

A note to those listening on the radio: the order of worship in this bulletin should reflect what you hear on our Sunday, November 1, 2020, KABI 1560 AM radio broadcast.

AN ORDER OF CHRISTIAN WORSHIP

November 1, 2020 | Twenty Second 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

... Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Scripture Reading — 1 John 3:1-3 (NRSV)

¹ See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ² Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. ³ And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

HYMN* — Sweet Hour of Prayer, H-496

1. Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer! that calls me from a world of care, and bids me at my Father's throne make all my wants and wishes known. In seasons of distress and grief, my soul has often found relief, and oft escaped the tempter's snare by thy return, sweet hour of prayer!
2. Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer! the joys I feel, the bliss I share of those whose anxious spirits burn with strong desires for thy return! With such I hasten to the place where God my Savior shows his face, and gladly take my station there, and wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer!
3. Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer! thy wings shall my petition bear to him whose truth and faithfulness engage the waiting soul to bless. And since he bids me seek his face, believe his word, and trust his grace, I'll cast on him my every care, and wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer!

— WORDS: William Walford, 1845

Children's Message

Special Music — *Kneeling Before Thee*

Scripture Reading — Matthew 5:1-12 (NRSV)

- ¹ When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ² Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:
- ³ "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- ⁴ "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.
- ⁵ "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.
- ⁶ "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.
- ⁷ "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.
- ⁸ "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.
- ⁹ "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.
- ¹⁰ "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- ¹¹ "Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

HYMN* — *Blest Are They*, F-2155

1. Blest are they, the poor in spirit; theirs is the kingdom of God.
Blest are they, full of sorrow; they shall be consoled.
Rejoice and be glad! Blessed are you, holy are you. Rejoice and be glad! Yours is the kingdom of God!
2. Blest are they, the lowly ones; they shall inherit the earth.
Blest are they who hunger and thirst; they shall have their fill.
Rejoice and be glad! Blessed are you, holy are you. Rejoice and be glad! Yours is the kingdom of God!
3. Blest are they who show mercy; mercy shall be theirs.
Blest are they, the pure of heart; they shall see God!
Rejoice and be glad! Blessed are you, holy are you. Rejoice and be glad! Yours is the kingdom of God!
4. Blest are they who seek peace; they are the children of God.
Blest are they who suffer in faith; the glory of God is theirs.
Rejoice and be glad! Blessed are you, holy are you. Rejoice and be glad! Yours is the kingdom of God!

5. Blest are you who suffer hate, all because of me.

Rejoice and be glad, yours is the kingdom. Shine for all to see.

Rejoice and be glad! Blessed are you, holy are you. Rejoice and be glad! Yours is the kingdom of God!

— Words: David Haas (Matt. 5:3-16) © 1985 GIA Publications, Inc. — CCLI# 811889

Scripture Reading — Luke 16:1-13 (NRSV)

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

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

Holy and merciful God,

**we confess that we have not always taken upon ourselves the yoke of obedience,
nor been willing to seek and to do your perfect will.**

**We have not loved you with all our heart and mind and soul and strength,
neither have we loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

**You have called to us in the need of our siblings,
and we have passed unheeding on our way.**

**In the pride of our hearts, and the unwillingness to repent,
we have turned away from the cross of Christ,
and have grieved your Holy Spirit.**

(A time of silent prayers of confession.)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

May almighty God have mercy on you,
forgive all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ,
strengthen you in all goodness,
and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you 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, [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

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: Clark Williamson [11/1], 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].

COMMUNITY PRAYER CONCERNS: Tina Heater [11/2], Chad Michaels [10/18], 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 Clay Center Ebenezer United Methodist Church and their pastor Lillian Flegle.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

IMPORTANT WORSHIP REMINDER — We've reopened the sanctuary to in-person worship. We still wear masks and practice social distancing, but we no longer take temperatures or confirm attendance (reservations). There are two in-person worship opportunities. One service will be on 10:30 Saturday morning. The second service will be at 10:30 on Sunday Morning.

If we have enough interest in an 8:15 Sunday morning service, we can start one. We're adding the Saturday service so that it can be recorded, processed, and uploaded to Vimeo and Facebook by the following day (Sunday). This same service will be aired in our 10:30 Sunday slot on KABI.

You can watch the Saturday morning worship service here: abilenefirstumc.org/onlineworship/.

COMMUNION AND NON-COMMUNION SERVICES THIS WEEKEND — First United Methodist Church has long sought to be a place where everyone can feel welcome. During this pandemic, we've also sought to be a place where everyone can feel safe. That's one reason (of several) why we've required masks and social distancing throughout COVID-19. Because we want everyone to feel safe, we have done our best to offer a quality worship experience to those who need or want to stay home via online video and the radio broadcast. (We have not always succeeded, but we have always tried, and we are getting better).

Recognizing that different people have different levels of comfort with in-person worship, we're going to split the difference this weekend and celebrate communion at the 10:30 Sunday Service, but not at the 10:30 Saturday Service. Even at the Sunday service where we'll be taking communion, we'll use the small, prepackaged communion cups and keep our masks on as much as possible. As your pastor, I would encourage you to participate in worship to whatever extent you feel safe doing so.

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

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 their blog at revcollins.com by simply checking your email inbox. You can also reply with an email of your own and let us know what you think. You can sign up at tinyletter.com/jcollins11.

CHURCH CALENDAR

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

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5

5:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. Prayer Vigil from Homes
9:30 a.m. Hospice Quilt Workshop - Peatling
10:00 a.m. Parkinson's Group Exercise - Narthex

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6

12:00 p.m. Church Office Closes

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7

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

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8

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

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2

6:00 p.m. Board of Trustees Via Zoom
7:00 p.m. Worship Design

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3

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

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) and Angie Hoerner (Sunday), Piano
Heather Unruh (Saturday) and Sandi Dutt (Sunday), Liturgists
Joy Clemence (Saturday) and Mason Cook (Sunday), Sound
Cecelia Clemence (Saturday) and Mason Cook (Sunday), Slides
Braden Adams (Saturday), Video
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

SERMON NOTES AND DOODLES