



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 June 14, 2026
info@fcclincoln.org
fcclincoln.org
430 S. 16th Lincoln, NE 68508-2575



Community Prayer

God of compassion, you have opened the way for us and brought us to yourself. Pour your love into our hearts, that, overflowing with joy, we may freely share the blessings of your realm and faithfully proclaim the good news of Christ. Amen.

*“Reprinted and Revised Common Lectionary Prayers,
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Call to Worship

One: The Lord hears us when we cry out.
The Lord showers us with blessings.

Many: Praise the Lord!

One: Let us lift up the name of Lord for all to hear. Let us sing of God's endless grace and compassion!

Many: Let us worship God!

Sermon

From The Rev. Kara Hillhouse

Matthew 9:9-13

He Heard My Cry for Mercy

"Mercy" is one of the attributes of God I am most drawn to. And, although it's one of the main characters in the Good News story, mercy is a bit of an introvert that doesn't get focused on often enough. It can be defined in slightly different ways, but here's one way I'd define it: mercy is what someone is demonstrating when they have compassion on/ forgiveness for another person, even when that person deserves to be punished instead. I.e., unlike grace, where we get what we don't deserve; mercy is when we don't get what we do deserve. In our text this week, when the Pharisees criticized Jesus for hanging out with sinners, he told them to go figure out what he meant by "I desire mercy, not sacrifice." This week in worship we'll explore mercy: the mercy we receive from God and the mercy he calls us to give to others. Make Sunday worship a part of your week. We'll see you at First!

Pastor Kara



Scripture Reading

Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19

“I love the Lord, because he has heard my voice and my supplications. Because he inclined his ear to me, therefore I will call on him as long as I live. What shall I return to the Lord for all his bounty to me? I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord, I will pay my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people. Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his faithful ones. O Lord, I am your servant; I am your servant, the child of your serving girl. You have loosed my bonds. I will offer to you a thanksgiving sacrifice and call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people, in the courts of the house of the Lord, in your midst, O Jerusalem. Praise the Lord!”

Matthew 9:9-13

“As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth; and he said to him, ‘Follow me.’ And he got up and followed him. And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax collectors and sinners came and were sitting with him and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, ‘Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?’ But when he heard this, he said, ‘Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means, “I desire mercy, not sacrifice.” For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners.’”

I love the Lord. He heard my voice; he heard my cry for mercy. Because he turned his ear to me, I will call on him as long as I live.

- Psalm 116:1-2 -

Prayers & Praises

June 14, 2026



Brethren, We Have Met to Worship

Brethren, we have met to worship and adore the Lord our God. Will you pray with all your power while we try to preach the word? All is vain unless the Spirit of the holy One comes down. Brethren, pray, and holy manna will be showered all around.

Sisters, will you come and help us? Moses' sister aided him. Will you help the trembling mourners who are struggling hard with sin? Tell them all about the Savior. Tell them that he will be found. Sisters, pray, and holy manna will be showered all around.

Is there here a trembling jailer, seeking grace and filled with fears? Is there here a weeping Mary pouring forth a flood of tears? Brethren, join your cries to help them; sisters, let your prayers abound! Pray, O pray, that holy manna will be scattered all around.

Let us love our God supremely; let us love each other, too. Let us love and pray for sinners till our God makes all things new. Christ will call us home to heaven; at his table we'll sit down. Christ will gird himself and serve us with sweet manna all around.



In Our Church

Family:

- Donna Baker
- Cec Burkhart
- Joan Dietrich
- Monte Dietrick
- Polly Putney
- Bob Throop
- Marvin Thurber
- Phyllis Thurber
- Jessica Vocasek
- Roger Vocasek

Prayers for Monte Dietrick, who had a fall and broke 3 ribs.

Prayers for Cec Burkhart for healing from a fall where she is bruised and had to have stitches by her eye.

Prayers for Bob Throop for continued healing and strength.

Prayers for Roger Vocasek as he looks for a job.

Prayers for Jessica Stehlik-Vocaesk for her health issues.

Prayers for Katleynn 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: New Church Ministry

Our Global Ministries in: Italy

“God, we ask that Italy’s leaders and policy-makers have the courage to distinguish themselves in their approach to refugees. May they continue to facilitate safe pathways for those who need them; may they not hesitate to discharge the long-held commitment to those forced to use irregular routes. Amen”

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



JUNE

Call to Confession

One:

When we gather to praise our God, we know—whether we name it or not—that we are people who tend to choose our will over God’s. Seeking God’s power to transform us into new people in Christ, let us confess our sins before God and one another, as we pray:

Prayer of Confession

Many:

It is never easy to confess our sins to you, Listening God. When we have a chance to speak up for the outsider, we too often join in sending them away into the wilderness of hopelessness. When we could shout good news to a needy world, our voices drop to a whisper. When we could abound in grace, we continue to wallow in wrongdoing. Forgive us, Lord, and have mercy on us. You lean over to listen to our words, and then to cast them into your sea of forgiveness. You show us the signs of hope, that we might point others to you. Help us remember, you save us when we cannot save ourselves.

Good News of God’s Grace

One:

Do not be afraid. God cherishes us. God treasures you. You are graced, you are forgiven, you are healed.

Many:

We will not keep this good news to ourselves. We will shout our hope from the rooftop of our hearts. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven!

Amen.



430 S. 16th St. | Lincoln, NE 68508 | (402) 475-4289