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# AN ORDER OF CHRISTIAN WORSHIP

November 21-22, 2020 | Christ the King Saturday and Sunday

First United Methodist Church

601 North Cedar, Abilene, Kansas 67410 | 785-263-2623 | [www.AbileneFirstUMC.org](http://www.AbileneFirstUMC.org)

A Church of Open Hearts, Open Minds, and Open Doors.

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## 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

Introduction to Ezekiel 34:1-24: God promises to come in person to seek out the lost.

Scripture Reading — Ezekiel 34:1-24 (NRSV)

<sup>1</sup>The word of the LORD came to me: <sup>2</sup>Mortal, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel: prophesy, and say to them—to the shepherds: Thus says the Lord GOD: Ah, you shepherds of Israel who have been feeding yourselves! Should not shepherds feed the sheep? <sup>3</sup>You eat the fat, you clothe yourselves with the wool, you slaughter the fatlings; but you do not feed the sheep. <sup>4</sup>You have not strengthened the weak, you have not healed the sick, you have not bound up the injured, you have not brought back the strayed, you have not sought the lost, but with force and harshness you have ruled them. <sup>5</sup>So they were scattered, because there was no shepherd; and scattered, they became food for all the wild animals. <sup>6</sup>My sheep were scattered, they wandered over all the mountains and on

every high hill; my sheep were scattered over all the face of the earth, with no one to search or seek for them.

<sup>7</sup>Therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the LORD: <sup>8</sup>As I live, says the Lord GOD, because my sheep have become a prey, and my sheep have become food for all the wild animals, since there was no shepherd; and because my shepherds have not searched for my sheep, but the shepherds have fed themselves, and have not fed my sheep; <sup>9</sup>therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the LORD: <sup>10</sup>Thus says the Lord GOD, I am against the shepherds; and I will demand my sheep at their hand, and put a stop to their feeding the sheep; no longer shall the shepherds feed themselves. I will rescue my sheep from their mouths, so that they may not be food for them.

<sup>11</sup>For thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. <sup>12</sup>As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. <sup>13</sup>I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. <sup>14</sup>I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. <sup>15</sup>I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord GOD. <sup>16</sup>I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

<sup>17</sup>As for you, my flock, thus says the Lord GOD: I shall judge between sheep and sheep, between rams and goats: <sup>18</sup>Is it not enough for you to feed on the good pasture, but you must tread down with your feet the rest of your pasture? When you drink of clear water, must you foul the rest with your feet? <sup>19</sup>And must my sheep eat what you have trodden with your feet, and drink what you have fouled with your feet?

<sup>20</sup>Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. <sup>21</sup>Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, <sup>22</sup>I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep.

<sup>23</sup>I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. <sup>24</sup>And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the LORD, have spoken.

#### **HYMN\*** — *Come, Thou Almighty King*, H-61

1. Come, thou almighty King, help us thy name to sing, help us to praise!  
Father all glorious, o'er all victorious, come and reign over us, Ancient of Days!
2. Come, thou incarnate Word, gird on thy mighty sword, our prayer attend!  
Come, and thy people bless, and give thy word success, Spirit of holiness, on us descend!
3. Come, holy Comforter, thy sacred witness bear in this glad hour.  
Thou who almighty art, now rule in every heart, and ne'er from us depart, Spirit of power!
4. To thee, great One in Three, eternal praises be, hence, evermore.  
Thy sovereign majesty may we in glory see, and to eternity love and adore!

— Words: Anon.

Children's Message

## Special Music

Introduction to Ephesians 1:15-23: Paul prays that the Ephesians might grow in the knowledge and love of God and tells of the power and glory to which the Father has elevated the Son.

### Scripture Reading — Ephesians 1:15-23 (NRSV)

<sup>15</sup> I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason <sup>16</sup> I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. <sup>17</sup> I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, <sup>18</sup> so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, <sup>19</sup> and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. <sup>20</sup> God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, <sup>21</sup> far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. <sup>22</sup> And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, <sup>23</sup> which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

### HYMN\* — *Rejoice The Lord Is King*, UMH-715

1. Rejoice, the Lord is King! Your Lord and King adore;  
mortals, give thanks and sing, and triumph evermore.  
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice; rejoice; again I say, rejoice.
2. Jesus the Savior reigns, the God of truth and love;  
when he had purged our stains, he took his seat above.  
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice; rejoice, again I say, rejoice.
3. His kingdom cannot fail; he rules o'er earth and heaven;  
the keys of earth and hell are to our Jesus given.  
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice; rejoice, again I say, rejoice.
4. Rejoice in glorious hope! Jesus the Judge shall come,  
and take his servants up to their eternal home.  
We soon shall hear th'archangel's voice; the trump of God shall sound, rejoice!

— Words: Charles Wesley, 1746

### Scripture Reading — Matthew 25:31-46

<sup>31</sup> "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. <sup>32</sup> All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, <sup>33</sup> and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. <sup>34</sup> Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; <sup>35</sup> for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, <sup>36</sup> I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' <sup>37</sup> Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? <sup>38</sup> And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? <sup>39</sup> And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' <sup>40</sup> And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.' <sup>41</sup>

Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; <sup>42</sup> for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, <sup>43</sup> I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' <sup>44</sup> Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?' <sup>45</sup> Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' <sup>46</sup> And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

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

**Sovereign God, we confess that we are not ready for your holy realm.**

**You guide us toward right paths, but we refuse to follow where you lead.**

**You love and feed and care for us, but we fail to love and serve others.**

**Forgive us, merciful God, so that we may return to your fold and rejoice in your presence.**

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[A time of silent prayers of confession.]

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

However long we wander, however far we stray, God's steadfast love endures forever.  
Siblings, be assured that in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

**Amen.**

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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\*** — *Build Your Kingdom Here*

(We apologize to our radio listeners, we don't have a license to broadcast this song on the radio).

Come set Your rule and reign in our hearts again.  
Increase in us we pray. Unveil why we're made.  
Come set our hearts ablaze with hope like wildfire in our very souls.  
Holy Spirit, come invade us now. We are Your Church and we need Your power in us.  
We seek Your kingdom first. We hunger and we thirst.  
Refuse to waste our lives for You're our joy and prize.  
To see the captive hearts released, the hurt, the sick, the poor at peace;  
We lay down our lives for Heaven's cause.

We are Your church and we pray revive this earth (we're prayin' for revival).

Build Your kingdom here. Let the darkness fear.

Show Your mighty hand. Heal our streets and land. Set Your church on fire.

Win this nation back. Change the atmosphere.

Build Your kingdom here we pray.

Unleash Your kingdom's power. Reaching the near and far.

No force of hell can stop Your beauty changing hearts.

You made us for much more than this. Awake the kingdom seed in us.

Fill us with the strength and love of Christ.

We are Your church. Oh, and we are the hope on this earth.

Build Your kingdom here. Let the darkness fear.

Show Your mighty hand. Heal our streets and land. Set Your church on fire.

Win this nation back. Change the atmosphere.

Build Your kingdom here we pray (prayin' for revival).

Build Your kingdom here. Let the darkness fear.

Show Your mighty hand. Heal our streets and our land.

Set Your church on fire. Win this nation back.

Change the atmosphere. Build Your kingdom here We pray (win this nation back).

— Words: Rend Collective, Benjamin Hastings & Bryan Fowler.

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Blessing and Postlude

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## WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Please note that **bold type** indicates congregational participation. "UMH" stands for *The United Methodist Hymnal* (blue book); "FWS" stands for *The Faith We Sing* (black book); and "WS" stands for *Worship and Song* (green book).

## CLOSING CREDITS

Anna Gugler, Piano

Velda Becker (Saturday), Heather Unruh (Sunday), Liturgists

Joy Clemence (Saturday) and Mason Cook (Sunday), Slides and Sound

Jackson Welsh, Special Music

Braden Adams, Video

Clark Williamson, Director of Music Ministries

Wendy Robinson, Director of Children and Youth Ministries

John Collins, Pastor

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# The Newsletter

November 21-22, 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.

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## 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:** Verl Eckman [11/22], Rev. Dee Williamston (Salina District Superintendent) [11/8], Lavetra Brown [11/8], Sandy Sleichter [11/8], Clark Williamson [11/1].

**COMMUNITY PRAYER CONCERNS:** Kris Noland and Sue Noland (friends of Gregg Root) [11/22], Sally Shrader Olsen (friend of Margie Miller) [11/8], Rebecca Allen (Daughter of Jim & Patsy Barlow) [11/8], Tina Heater [11/2], 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 WORSHIPPING 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 Glasco United Methodist Church and their pastor, Ralph Jarboe.

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# GENERAL NEWS

**I ENCOURAGE YOU TO WORSHIP FROM HOME** — I've been asked what difference Dickinson County's new mask mandate (Health Order #DK11-01) will make in our services this weekend. The only thing that has to be changed is that the signs requiring masks currently posted on our doors must be enlarged from 8" x 8" to 8.5" x 11". That's it. Otherwise, we're already compliant. A change that may be made will be for me to wear a mask even while preaching. (The order allows me to remove my mask for the sake of the hearing impaired, but I haven't yet decided whether or not to do so. If I remain masked for the sermon, I have found a mask that better preserves the quality and clarity of my voice and I will publish my sermon notes online.)

I urge everyone who can watch online or listen on the radio instead of coming in-person to do so. I know that worship is important to many of you—it's really important to me too. I understand that the experience of in-person worship is far superior to "virtual" worship. But, because of the increasing spread of COVID-19, Dr. Holmes, Bishop Saenz, and I all urge you to refrain from in-person worship for at least a month. That said, we will have services at 10:30 a.m. on both Saturday and Sunday, we have plenty of extra masks, and I do not intend to turn anyone away.\* In our present situation, you are the person best able to weigh your spiritual needs against the risks of in-person attendance. All I know is that the potential danger of attending in-person is both real and dire.

\* To comply with #DK11-01, I will reluctantly turn people away in the unlikely event that we have more than 30 people show up. — John Collins, 11/8/20

**CHURCH CONFERENCE WEBINAR** — The Salina and Hutchinson Districts will have a joint district webinar for Church Conferences on Sunday, November 22, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. All members of churches in the two districts are invited to attend what is expected to be a short webinar (30-45 minutes) hosted by Dee Williamston. Below is a link to register for this webinar. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

Link: [https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_Ciunk2ndTDuuu6N0UF8SXQ](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Ciunk2ndTDuuu6N0UF8SXQ) — Staff

**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](mailto: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

**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

**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	
<a href="https://bit.ly/38bf9qZ">https://bit.ly/38bf9qZ</a>	+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	
<a href="https://bit.ly/2BTwgBn">https://bit.ly/2BTwgBn</a>	+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)	
Meeting ID: 931 9116 5788	Meeting ID: 931 9116 5788	
Passcode: 67410	Passcode: 67410	— 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 two slots that remain open: 8 a.m. to 9 a.m., 4 p.m. to 5 p.m.

— John Collins, 9/27/20, updated 11/15/20

**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](http://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](http://tinyletter.com/jcollins11)

— Staff

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21

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

### SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22

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

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

### TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24

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

### WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25

No Power & Light or Youth Activities

1:30 p.m. Staff Meeting Via Zoom

6:00 p.m. Communion Via Zoom

6:15 p.m. No Luke Bible Study

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 26**

Thanksgiving Day — Offices Closed

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27**

Offices Closed

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 28**

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

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29**

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

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

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## **STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION**

John Collins, Pastor — Mobile Phone: 620-252-9622 / Email: [john@revcollins.com](mailto:john@revcollins.com)

Pam Simpson, Office Administrator — Email: [office@abilenefirstumc.org](mailto:office@abilenefirstumc.org)

Wendy Robinson, Director of Children and Youth Ministries — Email: [wendy@abilenefirstumc.org](mailto:wendy@abilenefirstumc.org)

Clark Williamson, Director of Music Ministries — Email: [clark@abilenefirstumc.org](mailto:clark@abilenefirstumc.org)

Pam Jackson, Parish Visitor — Email: [parishvisitor@abilenefirstumc.org](mailto:parishvisitor@abilenefirstumc.org)