

**A note to those listening on the radio:** The announcements in this bulletin are for September 13, 2020 but the order of worship is for September 20, 2020. **For those watching the live stream:** both the order of worship and the announcements are for September 13, 2020.

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# AN ORDER OF CHRISTIAN WORSHIP

September 13, 2020 | 15th Sunday After Pentecost

First United Methodist Church

601 North Cedar, Abilene, Kansas 67410 | 785-263-2623 | [www.AbileneFirstUMC.org](http://www.AbileneFirstUMC.org)

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

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## 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 — Romans 14:1-12 (NRSV)

<sup>1</sup>Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. <sup>2</sup>Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. <sup>3</sup>Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. <sup>4</sup>Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

<sup>5</sup>Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. <sup>6</sup>Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

<sup>7</sup>We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. <sup>8</sup>If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. <sup>9</sup>For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

<sup>10</sup>Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God.

<sup>11</sup>For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God."

<sup>12</sup>So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

#### **HYMN — *Lead On, O Cloud of Presence*, F-2234**

1. Lead on, O cloud of Presence, the exodus is come, in wilderness and desert our tribe shall make its home. Our slavery left behind us, new hopes within us grow. We seek the land of promise where milk and honey flow.

2. Lead on, O fiery Pillar, we follow yet with fears, but we shall come rejoicing though joy be born of tears. We are not lost, though wandering, for by your light we come, and we are still God's people. The journey is our home.

3. Lead on, O God of freedom, and guide us on our way, and help us trust the promise through struggle and delay. We pray our sons and daughters may journey to that land where justice dwells with mercy, and love is law's demand.

WORDS: Ruth Duck (Exod. 13:21-22) © 1992 GIA Publications, Inc. CCLI# 811889

#### Children's Message

#### Special Music — *Revelation Song*

#### Scripture Reading — Exodus 14:19-31 (NRSV)

<sup>19</sup>The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. <sup>20</sup>It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.

<sup>21</sup>Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. <sup>22</sup>The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. <sup>23</sup>The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. <sup>24</sup>At the morning watch the LORD in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. <sup>25</sup>He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the LORD is fighting for them against Egypt."

<sup>26</sup>Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers." <sup>27</sup>So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the LORD tossed the Egyptians into the sea. <sup>28</sup>The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. <sup>29</sup>But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

<sup>30</sup> Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. <sup>31</sup> Israel saw the great work that the LORD did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the LORD and believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses.

**PSALTER** — Psalm 19 (NRSV)

1 The heavens are telling the glory of God;

**and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.**

2 Day to day pours forth speech,

**and night to night declares knowledge.**

3 There is no speech, nor are there words;

**their voice is not heard;**

4 yet their voice goes out through all the earth,

**and their words to the end of the world.**

In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun,

5 which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy,

**and like a strong man runs its course with joy.**

6 Its rising is from the end of the heavens,

and its circuit to the end of them;

**and nothing is hid from its heat.**

7 The law of the LORD is perfect,

**reviving the soul;**

the decrees of the LORD are sure,

**making wise the simple;**

8 the precepts of the LORD are right,

**rejoicing the heart;**

the commandment of the LORD is clear,

**enlightening the eyes;**

9 the fear of the LORD is pure,

**enduring forever;**

the ordinances of the LORD are true

**and righteous altogether.**

10 More to be desired are they than gold,

**even much fine gold;**

sweeter also than honey,

**and drippings of the honeycomb.**

11 Moreover by them is your servant warned;

**in keeping them there is great reward.**

12 But who can detect their errors?

**Clear me from hidden faults.**

13 Keep back your servant also from the insolent;

**do not let them have dominion over me.**

Then I shall be blameless,

**and innocent of great transgression.**

14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you,

**O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.**

## Scripture Reading — Matthew 18:21-35 (NRSV)

<sup>21</sup> Then Peter came and said to him, “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” <sup>22</sup> Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

<sup>23</sup> “For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. <sup>24</sup> When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; <sup>25</sup> and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. <sup>26</sup> So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ <sup>27</sup> And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. <sup>28</sup> But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ <sup>29</sup> Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ <sup>30</sup> But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. <sup>31</sup> When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. <sup>32</sup> Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. <sup>33</sup> Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ <sup>34</sup> And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. <sup>35</sup> So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

## 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

Loving God,

we confess that we have failed to live in harmony with our siblings.

We have been self-righteous in our attitudes,

close-minded in our beliefs,

and judgemental in our opinions.

We have shunned those whose ways we do not understand,

and we have despised those who do not endorse our convictions.

Forgive our sins, including our failures to forgive one another,

that we may dwell in peace with Christ, who is Lord of all. Amen.

*Silent Prayers of Confession*

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Friends, the Lord is merciful and gracious,

slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. **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, [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** — *Lord, I Want to Be a Christian*, H-402

1. Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart, in my heart; Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.  
In my heart, in my heart, Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.
2. Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart, in my heart; Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart.  
In my heart, in my heart, Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart.
3. Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart, in my heart; Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart.  
In my heart, in my heart, Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart.
4. Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart, in my heart; Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart.  
In my heart, in my heart, Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart.

— WORDS: African American spiritual

Blessing and Postlude

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## 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; students, teachers, administrators, and other employees of local schools; restaurant and retail 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 Culver United Methodist Church and their pastor DeMerle Eckart.

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# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**POWER AND LIGHT** — Power and Light will resume on Wednesday, September 23, (after school until 5 p.m). Wendy will meet the children at the bus stop at 5th and Cedar and walk the children to the church after school. Children will need to wear their mask and practice social distancing. Power and Light follows the school calendar. We will meet if school is in session. We look forward to seeing the children.

**YOUTH GROUP** — Youth Group will also begin Wednesday, September 23, (6-7:30 pm). We will meet at Eisenhower Park at 6 pm for hot dogs, drinks and fun. Youth will need to wear their mask and practice social distancing. Youth Group follows the school calendar. We will meet if school is in session. We usually do not meet if school is out for Holiday breaks, teacher in services, etc., unless special plans have been made. If you have any questions please contact Wendy.

**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](http://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 on 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](http://revcollins.com) by simply checking your email inbox. You can sign up at [tinyletter.com/jcollins11](http://tinyletter.com/jcollins11).

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## CHURCH CALENDAR

### 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  
3:30 p.m. Power & Light  
6:00 p.m. Communion Service Via Zoom  
6:00 p.m. Youth Group  
6:15 p.m. Luke Bible Study Via Zoom

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24**

10:00 a.m. Parkinson's Group Exercise — Narthex  
6:00 p.m. Cub Scouts — Peatling

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27**

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

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29**

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

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30**

1:30 p.m. Staff Meeting via Zoom  
3:30 p.m. Power & Light  
6:00 p.m. Communion Service Via Zoom  
6:00 p.m. Youth Group  
6:15 p.m. Luke Bible Study Via Zoom

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1 THRU SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3**

All day Special Called Annual Conference

## 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

Jason Vinduska, Liturgist

Carson Woodworth, Special Music

Joy Clemence, Sound

Braden Adams, Streaming Video

Cecilia Clemence, Slides

Clark Williamson, Director of Music Ministries

Wendy Robinson, Director of Children and Youth Ministries

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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Clark Williamson, Director of Music Ministries

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