



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
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Week of March 15, 2026
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Community Prayer

Discerner of hearts, you look beneath our outward appearance and see your image in each of us. Banish in us the blindness that prevents us from recognizing truth, so we may see the world through your eyes and with the compassion of Jesus Christ who redeems us.
Amen.

“Reprinted and Revised Common Lectionary Prayers,
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Call to Worship

One: Here, in this place, with these people,
Many: we find the One who leads us into God’s Kingdom.

One: Here, in God’s Kingdom, with our sisters and brothers in Christ,

Many: we find a Feast prepared for us.

One: Here, in God’s sanctuary, at this Table,

Many: we eat of the good news which heals us, we drink of the mercy which is God’s gift.

Sermon

From The Rev. Kara Hillhouse

I Samuel 16:1-13

Score One for the Misfits

One of the things I love most about reading the stories in the Bible is how often I get proved wrong. I am frequently surprised by God, because he loves the wrong people, chooses the wrong leaders, and sends those who are exceedingly qualified home unappreciated. Writer Nathan Humphrey says, *“God has a disturbing habit of calling eminently unqualified people to carry out the work of God's Kingdom. Even a cursory glance at Scripture confirms this fact. Maybe it's just God's sense of humor, or maybe the theological method to God's madness is that the Lord delights in raising up that which was cast down, and making old things new.”* Let's face it—God loves the misfits! Which is great news, because I can be a misfit, at times, too (as can most of us). So, hearing that God can use *even us* for a greater good is a real joy. In our scripture this week, we'll find God doing what God does best—surprising us. Join us Sunday for a time of meaningful worship. We'll see you at First!

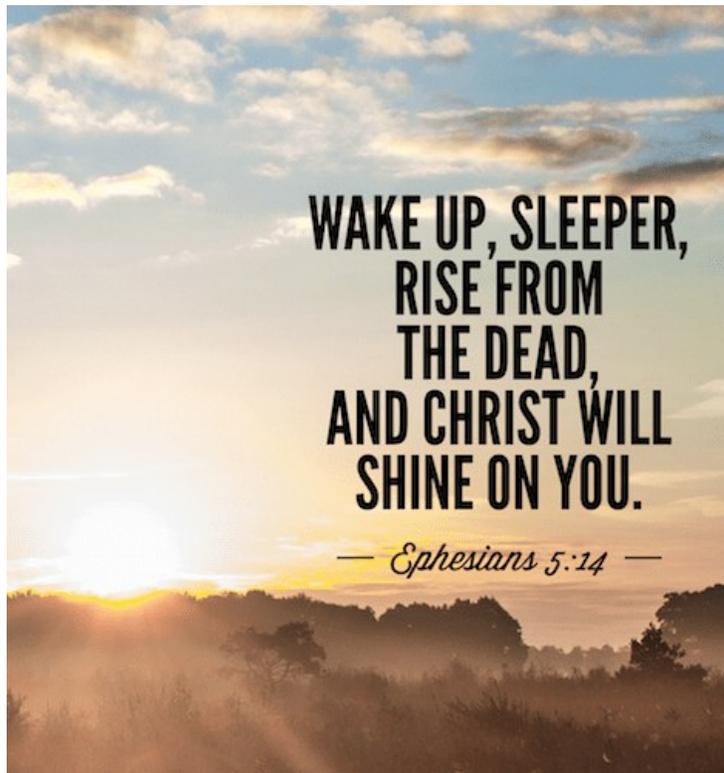
Pastor Kara



Scripture Reading

Ephesians 5:8-14

“For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light — for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, ‘Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.’ ”



**WAKE UP, SLEEPER,
RISE FROM
THE DEAD,
AND CHRIST WILL
SHINE ON YOU.**

— *Ephesians 5:14* —

I Samuel 16:1-13

“The Lord said to Samuel, ‘How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.’ Samuel said, ‘How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me.’ And the Lord said, ‘Take a heifer with you, and say, “I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.” Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you.’ Samuel did what the Lord commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, ‘Do you come peaceably?’ He said, ‘Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.’ And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice. When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, ‘Surely the Lord’s anointed is now before the Lord.’ But the Lord said to Samuel, ‘Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.’ Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, ‘Neither has the Lord chosen this one.’ Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, ‘Neither has the Lord chosen this one.’ Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, ‘The Lord has not chosen any of these.’ Samuel said to Jesse, ‘Are all your sons here?’ And he said, ‘There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.’ And Samuel said to Jesse, ‘Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here.’ He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The Lord said, ‘Rise and anoint him; for this is the one.’ Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.”

Prayers & Praises

March 15, 2026



Song of the Week

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: Edenton Christian Church, Lincoln - Christy Ahmose

Our Global Ministries Missionaries in: Sierra Leone

“God of light and compassion, we hold before you the people of Malen Chiefdom in Pujehun District, and all communities affected by conflict, land loss, and displacement. Too many families have been uprooted by decisions that did not protect their land and their voices, leaving deep wounds behind. Where there is pain, bring healing. Where there is division, bring reconciliation. Where hope feels distant, plant it again. Strengthen communities of men, women, and families who are rebuilding their lives with determination—through small livelihoods, savings groups, and shared effort. Honour their resilience and bless the work of their hands. Amen.”

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

Precious Lord, take my hand; lead me on,
help me stand; I am tired, I am weak, I am
worn. Through the storm, through the night,
lead me on to the light; take my hand,
precious Lord, lead me home.

When my way grows drear, precious Lord,
linger near; when my life is almost gone, hear
my cry, hear my call, hold my hand lest I fall;
take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.



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

