



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 March 8, 2026
info@fcclincn.org
www.fcclincn.org



Community Prayer

Enduring Presence, goal and guide, you go before and await our coming. Only our thirst compels us beyond complaint to conversation, beyond rejection to relationship. Pour your love into our hearts, that, refreshed and renewed, we may invite others to the living water given to us in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

“Reprinted and Revised Common Lectionary Prayers,
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Call to Worship

One: We come, our souls thirsting for God,
our spirits longing for love.

Many: We come to the One who supplies
every need; we come to the One who gives
us living water.

One: We come, with our brokenness and
loss, with our hope to be made whole.

Many: We come to the One who knows all
our secrets, who brings peace to all of us –
and to each of us.

Sermon

From The Rev. Kara Hillhouse

Romans 5:1-11

I'd Like to Upgrade

This Sunday, five of our youth will be baptized during worship, publicly professing their choice to follow Christ. God has already claimed them as his beloved, and now, at their baptism, they will say “yes” to his invitation to follow him. It’s a time of great joy, yet also a moment when we should feel the gravity of what they are choosing. Baptism is a “taking on” of the mantle of Christ, and that comes with inevitable struggle, as God calls us to be “*in the world but not of the world.*” But, as Paul wrote to the Romans, because of our faith in Christ, the suffering we experience from these struggles will get transformed into something that isn't just bearable, it’s life-giving. He wrote that “suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us” (Romans 5:3-5). So as these youth wrap Christ’s mantle around them at their baptism, our job is to teach them that life is a beautiful mess, at times, but that God will redeem any sufferings they might experience on this journey, and turn them into hope. Their mission is to share this hope with the world, so that all might find the redemptive power of the Good News, Join us for this special worship service for these youth, their families, and our church, We’ll see you at First!

Pastor Kara



Scripture Reading

Psalm 95

“O come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise! For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods. In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also. The sea is his, for he made it, and the dry land, which his hands have formed. O come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker! For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand. O that today you would listen to his voice! Do not harden your hearts, as at Meribah, as on the day at Massah in the wilderness, when your ancestors tested me, and put me to the proof, though they had seen my work. For forty years I loathed that generation and said, ‘They are a people whose hearts go astray, and they do not regard my ways.’ Therefore in my anger I swore, ‘They shall not enter my rest.’”



Romans 5:1-11

“Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.”



Prayers & Praises

March 8, 2026



Song of the Week

Wash, O God, Your Sons and Daughters



Wash, O God, your sons and daughters, newborn creatures of your womb. Number them among your people, raised like Christ from death and tomb. Weave them garments bright and sparkling; compass them with light and light. Fill, anoint them; send your Spirit, holy dove and heart's delight.

Every day we need your nurture; by your milk may we be fed. Let us join your feast, partaking cup of blessing, living bread. God, renew us; guide our footsteps, free from sin and all its snares, one with Christ in living, dying, by your Spirit, children, heirs.

O how deep your holy wisdom! Unimagined, all your ways! To your name be glory, honor! With our lives we worship, praise! We your people stand before you, water-washed and Spirit-born. By your grace, our lives we offer. Recreate us; God, transform!

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 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 and increased strength as he does Cardiac Rehabilitation. Also, please pray for him as he gets used to his new home at Legacy Terrace.

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: CrossBridge Christian Church, Lincoln - Robert Fugarino

Our Global Ministries Missionaries in: Costa Rica

"God of all peoples, races, and cultures, we give thanks for the rich diversity of Costa Rica. Amid this diversity, we acknowledge the challenges that persist. We lift before you the Afro-Caribbean population of the Atlantic Coast, who continue to face the weight of historic discrimination, insufficient government investment, and high levels of poverty and violence. We pray especially for the students and graduates of the Universidad Biblica Latinoamericana who serve these communities and congregations with faith, justice, and compassion. Amen."

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

