

A note to those listening on the radio: The announcements in this bulletin are for September 20, 2020, but the order of worship is for September 27, 2020. **For those watching the live stream:** both the order of worship and the announcements are for September 20, 2020.

AN ORDER OF CHRISTIAN WORSHIP

September 20, 2020 | Sixteenth 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

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Scripture Reading — Exodus 16:2-15 (CEB)

²The whole Israelite community complained against Moses and Aaron in the desert. ³The Israelites said to them, "Oh, how we wish that the LORD had just put us to death while we were still in the land of Egypt. There we could sit by the pots cooking meat and eat our fill of bread. Instead, you've brought us out into this desert to starve this whole assembly to death."

⁴Then the LORD said to Moses, "I'm going to make bread rain down from the sky for you. The people will go out each day and gather just enough for that day. In this way, I'll test them to see whether or not they follow my Instruction. ⁵On the sixth day, when they measure out what they have collected, it will be twice as much as they collected on other days." ⁶So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, "This evening you will know that it was the LORD who brought you out of the land of Egypt. ⁷And in the morning you will see the LORD's glorious presence, because your complaints against the LORD have been heard. Who are we? Why blame us?" ⁸Moses continued, "The LORD will give you

meat to eat in the evening and your fill of bread in the morning because the LORD heard the complaints you made against him. Who are we? Your complaints aren't against us but against the LORD."

⁹Then Moses said to Aaron, "Say to the whole Israelite community, 'Come near to the LORD, because he's heard your complaints.'" ¹⁰As Aaron spoke to the whole Israelite community, they turned to look toward the desert, and just then the glorious presence of the LORD appeared in the cloud.

¹¹The LORD spoke to Moses, ¹²"I've heard the complaints of the Israelites. Tell them, 'At twilight you will eat meat. And in the morning you will have your fill of bread. Then you will know that I am the LORD your God.'"

¹³In the evening a flock of quail flew down and covered the camp. And in the morning there was a layer of dew all around the camp. ¹⁴When the layer of dew lifted, there on the desert surface were thin flakes, as thin as frost on the ground. ¹⁵When the Israelites saw it, they said to each other, "What is it?" They didn't know what it was.

Moses said to them, "This is the bread that the LORD has given you to eat.

HYMN — *Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer*, H-127

1. Guide me, O thou great Redeemer, pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but thou art mighty; hold me with thy powerful hand. Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
feed me till I want no more; feed me till I want no more.

2. Open now the crystal fountain, whence the healing stream doth flow;
let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through. Strong deliverer, strong deliverer,
be thou still my strength and shield; be thou still my strength and shield.

3. When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside;
death of death and hell's destruction, land me safe on Canaan's side.
Songs of praises, song of praises, I will ever give to thee; I will ever give to thee.

— Words: William Williams, 1745; trans from the Welsh by Peter Williams and the author, 1771

Children's Message

Special Music

Scripture Reading — Philippians 1:21-30 (CEB)

²¹Because for me, living serves Christ and dying is even better. ²²If I continue to live in this world, I get results from my work. ²³But I don't know what I prefer. I'm torn between the two because I want to leave this life and be with Christ, which is far better. ²⁴However, it's more important for me to stay in this world for your sake. ²⁵I'm sure of this: I will stay alive and remain with all of you to help your progress and the joy of your faith, ²⁶and to increase your pride in Christ Jesus through my presence when I visit you again.

²⁷Most important, live together in a manner worthy of Christ's gospel. Do this, whether I come and see you or I'm absent and hear about you. Do this so that you stand firm, united in one spirit and mind as you struggle together to remain faithful to the gospel. ²⁸That way, you won't be afraid of anything your enemies do. Your faithfulness and courage are a sign of their coming destruction and your salvation, which is from God. ²⁹God has generously granted you the privilege, not only of believing in Christ but also of suffering for Christ's sake. ³⁰You are having the same struggle that you saw me face and now hear that I'm still facing.

PSALTER — Psalm 29 (NRSV)*

- ¹ Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly beings,
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.
- ² Ascribe to the LORD the glory of his name;
worship the LORD in holy splendor.
- ³ The voice of the LORD is over the waters;
the God of glory thunders,
the LORD, over mighty waters.
- ⁴ The voice of the LORD is powerful;
the voice of the LORD is full of majesty.
- ⁵ The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars;
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon.
- ⁶ He makes Lebanon skip like a calf,
and Sirion like a young wild ox.
- ⁷ The voice of the LORD flashes forth flames of fire.
- ⁸ The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.
- ⁹ The voice of the LORD causes the oaks to whirl,
and strips the forest bare;
and in his temple all say, "Glory!"
- ¹⁰ The LORD sits enthroned over the flood;
the LORD sits enthroned as king forever.
- ¹¹ May the LORD give strength to his people!
May the LORD bless his people with peace!

Scripture Reading — Matthew 20:1-16 (NRSV)

¹ "For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ² After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. ³ When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; ⁴ and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. ⁵ When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. ⁶ And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' ⁷ They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' ⁸ When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' ⁹ When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. ¹⁰ Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. ¹¹ And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹² saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' ¹³ But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? ¹⁴ Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵ Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' ¹⁶ So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

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, 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 — *Come, Sinners, to the Gospel Feast*, H-339

1. Come, sinners, to the gospel feast; let every soul be Jesus' guest.
Ye need not one be left behind, for God hath bid all humankind.
2. Sent by my Lord, on you I call; the invitation is to all. Come, all the world!
Come, sinner, thou! All things in Christ are ready now.
3. Come, all ye souls by sin oppressed, ye restless wanderers after rest;
ye poor, and maimed, and halt, and blind, in Christ a hearty welcome find.
4. My message as from God receive; ye all may come to Christ and live.
O let this love your hearts constrain, nor suffer him to die in vain.
5. This is the time, no more delay! This is the Lord's accepted day.
Come thou, this moment, at his call, and live for him who died for all.

— Words: Charles Wesley, 1747.

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: Paul Hettenbach [9/20], J. M. Frey [9/6],

COMMUNITY PRAYER CONCERNS: Rod Lehman (son of Dorothy and Paul) [9/6], Scott Anderson [8/30], 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, Melvin Leckron, Dorothy Snider, Verna Cook, Linda Chase, Barb Hawk, Verl Eckman 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 Clay Center Ebenezer United Methodist Church and their pastor Lillia Flegle.

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 contact 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 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 by simply checking your email inbox. You can sign up at tinyletter.com/jcollins11.

CHURCH CALENDAR

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 @ Eisenhower Park
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
7:00 p.m. EOTT Board Meeting

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

Anna Gugler, Piano

Mary Jane Oard, Liturgist

Jackson Welsh, Special Music

Braden Adams, Video and Streaming

Cecilia Clemence, Slides

Joy Clemence, Sound

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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Pam Jackson, Parish Visitor

Phone: 785-263-2623 — Email: parishvisitor@abilenefirstumc.org

NOTES AND DOODLES