to your glory with unending praise and thanksgiving. Amen.

"Reprinted and Revised Common Lectionary Prayers,
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Call to Worship

One: We gather wondering, 'Where will we find the Babe born in Bethlehem?'

Many: We will find the Babe in the laughter of children, in the wisdom of grandparents.

One: We gather wanting to know, 'Where will we find the Christ who has come for us?'

Many: We will find our Hope where fear is overwhelmed by grace, where hatred is overwhelmed by love, where all people are overwhelmed by joy.

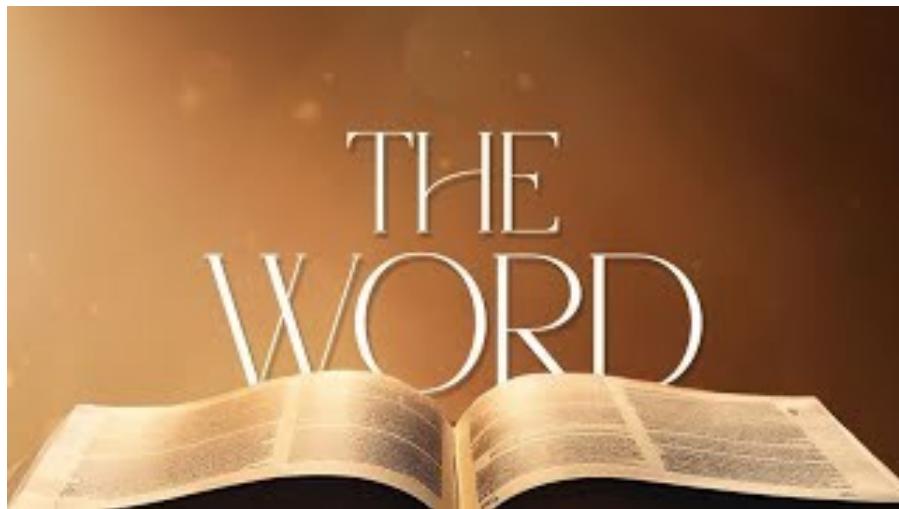
**Happy New Year from the Staff
of First Christian Church!**

Sermon

From The Rev. Kara Hillhouse
John 1:1-18
The Safe Foundation

It seems appropriate to me that after Christmas, when the lectionary stories of Jesus' life and ministry begin to lead us towards Lent, they begin with John 1. In this chapter, in the gospel that is so different from the others, we hear the birth story of Jesus that only John tells. "In the beginning was the Word...". These well-loved words take us back to the creation of the universe...actually, they take us back to *before* the creation of the universe: before the heavens and the earth; before the waters and the sky; before the varied creatures and humanity. We don't know much about that period of time, except this: the Word was already there, and the Word was Jesus. Because Jesus is the foundation of all, we join together in worship of him, asking him to be the bedrock of all that we do. Join us for worship Sunday, as we ask Jesus to be *our* firm foundation! We'll see you at First!

Pastor Kara



Your First Christian staff wishes to thank you for your kind and generous Christmas Love Offering for us. It is a privilege to serve this congregation, and to help you with your mission to glorify God and serve your neighbors. It is a blessing to us to receive your gift, support and affirmation.

--Mark, Amy, Even, Tiffany, Keaton, Riley and Kara

Scripture Readings

Isaiah 60:1-6

“Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried in their nurses' arms. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.”



John 1:1-18

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, ‘This was he of whom I said, “He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.”’) From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.”

Prayers & Praises

January 4, 2026

In Our Church Family:

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

Prayers for Bob Throop. Pray for healing from a heart attack and other health concerns.

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.*

Our Timothy:

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

Our Global Ministries Missionaries in: Egypt

"We pray for the Bishopric of Public, Ecumenical and Social Services (BLESS), and its ministry extended throughout Egypt: that all its work may be according to Your will, and that all those who serve within it may be perfect in You (Colossians 1:28). So, that this ministry may be a source of blessing and growth for them in every aspect of their lives—bearing fruit that pleases You, thirty, sixty, and a hundred-fold (Matthew 13:23). Amen



What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright

What star is this, with beams so bright, more lovely than the noonday light? 'Tis sent to announce a newborn king, glad tidings of our God to bring.

'Tis now fulfilled what God decreed, "From Jacob shall a star proceed"; and lo! the eastern sages stand to read in heaven the Lord's command.

While outward signs the star displays, an inward light the Lord conveys and urges them, with tender might, to seek the giver of the light.

O Jesus, while the star of grace impels us on to seek your face, let not our slothful hearts refuse the guidance of your light to use.



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

