



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 July 19, 2026
info@fcclincn.org
fcclincn.org
430 S. 16th Lincoln, NE 68508-2575



Community Prayer

Steadfast God, teach us your way and your truth. Root us in you alone, help us to grow in grace and love, that we may fulfill our role and our work in the reign of Jesus Christ. Amen.

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

One: Surely the Lord is in this place, and we did not know it.

Many: We do not know when and where God's glorious presence will show up.

One: Surely we are the Body of Christ.

Many: We cannot say to one another, "I have no need of you."

One: Surely our God is a mystery that cannot be contained.

Many: Let us worship our unpredictable and uncontrollable God!

Sermon

From The Rev. Kara Hillhouse

Deuteronomy 6:4-9

Wholehearted

Organizations often have a statement of mission or purpose, to explain *who they are* and *why they exist*. An example: "To inspire and nurture the human spirit--one person, one cup and one neighborhood at a time" (Starbucks). As followers of Christ, we probably don't formalize such statements about ourselves, but we all have a purpose and a mission, and I believe Deuteronomy 6:5 sums up what it is: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength [or, *might*]." That is both our *identity* (those who love God) and our *purpose* (loving God with our whole being). As we begin our Stewardship Campaign, we start with simply understanding why we care about stewardship: *why does it matter how we live our lives?* The answer: because, if our purpose is to love and honor God, then our behaviors and choices and actions have to reflect that. Join us for a time of worship, where we'll seek guidance, find peace, and offer praise to the maker of all good things. We'll see you at First!

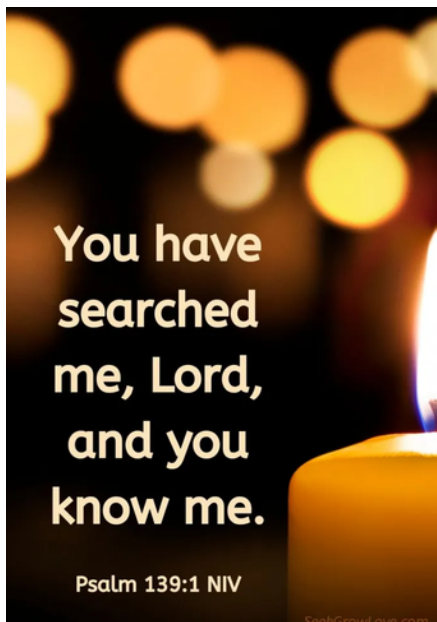
Pastor Kara



Scripture Reading

Psalm 139: 1-12, 23-24

“O Lord, you have searched me and known me. You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away. You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways. Even before a word is on my tongue, O Lord, you know it completely. You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it. Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence? If I ascend to heaven, you are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there. If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast. If I say, ‘Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light around me becomes night,’ even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day, for darkness is as light to you. Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts. See if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.”



Deuteronomy 6:4-9

“Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise. Bind them as a sign on your hand, fix them as an emblem on your forehead, and write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.”



Prayers & Praises

July 19, 2026

In Our Church

Family:

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

Prayers for Jim Christ's nephew, Dennis Christ, in Oregon. His lymph nodes near the colon section removed showed no signs of cancer. Continued prayers for healing and comfort as he goes through chemotherapy.

Prayers for healing for Vince Ortega's sister, Linda De Los Santos, who has been diagnosed with liver cancer.

Prayers for Marvin and Phyllis Thurber, who are at Harbor House where she is doing rehab and he is receiving respite care.

Prayers for healing for Kristie Christianson's mom, Lucy Reuter-Masek, after a mild stroke.

Prayers for Monte Dietrick, for continued healing.

Prayers for Cec Burkhardt for continued healing.

Prayers for Bob Throop for continued healing and strength.

Prayers for Roger Vocasek as he looks for a job.

Prayers for Jessica Stehlik-Vocasek for her health issues.

Prayers for Katelynn 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: North Side Christian Church, Omaha - Jonathan Wilhoft

Our Global Ministries in: Colombia

"God of Mercy and Justice, today, during this election season, we join in a collective cry and prayer for Colombia's future: may sanity and social harmony prevail, and may the longing for peace—grounded in social and environmental justice—become a reality. We ask, O God, that whatever the election outcome, the country, the citizenry, and the international community ensure that the parties accept the results and that no new violence arises. Amen."

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



Song of the Week

The Lord Is God

The Lord is God, the Lord alone! Give honor, thanks, and praise to God, the maker of all things and giver of our days.

With all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and might, O people, love the Lord your God, the source of truth and light.

At night or day, at home, away, together and apart, O children, take these holy words and keep them in your heart.

The Lord is God, the Lord alone! Give honor, thanks, and praise to God, the maker of all things and giver of our days.



JULY

Call to Confession

One:

We spend so much time accusing ourselves, judging ourselves, punishing ourselves for what we have done, or not done. But God would draw us closer to the Heart of forgiveness, that we might be filled with healing and grace. Join me, as we confess where we have missed the mark, praying together:

Prayer of Confession

Many:

What then are we to say about our lives, Searcher of our hearts? We know how often we have duped others with our deceit. We remember how often we promise one thing, only to do the opposite. We struggle to trust you, while we so easily listen to the promises of those who would pull us away from you. Forgive us, Merciful God. Your grace is more powerful than any of our sins, your hope is more durable than our silly choices, your love will traverse anything, and everything, which separates us from you.

Good News of God's Grace

One:

Hear the good news: the One who could accuse us, saves us from sin and death. The One who could condemn us, cradles us in grace. The One who could punish us, prays for us.

Many:

Now we know, there is nothing, not a thing, that can separate us from God. Thanks be to the One who forgives us. Amen.



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