

A note to those listening on the radio: The announcements in the bulletin are for August 30, 2020, but the order of worship is for September 6, 2020. **For those watching the live stream:** both the order of worship and the announcements are for Sunday, August 30, 2020.

AN ORDER OF CHRISTIAN WORSHIP

August 30, 2020 | Thirteenth 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 and Lighting of Candles

CALL TO WORSHIP

The God of our ancestors calls us to worship.

Praise the Lord!

Let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

Praise the Lord!

For by the power of the Holy Spirit, the Lord dwells among us;

Praise the Lord!

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Opening Prayer

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Scripture Reading — Romans 12:9-21 (NRSV)

⁹ Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰ love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹ Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. ¹² Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. ¹³ Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate

with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸ If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹ Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." ²⁰ No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

HYMN — *I Sing the Almighty Power of God*, H-152

1. I sing the almighty power of God, that made the mountains rise, that spread the flowing seas abroad, and built the lofty skies. I sing the wisdom that ordained the sun to rule the day; the moon shines full at God's command, and all the stars obey.
2. I sing the goodness of the Lord, who filled the earth with food, who formed the creatures thru the Word and then pronounced them good. Lord, how thy wonders are displayed, where'er I turn my eye, if I survey the ground I tread, or gaze upon the sky.
3. There's not a plant or flower below, but makes thy glories known, and clouds arise, and tempests blow, by order from thy throne; while all that borrows life from thee is ever in thy care; and everywhere that we can be, thou, God art present there.

— WORDS: Isaac Watts, 1715

Children's Message

Special Music — *How Great Is Our God*

Scripture Reading — Matthew 16:21-28 (NRSV)

²¹ From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. ²² And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." ²³ But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

²⁴ Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵ For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶ For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?"

²⁷ "For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. ²⁸ Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

PSALTER — Psalms 29 (CEB)

- 1 You, divine beings! Give to the LORD—
give to the LORD glory and power!
- 2 Give to the LORD the glory due his name!
Bow down to the LORD in holy splendor!
- 3 The LORD's voice is over the waters; the glorious God thunders;
the LORD is over the mighty waters.
- 4 The LORD's voice is strong;
the LORD's voice is majestic.

- 5 The LORD's voice breaks cedar trees—
yes, the LORD shatters the cedars of Lebanon.
- 6 He makes Lebanon jump around like a young bull,
makes Sirion jump around like a young wild ox.
- 7 The LORD's voice unleashes fiery flames;
8 the LORD's voice shakes the wilderness—
yes, the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.
- 9 The LORD's voice convulses the oaks, strips the forests bare,
but in his temple everyone shouts, "Glory!"
- 10 The LORD sits enthroned over the floodwaters;
the LORD sits enthroned—king forever!
- 11 Let the LORD give strength to his people!
Let the LORD bless his people with peace!

Scripture Reading — Exodus 3:1-15 (NRSV)

¹ Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. ² There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. ³ Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up." ⁴ When the LORD saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." ⁵ Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." ⁶ He said further, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

⁷ Then the LORD said, "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, ⁸ and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. ⁹ The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. ¹⁰ So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt." ¹¹ But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" ¹² He said, "I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain."

¹³ But Moses said to God, "If I come to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" ¹⁴ God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." He said further, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'I AM has sent me to you.'" ¹⁵ God also said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'The LORD, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you':

This is my name forever, and this my title for all generations."

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.

PRAYERS OF CONFESSION AND WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.**

**We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.

**For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways. Amen.**

All Pray in Silence.

Almighty God have mercy on us,
forgive all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ,
strengthen us in all goodness,
and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life.
Amen.

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, [meaning "Save us from the time of trial,"]
but deliver us from evil.**

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

GOING FORTH

HYMN — *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*, H-103

1. Immortal, invisible, God only wise, in light inaccessible hid from our eyes, most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days, almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.
2. Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light, nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might; thy justice like mountains high soaring above thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.
3. To all, life thou givest, to both great and small; in all life thou livest, the true life of all; we blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree, and wither and perish, but naught changeth thee.
4. Thou reignest in glory; thou dwellest in light; thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight; all laud we would render: O help us to see 'tis only the splendor of light hidest thee.

— WORDS: Walter Chalmers Smith, 1867 (1 Tim. 1:17)

Blessing

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: Scott Anderson [8/30], 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 Countryside United Methodist Church and their pastor Lillian Flegle.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING — We have a Zoom meeting scheduled for Sunday, August 30, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. Here are the details:

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://bit.ly/3aXUgkm>
Meeting ID: 919 9082 5331
Passcode: 67410

Dial by your location
+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago) or
+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)
Meeting ID: 919 9082 5331
Passcode: 67410

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO FEAR GOD? — by John Collins

Listening to the *Ask N. T. Wright Anything* podcast I heard a question that I have often tried to answer as a pastor. That question is "What does it mean to fear God?" My answers haven't been wrong, but I like N.T. Wright's answer better, so I'm going to share it here. Please note that this has a very off-the-cuff, conversational tone because I transcribed it from the Podcast.. Here's Wright's answer:

"Our English word fear can slide too and fro ... there is a fear that is a panicky fear ... and some people think that's what fearing God is supposed to mean. And then they say how can that co-exist with love. And the answer is no. In the Hebrew, which the Greek is struggling to retain there, it means reverence, it means awe. It's the kind of awe that you feel when you walk into one of the most great, lovely buildings like a huge cathedral and you have the sense of 'I ought to mind my p's and q's when I'm in here.' And yet it's beautiful, you want to be there, and yet you have a sense that you need to talk in hushed tones and be careful what you do because this place matters. ... that's the kind of sense I think fear means, that when we think of being in God's presence, wow, we need to take this very seriously." (Podcast #38)

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

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.

Blood Drive Abilene Community
St. Andrews Parish Hall, 311 S. Buckeye
Tuesday, September 1, 2020, from 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

CHURCH CALENDAR

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

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

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

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

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

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

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

6:00 p.m. Board of Trustees

7:00 p.m. Worship Design

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

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

Jack Hunter, Special Music

Heather James, Liturgist

Joy Clemence, Sound

Cecilia Clemence, Slides

Braden Adams, Video and Streaming

Clark Williamson, Director of Music Ministries

Wendy Robinson, Director of Children and Youth Ministries

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