
AN ORDER OF CHRISTIAN WORSHIP

October 18, 2020 | Twentieth 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 33:12-23 (NRSV)

¹² Moses said to the LORD, "See, you have said to me, 'Bring up this people'; but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. Yet you have said, 'I know you by name, and you have also found favor in my sight.' ¹³ Now if I have found favor in your sight, show me your ways, so that I may know you and find favor in your sight. Consider too that this nation is your people." ¹⁴ He said, "My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest." ¹⁵ And he said to him, "If your presence will not go, do not carry us up from here. ¹⁶ For how shall it be known that I have found favor in your sight, I and your people, unless you go with us? In this way, we shall be distinct, I and your people, from every people on the face of the earth."

¹⁷ The LORD said to Moses, "I will do the very thing that you have asked; for you have found favor in my sight, and I know you by name." ¹⁸ Moses said, "Show me your glory, I pray." ¹⁹ And he said, "I will make all my goodness pass before you, and will proclaim before you the name, 'The LORD'; and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy. ²⁰ But," he said, "you cannot see my face; for no one shall see me and live." ²¹ And the LORD continued, "See,

there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock; ²² and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by; ²³ then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back; but my face shall not be seen.”

HYMN — *Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me*, H-361

1. Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee; let the water and the blood, from thy wounded side which flowed, be of sin the double cure; save from wrath and make me pure.
2. Not the labors of my hands can fulfill thy law's demands; could my zeal no respite know, could my tears forever flow, all for sin could not atone; thou must save, and thou alone.
3. Nothing in my hand I bring, simply to the cross I cling; naked, come to thee for dress; helpless, look to thee for grace; foul, I to the fountain fly; wash me, Savior, or I die.
4. While I draw this fleeting breath, when mine eyes shall close in death, when I soar to worlds unknown, see thee on thy judgment throne, Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee.

— Augustus M. Toplady, 1776.

Children's Message

Special Music — *Go Make A Difference*

Scripture Reading — 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10 (NRSV)

¹ Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:
Grace to you and peace.

²We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly ³ remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, ⁵because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake. ⁶And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit, ⁷so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. ⁸For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. ⁹For the people of those regions report about us what kind of welcome we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God, ¹⁰and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath that is coming.

PSALTER — Psalm 99 (NRSV)

¹ The LORD is king;

let the peoples tremble!

He sits enthroned upon the cherubim;

let the earth quake!

² The LORD is great in Zion;

he is exalted over all the peoples.

³ Let them praise your great and awesome name.

Holy is he!

⁴ Mighty King, lover of justice,
you have established equity;
you have executed justice
and righteousness in Jacob.

⁵ Extol the LORD our God;
worship at his footstool.
Holy is he!

⁶ Moses and Aaron were among his priests,
Samuel also was among those who called on his name.
They cried to the LORD, and he answered them.

⁷ He spoke to them in the pillar of cloud;
they kept his decrees,
and the statutes that he gave them.

⁸ O LORD our God, you answered them;
you were a forgiving God to them,
but an avenger of their wrongdoings.

⁹ Extol the LORD our God,
and worship at his holy mountain;
for the LORD our God is holy.

Scripture Reading — Matthew 22:15-22 (NRSV)

¹⁵ Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap him in what he said. ¹⁶ So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. ¹⁷ Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?" ¹⁸ But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? ¹⁹ Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. ²⁰ Then he said to them, "Whose head is this, and whose title?" ²¹ They answered, "The emperor's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's." ²² When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

Message

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

**What a debt we owe to you, O God.
You have given us all things in Christ
and yet we withhold from you the honor and glory that are yours.
Instead, we pay tribute to empires,
fail to walk in the ways of your Son Jesus Christ,
mock your truth with empty praise,
and put your patience to the test.
Forgive us, O God, and by your grace, restore us to full relationship with you. Amen.**

(A time of silent prayers of confession.)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice!
Let the sea roar with laughter, the fields shout in celebration, and the forests sing with joy:
in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

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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 — *This Is My Father's World*, H-144

1. This is my Father's world, and to my listening ears all nature sings, and round me rings the music of the spheres. This is my Father's world: I rest me in the thought of rocks and trees, of skies and seas; his hand the wonders wrought.

2. This is my Father's world, the birds their carols raise, the morning light, the lily white, declare their maker's praise. This is my Father's world: he shines in all that's fair; in the rustling grass I hear him pass; he speaks to me everywhere.

3. This is my Father's world. O let me ne'er forget that though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the ruler yet. This is my Father's world: the battle is not done. Jesus who died shall be satisfied and earth and heaven be one.

— Words: Maltbie D. Babcock, 1901

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: Those grieving the loss of Paul Hettenbach [10/18], Roberta Corl [10/11], John and Andrea Purvis [10/11], Jared Vinduska [10/18], those grieving the loss of Verna Cook [10/1].

COMMUNITY PRAYER CONCERNS: Chad Michaels [10/18], Connie Brown (sister of Everett Everson) [10/4], those grieving the loss of Reggie Robinson (Danny Robinson's brother) [9/27], Kim Goodman [7/15/2018]; doctors, nurses and other health care workers; students, teachers, administrators, school nurses, 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, 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 Courtland United Methodist Church and their pastor Sandra Jellison-Knock.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

IN PERSON WORSHIP NEXT WEEKEND (PROBABLY) — At present, we plan to resume in-person worship next weekend, but plans are still tentative and this will be discussed by the Church Council when they meet tonight (Sunday, October 11). We would love to have you with us, but please confirm your intention to join us online at AbileneFirstUMC.org or by calling the church office at 785-263-2623 so that we can keep you posted.

RESTARTING THE PRAYER VIGIL

We're restarting the Prayer Vigil in virtual form from our homes. It's a full day of prayer every Thursday from 5 a.m. to 7 p.m. We have the following openings. Please email John or call the church office if you are interested in participating. Here are the slots that remain open:

8 a.m. to 9 a.m.

11 a.m. to Noon

4 p.m. to 5 p.m.

6 p.m. to 7 p.m.

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

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.

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

CHURCH CALENDAR

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18

10:30 a.m. Worship Service Via KABI 1560 AM/Facebook Live
5:00 p.m. Finance Committee Via Zoom

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21

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

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22

5:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. Prayer Vigil from Homes

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23

12:00 p.m. Church Office Closes

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25

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

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28

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

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29

5:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. Prayer Vigil from Homes

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30

12:00 p.m. Church Office Closes

SERMON NOTES AND DOODLES

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Please note that **bold type** indicates congregational participation. “H” stands for *The United Methodist Hymnal* (blue 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, Message

Anna Gugler, Piano

Clark Williamson, Liturgist

Jack Hunter, Special Music

Joy Clemence, Sound

Braden Adams, Video and Live Streaming

Cecilia Clemence, Slides

Clark Williamson, Director of Music Ministries

Wendy Robinson, Director of Children and Youth Ministries

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Pam Jackson, Parish Visitor

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