
AN ORDER OF CHRISTIAN WORSHIP

November 7-8, 2020 | Twenty-Third Saturday and 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 — Joshua 24:14-25 (NRSV)

¹⁴“Now therefore revere the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. ¹⁵Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.”

¹⁶Then the people answered, “Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods; ¹⁷for it is the LORD our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; ¹⁸and the LORD drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God.”

¹⁹ But Joshua said to the people, "You cannot serve the LORD, for he is a holy God. He is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions or your sins." ²⁰ If you forsake the LORD and serve foreign gods, then he will turn and do you harm, and consume you, after having done you good." ²¹ And the people said to Joshua, "No, we will serve the LORD!" ²² Then Joshua said to the people, "You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the LORD, to serve him." And they said, "We are witnesses." ²³ He said, "Then put away the foreign gods that are among you, and incline your hearts to the LORD, the God of Israel." ²⁴ The people said to Joshua, "The LORD our God we will serve, and him we will obey." ²⁵ So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and made statutes and ordinances for them at Shechem.

HYMN* — *10,000 Reasons*

The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning, it's time to sing Your song again.

Whatever may pass, and whatever lies before me, let me be singing when the evening comes.

Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul; worship His holy name.

Sing like never before, O my soul, I'll worship Your holy name.

You're rich in love, and You're slow to anger. Your name is great, and Your heart is kind.

For all Your goodness I will keep on singing. Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find.

Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul; worship His holy name.

Sing like never before, O my soul, I'll worship Your holy name.

And on that day when my strength is failing, the end draws near and my time has come, still my soul will sing Your praise unending, ten thousand years and then forevermore.

Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul; worship His holy name.

Sing like never before, O my soul, I'll worship Your holy name.

Jesus, I'll worship Your holy name. Lord, I'll worship Your holy name.

Sing like never before, O my soul, I'll worship Your holy name.

Jesus, I'll worship Your holy name. I'll worship Your holy name

— Words: Matt Redman © 2011 Thankyou Music/Said And Done Music & Jonas Myrin/SHOUT! Publishing — CCLI# 811889

Children's Message

Scripture Reading — 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 (NRSV)

¹³ But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. ¹⁴ For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. ¹⁵ For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. ¹⁶ For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. ¹⁸ Therefore encourage one another with these words.

HYMN* — *It is Well with My Soul, verses 1,3, and 4, H-377*

1. When peace, like a river, attendeth my way, when sorrows like sea billows roll;
whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say, It is well, it is well with my soul.

Refrain: It is well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.

3. My sin, oh, the bliss of this glorious thought! My sin, not in part but the whole,
is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more, praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!

Refrain: It is well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.

4. And, Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight, the clouds be rolled back as a scroll;
the trump shall resound, and the Lord shall descend, even so, it is well with my soul.

Refrain: It is well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.

— Words: Horatio G. Spafford, 1873

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.

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, [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 — *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father; there is no shadow of turning with thee;
Thou changed not, thy compassions they fail not; as thou hast been, thou forever will be.
Summer and winter and springtime and harvest, sun moon and stars In their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.
Beginning to end my life in your hands. Great great is Your faithfulness.
You never let go, this one thing I know. Great great is Your faithfulness.
Pardon for sin and a peace the endureth, thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow, blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside.
Great is Thy faithfulness. Great is Thy faithfulness. Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand has provided; great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!

— WORDS: Thomas O Chisholm, 1923 © 1923, renewed 1951 Hope Publishing Company. — CCLI# 811889

Blessing

Postlude

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).

CLOSING CREDITS

Anna Gugler (Saturday) and Angie Hoerner (Sunday), Piano
Jason Vinduska (Saturday) and Ron Shouse (Sunday), Liturgists
Joy Clemence (Saturday) and Members of the Green Family (Sunday), Sound
Cecilia Clemence (Saturday) and Members of the Green Family (Sunday), Slides
Wendy Robinson, Director of Children and Youth Ministries

SERMON NOTES AND DOODLES

The Newsletter

November 7-8, 2020

First United Methodist Church, Abilene, Kansas

The mission of First United Methodist Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ as we work together toward our vision of a church of open hearts, open minds, and open doors.

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: Rev. Dee Williamston (Salina District Superintendent) [11/8], Lavetra Brown [11/8], Sandy Sleichter [11/8], Clark Williamson [11/1], Pam Jackson [10/25], those grieving the loss of Paul Hettenbach [10/18], Jared Vinduska [10/18].

COMMUNITY PRAYER CONCERNS: Sally Shrader Olsen (friend of Margie Miller) [11/8], Rebecca Allen (Daughter of Jim & Patsy Barlow) [11/8], Tina Heater [11/2], Chad Michaels [10/18], Kim Goodman [7/15/2018]; Samantha Schmitt (Granddaughter of Gary & Virginia Donley) [11/8], Bob Collins [11/8], those grieving the loss of Gordon Taylor (Terry Taylor's father) [11/8], 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 Enterprise United Methodist Church and their pastor Daniel Vandenburg.

GENERAL NEWS

THE RETURN OF THE NEWSLETTER — I've had a request to bring the church newsletter back, but we're already (happily) mailing bulletins to quite a few people, so I've decided to try attaching the newsletter to the Bulletin/Order of Worship that is already being mailed out. So here we are. Let us know if you would like a copy mailed to you and invite others to do the same. Feel free to let me know what you think, but smite me gently. — John Collins, 11/8/20

LOOKING FOR QUILTS FOR WORSHIP — The main purpose of the blue moving blankets on the pews in the sanctuary is to minimize the echo in a sanctuary nearly emptied by COVID-19. The problem is that I don't have enough moving blankets, and the echo remains a problem. I've been thinking about it, and one possibility would be to replace the few moving blankets we have with a plethora of quilts (which would probably do a better job of dampening the echo). If you have a quilt you would like to display and share, please let me know at john@revcollins.com. If I can locate enough quilts, we'll move forward and replace the moving blankets. If not, I'll buy a few more moving blankets. — John Collins, 11/8/20

TRICK-OR-TREAT RESULTS — Wendy Robinson has reported that the youth group handed out 417 bags on October 31, 2020 for Drive-Thru Trick Or Treat. Thanks to everyone who donated candy. — John Collins, 11/8/20

IF A TREE FALLS IN THE PARKING LOT — John Purvis, the chair of the board of trustees has informed me that the process of taking down the "Lightning Tree" by the west parking lot will begin today. I have mixed feelings. On one hand the tree was struck by lightning and if it's not taken down it will become a hazard. On the other hand I hate to see it go, it's the only named tree at First UMC. — John Collins, 11/8/20

IN THE YEAR THAT KING UZZIAH DIED — For those (including myself) who are anxious about the election: "In the year that King Uzziah Died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple" (Isaiah 6.1, NRSV). So begins the account of the call of the prophet Isaiah. King Uzziah had been a popular, successful king, and his death provoked anxiety about Judah's (the southern kingdom of Israel) future. So it was probably not a coincidence that it was at this time of anxiety that Isaiah had his vision of the real King of Israel, the Lord of Hosts. Of course, the Lord of Hosts ruled not only Judah but the whole world and that still holds true today. It's important for us, as Christians, to remember that presidents come and go, the Lord, the true king, abides.

*Please note that I say this same thing every time there's a presidential election. — John Collins, 9/27/20

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/.

— John Collins, 11/1/20

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 one. — Staff

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. — John Collins, 9/27/20

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	Manually Dial In With a Touch-Tone Phone	
https://bit.ly/38bf9qZ	+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)	
Meeting ID: 937 0998 7388	Meeting ID: 937 0998 7388	
Password: 67410	Password: 67410	— Staff

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	Manually Dial In With a Touch-Tone Phone	
https://bit.ly/2BTwgBn	+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)	
Meeting ID: 931 9116 5788	Meeting ID: 931 9116 5788	
Passcode: 67410	Passcode: 67410	— Staff

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 — Staff

UPCOMING EVENTS

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 and Vimeo (abilenefirstumc.org/onlineworship/)

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9

6:00 p.m. Board of Trustees Via Zoom

7:00 p.m. Worship Design

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10

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

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11

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 12

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

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

6:00 p.m. Cub Scouts - Peatling

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13

12:00 p.m. Church Office Closes

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14

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

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15

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

10:30 a.m. Via KABI 1560 AM / Facebook and Vimeo (abilenefirstumc.org/onlineworship/)

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16

5:15 p.m. Memorials Committee

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17

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

STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

John Collins, Pastor — Mobile Phone: 620-252-9622 / Email: john@revcollins.com

Pam Simpson, Office Administrator — Email: office@abilenefirstumc.org

Wendy Robinson, Director of Children and Youth Ministries — Email: wendy@abilenefirstumc.org

Clark Williamson, Director of Music Ministries — Email: clark@abilenefirstumc.org

Pam Jackson, Parish Visitor — Email: parishvisitor@abilenefirstumc.org