

A note to those listening on the radio: The announcements in the bulletin are for August 23, 2020. The order of worship is for August 30, 2020. **For those watching the live stream:** both the order of worship and the announcements are for August 23, 2020.

AN ORDER OF CHRISTIAN WORSHIP

August 23, 2020 | Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost

First United Methodist Church

601 North Cedar, Abilene, Kansas 67410 | 785-263-2623 | www.abilenefirstumc.org

A Church of Open Hearts, Open Minds, and Open Doors.

GATHERING

Gathering of the Congregation

Greeting and Announcements

Prelude

CALL TO WORSHIP

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

The risen Christ is with us.

Praise the Lord.

Opening Prayer

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Scripture Reading — Exodus 1:8-2:10 (NRSV)

⁸ Now a new king arose over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. ⁹ He said to his people, "Look, the Israelite people are more numerous and more powerful than we. ¹⁰ Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, or they will increase and, in the event of war, join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land." ¹¹ Therefore they set taskmasters over them to oppress them with forced labor. They built supply cities, Pithom and Rameses, for Pharaoh. ¹² But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread, so that the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites. ¹³ The Egyptians became ruthless in imposing tasks on the Israelites, ¹⁴ and made their lives bitter with hard service in mortar and brick and in every kind of field labor. They were ruthless in all the tasks that they imposed on them.

¹⁵ The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, ¹⁶ "When you act as midwives to the Hebrew women, and see them on the birthstool, if it is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, she shall live." ¹⁷ But the midwives feared God; they did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but they let the boys live. ¹⁸ So the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and said to them, "Why have you done this, and allowed the boys to live?" ¹⁹ The midwives said to Pharaoh, "Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women; for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them." ²⁰ So God dealt well with the midwives; and the people multiplied and became very strong. ²¹ And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families. ²² Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, "Every boy that is born to the Hebrews you shall throw into the Nile, but you shall let every girl live."

^{2:1} Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. ² The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him three months. ³ When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him, and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. ⁴ His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him.

⁵ The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. ⁶ When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him. "This must be one of the Hebrews' children," she said. ⁷ Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?" ⁸ Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Yes." So the girl went and called the child's mother. ⁹ Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages." So the woman took the child and nursed it. ¹⁰ When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and she took him as her son. She named him Moses, "because," she said, "I drew him out of the water."

HYMN — *Deep In the Shadows of the Past*, F-2246

1. Deep in the shadows of the past, far out from settled lands, some nomads traveled with their God across the desert sands. The dawning hope of humankind by them was sensed and shown; a promise calling them ahead, a future yet unknown.

2. While others bowed to changeless gods they met a mystery, invisible, without a name: "I AM WHAT I WILL BE"; and by their tents, around their fires, in story, song and law, they praised, remembered, handed on a past that promised more.

3. From Exodus to Pentecost the promise changed and grew, while some, remembering the past, recorded what they knew, or with their letters and laments, their prophecy and praise recovered, kindled and expressed new hope for changing days.

4. For all the writings that survived, for leaders, long ago, who sifted, copied, and preserved the Bible that we know, give thanks, and find its story yet our promise, strength and call, the model of emerging faith, alive with hope for all.

— WORDS: Brian Wren © 1975, 1995 Hope Publishing Co. — CCLI# 811889

Children's Message

Special Music — "What a Beautiful Name"

Scripture Reading — Romans 12:1-8 (NRSV)

¹ I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ² Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

³ For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴ For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, ⁵ so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. ⁶ We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ⁷ ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; ⁸ the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

PSALTER — Psalm 124 (NRSV)

¹ If it had not been the Lord who was on our side
—let Israel now say—

² if it had not been the Lord who was on our side,
when our enemies attacked us,

³ **then they would have swallowed us up alive,
when their anger was kindled against us;**

⁴ then the flood would have swept us away,
the torrent would have gone over us;

⁵ **then over us would have gone
the raging waters.**

⁶ Blessed be the Lord,
who has not given us as prey to their teeth.

⁷ We have escaped like a bird
from the snare of the fowlers;

**the snare is broken,
and we have escaped.**

⁸ Our help is in the name of the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.

Scripture Reading — Matthew 16:13-20 (NRSV)

¹³ Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” ¹⁴ And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” ¹⁵ He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” ¹⁷ And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” ²⁰ Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

Sermon

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I commit myself to God, the Father Almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I set my heart upon Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I place my trust in the Holy Spirit,
the holy church universal,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen.

RESPONSE — *Glory Be To The Father, 71*

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and
ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

— Lesser Doxology, 3rd-4th cent.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Holy God, we confess that we have not been obedient to your will for us.
We have sought justice for ourselves
but neglected justice for others.
We have insisted on our rights
but have not lived rightly.
We have desired mercy for our sins,
but we have not offered mercy to those who have sinned against us.
By the power of your Holy Spirit free us from the prison of our disobedience.
Help us to love others as you have loved us
that our lives may testify to your abounding grace through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

(A time of silent prayers of confession.)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Friends, receive the gift of forgiveness and share that gift with others.
Do this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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A Stewardship Moment/Invitation to the Offering

RESPONSE — *Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow*, 95

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below; praise God above ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

— Thomas Ken, 1674

THANKSGIVING

Prayer of Thanksgiving

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. [Meaning: Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.] **For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

GOING FORTH

HYMN — *The Church's One Foundation*, H-546

1. The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ our Lord; we are his new creation by water and the Word; from heaven he came and sought us that we might ever be his living servant people, by his own death set free.
2. Called forth from every nation, yet one o'er all the earth; our charter of salvation: one Lord, one faith, one birth. One holy name professing and at one table fed, to one hope always pressing, by Christ's own Spirit led.
3. Though with a scornful wonder the world sees us oppressed, by schisms rent asunder, by heresies distressed, yet saints their watch are keeping; their cry goes up, "How long?" But soon the night of weeping shall be the morn of song.
4. Mid toil and tribulation, and tumult of our war, we wait the consummation of peace forevermore; till with the vision glorious our longing eyes are blest, and the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.
5. We now on earth have union with God the Three in One, and share through faith communion with those whose rest is won. Oh, happy ones, and holy! Lord, give us grace that we like them, the meek and lowly, on high may dwell with thee.

— WORDS: Samuel J. Stone, 1866; adapt. by Laurence Hull Stookey, 1983.
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Blessing and Postlude

PRAYER CONCERNS

Please note: prayer concerns will be listed in the bulletin for four (4) weeks unless the church office is notified otherwise.

MEMBERS AND FRIENDS: Joe Clemence [8/9], those grieving the loss of Rev. Dr. Donald James Snyder [8/9].

COMMUNITY PRAYER CONCERNS: Leah Blanchard [8/23], Bob Collins [8/9], Anna, Jess, Ava, and Capri Collins [8/9], Kim Goodman, doctors, nurses and other health care workers, restaurant and grocery store employees, postal workers and other delivery personnel, and all others working in essential industries.

THOSE WORSHIPPING FROM HOME: Gary Donley, Evelyn York, Velma Becker, Joe Clemence, Steve Crump, Walt Hartman, Ray Power, Marla Rutz, Bob Murnahan, Donna Smith, Martha Zutavern, Donna Richards, Dorothy Veach, Darlene Sexton and many of us!

THOSE SERVING IN THE ARMED FORCES: Greg Austin, Tim Barns, Kayla Berven, Billy Brockman, Matthew Brinker, Ross Covington, Jessica and James Green, Christopher Griffith, Gavin Hanna, Cameron Hoskins, David Hoskins, Ryan Kriesch, Colby Miller, Samuel Miller, and James L. Wise, Jr.

THOSE IN AUTHORITY: The President, the Governor, the Mayor, the County Health Officer, County Commissioners, other elected officials and the judiciary (1 Timothy 2:1-4).

DISTRICT PRAYER CALENDAR: Today we pray for the Concordia Trinity United Methodist Church and their pastor Melanie Adams.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A NEW STOLE — by John Collins

Last Monday I received a new stole in the mail. It's multicolored so I can wear it anytime I want to. White for Christmas, Easter and other high holy days, green for Ordinary Time, purple for Lent, blue for Advent, red for Pentecost. I'm so pleased with it that I'm having to remind myself of Joseph's special robe and how it got him into trouble—and try to avoid the same pitfalls.

FUNERAL SERVICES FOR ROCKY WELTON

On September 26, 2020 there will be a service of Death and Resurrection for Rocky Welton at 1:00 p.m. At the request of the family—who desire to keep the community safe—only the family will be present, but the service will be live streamed like a Sunday morning worship service. There will be a service open to the community later in the Spring or Summer of 2021.

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR DENNIS HOUDEK

A service of Death and Resurrection for Dennis C. Houdek (friend of Linda Rist) will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Monday, September 7, 2020 at Trinity Heights United Methodist Church in Newton, Kansas

WORSHIP ON AUDIO CD — Are you having trouble streaming online or listening on the radio? We're starting a pilot program of delivering audio CDs with the same service that is broadcast on the radio. Contact John Collins or call the church office if you would like to be part of this pilot program.

WEDNESDAY EVENING COMMUNION — We have a Zoom meeting scheduled for the Wednesday Evening Communion Service at 6:00 p.m. Here are the details:

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://bit.ly/38bf9qZ>
Meeting ID: 937 0998 7388
Password: 67410

Dial in by phone
+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago) or
+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)
Meeting ID: 937 0998 7388
Password: 67410

WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY — We have a Zoom meeting scheduled for the Wednesday Evening Bible Study at 6:15 p.m. We'll be looking at the sixth chapter of Luke. Here are the details:

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://bit.ly/2BTwgBn>
Meeting ID: 931 9116 5788
Password: 67410

Dial in by phone
+1 646 558 8656 US (New York) or
+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
Meeting ID: 931 9116 5788
Password: 67410

A WORD ABOUT THE WORSHIP SERVICE — Because it's not safe to sing when we're gathered together, we've made some changes to the order of worship. We've dropped the number of hymns to two. In order to make up for the congregational participation we lost in taking out the hymns, we're adding a Psalter (a reading from the Psalms) and often a unity prayer of confession.

IN-PERSON WORSHIP HAS RESUMED — PLEASE CONFIRM YOUR ATTENDANCE — First United Methodist Church has resumed in-person worship, but we're asking you to confirm your attendance (to ensure that we make room for everyone and contract tracing). Simply visit AbileneFirstUMC.org or call the church office at 785-263-2623. In order to better love one another we're continuing to practice social distancing and wear masks. The service will continue to be available online—indeed we intend to continue to make improvements.

WANT TO TALK TO THE PASTOR? — John's contact information is on the last page of this bulletin.

EMAIL UPDATES — John uses a service called TinyLetter to send out blog posts by email every day or so. This way, you can keep up with his blog at revcollins.com by simply checking your email inbox. You can sign up at tinyletter.com/jcollins11.

ABILENE COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE — During these uncertain times, we continue to encourage individuals to schedule blood donation to ensure a stable supply throughout this pandemic, and to be able to meet immediate patient needs. In times of crisis, the Red Cross is fortunate to witness the best of humanity as people roll up a sleeve to help those in need. They greatly appreciate the generosity of the public. Encourage friends and family who have never donated blood to give at your community's drive and help sustain the blood supply.

Blood Drive Abilene Community
St. Andrews Parish Hall, 311 S. Buckeye
Tuesday, September 1st, 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

NOTES AND DOODLES

CHURCH CALENDAR

SUNDAY, AUGUST 23

10:30 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary / Via Facebook Live / KABI 1560 AM

TUESDAY, AUGUST 25

10:00 a.m. Parkinson's Group Exercise - Narthex

7:00 p.m. EOTT Quilt Guild

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26

1:30 p.m. Staff Meeting via Zoom

6:00 p.m. Communion Service Via Zoom

6:15 p.m. Luke Bible Study Via Zoom

THURSDAY, AUGUST 27

10:00 a.m. Parkinson's Group Exercise-Narthex

SUNDAY, AUGUST 30

10:30 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary / Via Facebook Live / KABI 1560 AM

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

10:00 a.m. Parkinson's Group Exercise-Narthex

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

1:30 p.m. Staff Meeting via Zoom

6:00 p.m. Communion Service Via Zoom

6:15 p.m. Luke Bible Study Via Zoom

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

9:30 a.m. Hospice Quilt Workshop - Peatling Hall

10:00 a.m. Parkinson's Group Exercise - Narthex

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

10:30 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary / Via Facebook Live / KABI 1560 AM

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 7-LABOR DAY

7:00 p.m. Staff Parish Meeting

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

10:00 a.m. Parkinson's Group Exercise - Narthex

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

1:30 p.m. Staff Meeting via Zoom

6:00 p.m. Communion Service Via Zoom

6:15 p.m. Luke Bible Study Via Zoom

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Please note that **bold type** indicates congregational participation. “H” stands for *The United Methodist Hymnal* (blue book); “F” stands for *The Faith We Sing* (black book); and “W” stands for *Worship and Song* (green book).

OUR MISSION AND VISION

Mission: to make disciples of Jesus Christ.

Vision: a church of open hearts, open minds, and open doors.

CLOSING CREDITS

Angie Hoerner, Piano

Jackson Welsh, Special Music

Joy Clemence, Sound

Braden Adams, Video and Streaming

Clark Williamson, Director of Music Ministries, Liturgist

Wendy Robinson, Director of Children and Youth Ministries

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