



**First Christian Church**

Disciples of Christ

430 S. 16<sup>th</sup> 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 11, 2026  
[info@fcclincoln.org](mailto:info@fcclincoln.org)  
[www.fcclincoln.org](http://www.fcclincoln.org)



### Community Prayer

Creator God, our soul's delight, your voice thunders over the waters, liberating the future from the past. In the Spirit's power and the waters of rebirth, Jesus was declared your blessed and beloved Son; may we recall our baptism, and be disciples of the Anointed One. Amen.

"Reprinted and Revised Common Lectionary Prayers,  
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### Call to Worship

One: When we are reluctant to dip our toes into faith's river,

Many: Jesus comes, to teach us how to swim.

One: When we are hesitant to cup our hands to drink from the fountain of grace,

Many: Jesus comes, to reach in and splash our faces with God's joy.

One: When we are unwilling to be the pipeline of hope,

Many: Jesus comes, to turn on the faucets God has installed in our hearts.

# Sermon

From The Rev. Kara Hillhouse

Matthew 3:13-17

*Surrender*

Growing up in the seventies and eighties, I watched a lot of TV shows involving detectives (Miami Vice, Colombo, Murder She Wrote), cops (C.H.I.P.S.) or people in the military (M\*A\*S\*H\* and Hogan's Heroes). Phrases using the word "Surrender" were common. By its nature, the word "surrender" has negative connotations. But looking at it through a faith lens, "surrender" is a sweet invitation to let go of our incessant need to be in control, and let God be the navigator of our lives. In Jesus' baptism he demonstrated surrender to God, and called us to do likewise. Join us for worship on Baptism of the Lord Sunday, when we'll remember (or look forward to) our own baptismal vows, with the pouring of the baptismal font waters over our heads. It's a lovely time of music, fellowship, and the Word. We'll see you at First!

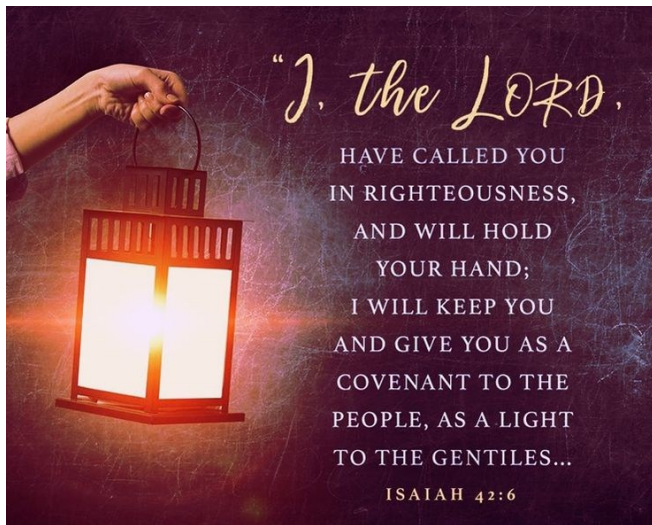
Pastor Kara



# Scripture Readings

## Isaiah 42:1-9

“Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. He will not cry out or lift up his voice or make it heard in the street; a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his teaching. Thus says God, the Lord, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it: I am the Lord; I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. I am the Lord, that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols. See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them.”



*"I, the LORD,*

HAVE CALLED YOU  
IN RIGHTEOUSNESS,  
AND WILL HOLD  
YOUR HAND;  
I WILL KEEP YOU  
AND GIVE YOU AS A  
COVENANT TO THE  
PEOPLE, AS A LIGHT  
TO THE GENTILES...

ISAIAH 42:6

## Matthew 3:13-17

“Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, ‘I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?’ But Jesus answered him, ‘Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness.’ Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, ‘This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.’”



# Prayers & Praises

## January 11, 2026

### In Our Church Family:

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

*Prayers for Cec Burkhart*, who fell and broke her hip, was hospitalized and had surgery. She is now at home recovering.

*Prayers for Ron Hile*, who has had several significant falls in the past few days. He is hospitalized and will most likely be released to rehab early this week.

*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:

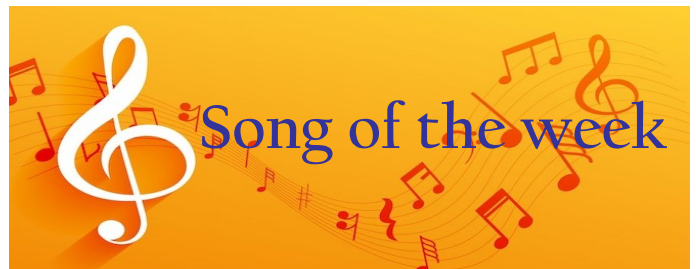
- Lucy Reuter-Masek, mom of Kristie Christianson, prayers for recovery after the removal of a facial tumor.
- Jody Schrage, friend of Katelyn Long, prayers for healing are appreciated.
- Nikki, friend of Katelyn Long. She is recovering from recent gastric bypass surgery.
- Darlene Shaw, friend of Katelyn 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: Hong Kong

For more information and stories about our Global Ministry partners visit [www.globalministries.org](http://www.globalministries.org)



## Down Galilee's Slow Roadways

Down Galilee's slow roadways a stranger traveled on from Nazareth to Jordan to be baptized by John. He went down to the waters like soldier, scribe, and slave, but there within the river the sign was birth and grace.

Arising from the river he saw the heavens torn; it seemed the sky so open revealed the Spirit's form. The holy dove descended amid a glorious voice: "You are my own beloved, my child, my heart, my choice."

We too have found a roadway; it led us to this place. We all have had to travel in search of hope and grace. But now beside this water again a voice is heard. "You are my own, my chosen, beloved of your Lord."

