

A note to those listening on the radio: the order of worship in this bulletin should reflect what you hear on our Sunday, October 25, 2020 radio broadcast on KABI 1560 AM.

AN ORDER OF CHRISTIAN WORSHIP

October 25, 2020 | Twenty First 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 — Deuteronomy 34:1-12

¹ Then Moses went up from the plains of Moab to Mount Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, which is opposite Jericho, and the LORD showed him the whole land: Gilead as far as Dan, ² all Naphtali, the land of Ephraim and Manasseh, all the land of Judah as far as the Western Sea, ³ the Negeb, and the Plain—that is, the valley of Jericho, the city of palm trees—as far as Zoar. ⁴ The LORD said to him, “This is the land of which I swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, saying, ‘I will give it to your descendants’; I have let you see it with your eyes, but you shall not cross over there.” ⁵ Then Moses, the servant of the LORD, died there in the land of Moab, at the LORD’s command. ⁶ He was buried in a valley in the land of Moab, opposite Beth-peor, but no one knows his burial place to this day. ⁷ Moses was one hundred twenty years old when he died; his sight was unimpaired and his vigor had not

abated. ⁸The Israelites wept for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days; then the period of mourning for Moses was ended.

⁹Joshua son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, because Moses had laid his hands on him; and the Israelites obeyed him, doing as the LORD had commanded Moses.

¹⁰Never since has there arisen a prophet in Israel like Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face. ¹¹He was unequalled for all the signs and wonders that the LORD sent him to perform in the land of Egypt, against Pharaoh and all his servants and his entire land, ¹²and for all the mighty deeds and all the terrifying displays of power that Moses performed in the sight of all Israel.

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 hideth thee.

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

Children's Message

Special Music — *Amazing Grace*

Scripture Reading — Matthew 22:34-46

³⁴When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, ³⁵and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. ³⁶"Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" ³⁷He said to him, " 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' ³⁸This is the greatest and first commandment. ³⁹And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' ⁴⁰On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

⁴¹Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: ⁴²"What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?" They said to him, "The son of David." ⁴³He said to them, "How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying,

⁴⁴"The Lord said to my Lord,
"Sit at my right hand,
until I put your enemies under your feet" ' ?

⁴⁵If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?" ⁴⁶No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

HYMN — *O Master, Let Me Walk With Thee*, H-430

1. O Master, let me walk with thee in lowly paths of service free;
tell me thy secret; help me bear the strain of toil, the fret of care.

2. Help me the slow of heart to move by some clear, winning word of love;
teach me the wayward feet to stay, and guide them in the homeward way.

3. Teach me thy patience; still with thee in closer, dearer company,
in work that keeps faith sweet and strong, in trust that triumphs over wrong;
4. In hope that sends a shining ray far down the future's broadening way,
in peace that only thou canst give, with thee, O Master, let me live.

— Washington Gladden, 1879

Scripture Reading — Luke 16:1-13

¹ Then Jesus said to the disciples, "There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. ² So he summoned him and said to him, 'What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management, because you cannot be my manager any longer.' ³ Then the manager said to himself, 'What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. ⁴ I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.' ⁵ So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he asked the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' ⁶ He answered, 'A hundred jugs of olive oil.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.' ⁷ Then he asked another, 'And how much do you owe?' He replied, 'A hundred containers of wheat.' He said to him, 'Take your bill and make it eighty.' ⁸ And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly; for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. ⁹ And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone, they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

¹⁰ "Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. ¹¹ If then you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? ¹² And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? ¹³ No slave can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth."

Sermon

A STATEMENT OF FAITH OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

We are not alone, we live in God's world.

We believe in God:

who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the church:

to celebrate God's presence, to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death,

God is with us.

We are not alone.

Thanks be to God. 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 — Step By Step, W-3004

O God, you are my God, and I will ever praise you. O God, you are my God, and I will ever praise you. I will seek you in the morning, and I will learn to walk in your ways; and step by step you'll lead me, and I will follow you all of my days. *(Repeat)*
And step by step you'll lead me, and I will follow you all of my days.

— David Strasser © 1991 Universal Music

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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: Pam Jackson [10/25], 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], 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 Culver United Methodist Church and their pastor DeMerle Eckart.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

IN PERSON WORSHIP THIS WEEKEND — We've resumed in-person worship. There is no need to make a reservation or confirm your attendance, and we won't be taking temperatures, but please wear a mask to and during the worship service. There are two in-person services, both at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday and Sunday. The Saturday service will be recorded, processed, uploaded, and "premiered" on Facebook Live at 8:15 a.m. the following day (Sunday). This same service will be aired in our 10:30 Sunday slot on KABI AM. If we have enough interest in an 8:15 Sunday morning service, we can start one.

DRIVE-THRU TRICK OR TREAT: The Youth Group will be hosting a drive-thru Trick or Treat for the community on Saturday, October 31, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Vehicles should enter the parking lot from Seventh Street and will exit onto Spruce Street. Trick or Treaters will not get out of their cars. No walk-through traffic please. Youth and adult volunteers will wear masks.

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.

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

Manually Dial In With a Touch-Tone Phone

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

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

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

CHURCH CALENDAR

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24

10:30 a.m. In-Person Worship Service

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25

8:15 a.m. Worship /Facebook Live

10:30 a.m. In-Person Worship Service

10:30 a.m. 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

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31

10:30 a.m. In-Person Worship Service

5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Drive-thru Trick or Treating - Church Parking lot

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1

10:30 a.m. In-Person Worship Service

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

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2

7:00 p.m. Staff Parish Meeting Via Zoom

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3

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

6:30 p.m. Outreach Committee Meeting Via Zoom

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4

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

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 (Saturday) Angie Hoerner (Sunday), Piano

Mary Jane Oard (Sunday), Liturgist

Carson Woodworth, Special Music

Troy Boyd (Saturday), Joy Clemence (Sunday), Sound

Cecilia Clemence (Sunday), Slides

Clark Williamson, Director of Music Ministries

Wendy Robinson, Director of Children and Youth Ministries

CONTACT INFORMATION

John Collins, Pastor

Phone: 620-252-9622 — Email: john@revcollins.com

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Clark Williamson, Director of Music Ministries

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

Pam Jackson, Parish Visitor

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