



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 February 22, 2026
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Community Prayer

God of mercy, your word was the sure defense of Jesus in his time of testing. Minister to us in the wilderness of our temptation, that we who have been set free from sin by Christ may serve you well into life everlasting. Amen.

Call to Worship

One: The steadfast love of God surrounds us always — even in the wilderness!

Many: Thanks be to God! Let us be glad and worship.

“Reprinted and Revised Common Lectionary Prayers,
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Sermon

From The Rev. Kara Hillhouse

Matthew 4:1-11

Pretty Things

Every year, on the first Sunday of Lent, we read the story of Jesus' temptation in the wilderness. The Revised Common Lectionary rotates years, so we hear it from all three of the synoptic gospels' perspectives. Satan offered Jesus all the kingdoms of the world, and their glory, if Jesus would only fall down and worship him (spoiler alert, Jesus said no. Actually he replied by quoting verses from Exodus and Deuteronomy, saying, "Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.") Jesus was able to remain faithful to God because he was without sin. You and I, however...we struggle to remain faithful, if we're being honest with ourselves. There are so many shiny, pretty things in this world that lure us in; and so many people who try to persuade us that *their* power is what we should be worshipping. We might not see it, but the temptations are there. But God provides the strength we need to follow him alone, if we will only accept it. Join us Sunday as we worship the only One who gives us the true joy, and seek his wisdom and guidance. We'll see you at First!

Pastor Kara



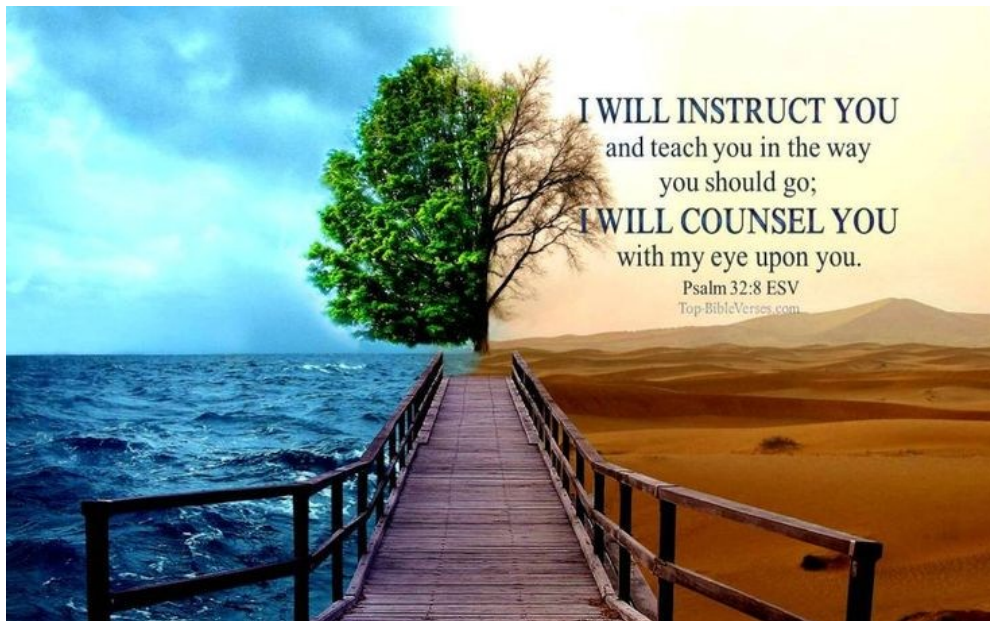
Scripture Reading

Psalms 32

“Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Happy are those to whom the Lord imputes no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit. While I kept silence, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity; I said, ‘I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,’ and you forgave the guilt of my sin. Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to you; at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters shall not reach them. You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with glad cries of deliverance. I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you. Do not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding, whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle, else it will not stay near you. Many are the torments of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the Lord. Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.”

Matthew 4:1-11

“Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, ‘If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.’ But he answered, ‘It is written, “One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.”’ Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, ‘If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, “He will command his angels concerning you,” and “On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.”’ Jesus said to him, ‘Again it is written, “Do not put the Lord your God to the test.”’ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; and he said to him, ‘All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.’ Then Jesus said to him, ‘Away with you, Satan! for it is written, “Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.”’ Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.”



Prayers & Praises

February 22, 2026



When We Are Tested

When we are tested and wrestle alone,
famished for bread when the world offers
stone, nourish us, God, by your word and
your way, food that sustains us by night and
by day.

When in the desert we cry for relief, pleading
for paths marked by certain belief, lift us to
love you beyond sign and test, trusting your
presence, our only true rest.

When we are tempted to barter our souls,
trading the truth for the power to control,
teach us to worship and praise only you,
seeking your will in the work that we do.

When we have struggled and searched
through the night, sorting and sifting the
wrong from the right, Savior, surround us
with circles of care, angels of healing, of hope,
and of prayer.



In Our Church Family:

- Donna Baker
- Cec Burkhart
- Jim Christ
- Joan Dietrich
- Ron Hile
- Debby Ortega
- Polly Putney
- Bob Throop
- Marvin Thurber
- Phyllis Thurber
- Jessica Vocasek
- Roger Vocasek

Prayers for the Bowker family, as they continue to grieve the death of Kristi's sister, Laurie Aufdemberge, from breast cancer.

Prayers for Cec Burkhart, who continues to recover at home from a broken hip after several falls.

Prayers for Ron Hile, as he continues to heal from several falls.

Prayers for Debby Ortega as she continues to heal from a broken arm following an accident.

Prayers for Bob Throop for continued healing from heart concerns. He will have a procedure to place a second lead into his pacemaker on Feb. 25th.

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 for continued healing and strength.

Friends:

- Ron Collamore, *prayers for his health*.

Our Timothy:

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

In the Nebraska Region: Brownville Christian Church

Our Global Ministries Missionaries in: China

"We lift up the churches among ethnic minorities in Yunnan Province, China. We pray for spiritual breakthroughs among the many unreached groups and for courage among existing congregations. Please provide your love among them, your Word in every heart language, and empower the ongoing translation work in Yunnan. Protect communities and help churches be the centers of hope and healing. Amen"

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

