

A note to those listening on the radio: The announcements in this bulletin are for September 6, 2020 but the order of worship is for September 13, 2020. **For those watching the live stream:** both the order of worship and the announcements are for September 6, 2020.

AN ORDER OF CHRISTIAN WORSHIP

September 6, 2020 | 14th 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 grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

The risen Christ is with us.

Praise the Lord.

OPENING PRAYER

... and all of God's people said,

Amen.

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Scripture Reading — Exodus 12:1-14 (NRSV)

¹The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: ²This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. ³Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. ⁴If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. ⁵Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. ⁶You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. ⁷They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the

lintel of the houses in which they eat it. ⁸ They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. ⁹ Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. ¹⁰ You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. ¹¹ This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the Lord. ¹² For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the Lord. ¹³ The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

¹⁴ This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the Lord; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

HYMN — *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*, H-384

Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, to earth come down;
fix in us thy humble dwelling;
all thy faithful mercies crown! Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation;
enter every trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast!
Let us all in thee inherit;
let us find that second rest. Take away our bent to sinning;
Alpha and Omega be;
end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Come Almighty to deliver, let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return and never, never more thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.

Finish, then, thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be.
Let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee;
changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise.

— Charles Wesley, 1747

Children's Message

Special Music — *Who You Are*

Scripture Reading — Romans 13:8-14 (NRSV)

⁸ Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹ The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet"; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "Love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁰ Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

¹¹ Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹² the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³ let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴ Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

PSALTER — Psalm 46 (NRSV)

¹ God is our refuge and strength,

a very present help in trouble.

² Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,

though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;

³ though its waters roar and foam,

though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

⁴ There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,

the holy habitation of the Most High.

⁵ God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved;

God will help it when the morning dawns.

⁶ The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter;

he utters his voice, the earth melts.

⁷ The Lord of hosts is with us;

the God of Jacob is our refuge.

⁸ Come, behold the works of the Lord;

see what desolations he has brought on the earth.

⁹ He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;

he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear;

he burns the shields with fire.

¹⁰ "Be still, and know that I am God!

I am exalted among the nations,

I am exalted in the earth."

¹¹ The Lord of hosts is with us;

the God of Jacob is our refuge.

Scripture Reading — John 3:1-17

¹ Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ² He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." ³ Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." ⁴ Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" ⁵ Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶ What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' ⁸ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." ⁹ Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" ¹⁰ Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

¹¹ "Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹² If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³ No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴ And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶ "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

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.

Call to Confession

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Lord God,
while we were still slaves to sin,
you died for our salvation.
Yet we still worship the false gods of the world,
forgetting that you alone are the Lord.
Loving worldly wealth,
we have not loved you with our whole heart
nor loved our neighbors as ourselves.
Trusting worldly strength,
we have not trusted your word
nor followed the Word-made-flesh.
Following the norms of this world,
we have held grudges,**

**and we have not shown mercy to others
as you have shown mercy to us.
Forgive us yet again, we pray in Christ's name. Amen.**

Silent Prayers of Confession

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Friends, hear the good news of the gospel:

Who is in a position to condemn?

**Only Christ. And Christ died for us; Christ rose for us;
Christ reigns in power for us; Christ prays for us.**

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

In Jesus Christ we are not only forgiven but loved.

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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, [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 — *Reckless Love*

Before I spoke a word, You were singing over me.
You have been so, so good to me.
Before I took a breath, You breathed Your life in me.
You have been so, so kind to me.
Oh, the overwhelming, never-ending, reckless love of God,
Oh, it chases me down, fights 'til I'm found, leaves the ninety-nine.
I couldn't earn it, and I don't deserve it, still, You give Yourself away.
Oh, the overwhelming, never-ending, reckless love of God.
When I was Your foe, still Your love fought for me.
You have been so, so good to me.
When I felt no worth, You paid it all for me.
You have been so, so kind to me.
And oh, the overwhelming, never-ending, reckless love of God,
Oh, it chases me down, fights 'til I'm found, leaves the ninety-nine.
I couldn't earn it, and I don't deserve it, still, You give Yourself away.
Oh, the overwhelming, never-ending, reckless love of God.
There's no shadow You won't light up, mountain You won't climb up, coming after me.
There's no wall You won't kick down, lie You won't tear down, coming after me.

—Caleb Culver / Cory Asbury / Ran Jackson

Reckless Love lyrics © Bethel Music Publishing, Essential Music Publishing, Watershed Music Group. — CCLI# 811889

Blessing and Postlude

NOTES AND DOODLES

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: J. M. Frey [9/6]

COMMUNITY PRAYER CONCERNS: Rod Lehman (son of Dorothy and Paul) [9/6], Scott Anderson [8/30], Leah Blanchard [8/23], Kim Goodman [7/15/2018], 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 WORSHIPING 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 Courtland United Methodist Church and their pastor Sandra Jellison-Knock.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

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.

WORSHIP ON AUDIO CD — Are you having trouble streaming online or listening on the radio? We're 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 regular, ongoing Bible Study on the Gospel of Luke on Wednesday Evenings at 6:15. You don't have to make every meeting and you can start anytime—including this Wednesday. Here are the details for how to log in or Dial in through Zoom:

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

Manually Dial In With a Touch-Tone Phone
+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)
Meeting ID: 931 9116 5788
Passcode: 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.

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.

CHURCH CALENDAR

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

6:00 p.m. Cub Scouts - Peatling

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

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

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

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

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

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

6:00 p.m. Cub Scouts - Peatling

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

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

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

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

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

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

Amanda Cormack, Piano

John Purvis, Liturgist

Braden Adams, Video and Streaming

Cecelia Clemence, Slides

Joy Clemence, Sound

Clark Williamson, Director of Music Ministries

Wendy Robinson, Director of Children and Youth Ministries

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