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# AN ORDER OF CHRISTIAN WORSHIP

Sunday, January 10, 2020 | Baptism of the Lord

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

**HYMN\*** — *God of Love, We've Known Division*

1. God of love, we've known division and we've seen its awful cost, we have struggled as a nation and there's much that we have lost. We have been a house divided—and, divided, we can't stand. May our nation be united; give us peace throughout this land.

2. Turn us, Lord, from what divides us—fear that drives us far apart, greed that leads to great injustice, racist ways that break your heart. May we seek what brings together—hearts that bear each other's pain, care and mercy toward our neighbors, love that welcomes strangers in.

3. May we all, in conversation, speak the truth and listen well. May we hear, across this nation, stories others have to tell. May we learn from other cultures and be blessed by their world-view; May we serve with one another—loving others, loving you.

4. You have challenged us to goodness; you have shown a kinder way. It's your love that now inspires us as we seek a better day. May we end our harsh division; may we stop the hate and fear.

Make us one, Lord, as a nation; may we be united here.

— Carolyn Winfrey Gillette © 2020. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

## CALL TO WORSHIP

When we pass through difficulties and stress,

**God is with us and calls us by name.**

When we are discouraged and feel lost and alone,

**God is with us and calls us by name.**

When we look around and see chaos and confusion,

**God is with us and calls us by name.**

Opening Prayer

# PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Scripture Reading — Genesis 1:1-5 (NRSV)

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, <sup>2</sup> the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. <sup>3</sup> Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. <sup>4</sup> And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup> God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

**HYMN\*** — *I Sing the Almighty Power of God*, UMH-152

1. I sing the almighty power of God, that made the mountains rise, that spread the flowing seas abroad, and built the lofty skies. I sing the wisdom that ordained the sun to rule the day; the moon shines full at God's command, and all the stars obey.
2. I sing the goodness of the Lord, who filled the earth with food, who formed the creatures thru the Word, and then pronounced them good. Lord, how thy wonders are displayed, where'er I turn my eye, if I survey the ground I tread, or gaze upon the sky.
3. There's not a plant or flower below, but makes thy glories known, and clouds arise, and tempests blow, by order from thy throne; while all that borrows life from thee is ever in thy care; and everywhere that we can be, thou, God, art present there.

— Isaac Watts

Children's Message

Special Music      *Awesome God*

Scripture Reading — Psalm 29 (NRSV)

- <sup>1</sup> Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly beings,  
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.
- <sup>2</sup> Ascribe to the LORD the glory of his name;  
worship the LORD in holy splendor.
- <sup>3</sup> The voice of the LORD is over the waters;  
the God of glory thunders,  
the LORD, over mighty waters.
- <sup>4</sup> The voice of the LORD is powerful;  
the voice of the LORD is full of majesty.
- <sup>5</sup> The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars;  
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon.
- <sup>6</sup> He makes Lebanon skip like a calf,  
and Sirion like a young wild ox.
- <sup>7</sup> The voice of the LORD flashes forth flames of fire.
- <sup>8</sup> The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;  
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.
- <sup>9</sup> The voice of the LORD causes the oaks to whirl,  
and strips the forest bare;  
and in his temple all say, "Glory!"

<sup>10</sup>The LORD sits enthroned over the flood;  
the LORD sits enthroned as king forever.  
<sup>11</sup>May the LORD give strength to his people!  
May the LORD bless his people with peace!

**HYMN\*** — *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*, UMH-89

1. Joyful, joyful, we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love; hearts unfold like flowers before thee, opening to the sun above. Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the dark of doubt away. Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day!
2. All thy works with joy surround thee, earth and heaven reflect thy rays, stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise. Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea, chanting bird and flowing fountain, call us to rejoice in thee.
3. Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest, well-spring of the joy of living, ocean depth of happy rest! Thou our Father, Christ our brother, all who live in love are thine; teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine.
4. Mortals, join the mighty chorus which the morning stars began; love divine is reigning o'er us, binding all within its span. Ever singing, march we onward, victors in the midst of strife; joyful music leads us sunward, in the triumph song of life.

— Henry Van Dyke, 1907

Scripture Reading — Mark 1:4-13 (CEB)

<sup>4</sup>John was in the wilderness calling for people to be baptized to show that they were changing their hearts and lives and wanted God to forgive their sins. <sup>5</sup>Everyone in Judea and all the people of Jerusalem went out to the Jordan River and were being baptized by John as they confessed their sins. <sup>6</sup>John wore clothes made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist. He ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup>He announced, "One stronger than I am is coming after me. I'm not even worthy to bend over and loosen the strap of his sandals. <sup>8</sup>I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

<sup>9</sup>About that time, Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and John baptized him in the Jordan River. <sup>10</sup>While he was coming up out of the water, Jesus saw heaven splitting open and the Spirit, like a dove, coming down on him. <sup>11</sup>And there was a voice from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I dearly love; in you I find happiness."

<sup>12</sup>At once the Spirit forced Jesus out into the wilderness. <sup>13</sup>He was in the wilderness for forty days, tempted by Satan. He was among the wild animals, and the angels took care of him.

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*, UMH-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

(A time of silent prayers of confession.)

Words of Assurance

A Stewardship Moment/Invitation to the Offering

**RESPONSE\*** — *Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow*, UMH-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\*** — *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*, UMH-384

1. Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, to earth come down; fix in us thy humble dwelling; all thy faithful mercies crown! Jesus thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art; visit us with thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.

2. Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast! Let us all in thee inherit; let us find that second rest. Take away our bent to sinning; Alpha and Omega be; end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

3. Come, Almighty to deliver, let us all thy life receive; suddenly return and never, nevermore thy temples leave. Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above, pray and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.

4. Finish, then, thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be. Let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee; changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place, till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise.

— Charles Wesley

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). An asterisk (\*) indicates a good time to stand if you want to.

## CLOSING CREDITS

Anna Gugler and Angie Hoerner, Piano

Jack Hunter, Special Music

Darrol Dunham and Ward Turnbull, Liturgists

Liz Collins and Mason Cook, Sound

E. Marie Collins and M. Cook, Slides

Clark Williamson, Director of Music Ministries

Wendy Robinson, Director of Children and Youth Ministries

## STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

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

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

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

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# The Newsletter

January 10, 2021

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:** Sandy Sleichter [1/3], Mike Engle [12/27], Lillian Hoffman [12/20], Betty Cox [12/20], Steve Crump [12/20], those grieving the loss of Judy Hilton [12/20], and those grieving the loss of Bob Murnahan [1/10].

**COMMUNITY PRAYER CONCERNS:** Ethan Gustin [1/3], Ron Rutz (friend of Marla Rutz) [1/3], 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, employees and owners of small businesses [12/20]

**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, the County Attorney, and other elected officials and the judiciary (1 Timothy 2:1-4).

**DISTRICT PRAYER CALENDAR:** Today we pray for the Huscher United Methodist Church and their pastor, Randall Whitley.

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# GENERAL NEWS

**HAPPY 2021!** — Happy New Year! I pray 2021 will be an improvement over 2020. But I know that while God sometimes acts alone, more often than not, God sticks to the original plan and chooses to work through or with us, the human beings made in God's image. I think whether or not 2021 is better than 2020 will depend on what use we make of God's grace. As Augustine of Hippo reportedly said, "He that made us without ourselves, will not save us without ourselves." We can't do it by ourselves, but it is unlikely that God will do it without us. Let's get to work.

— Posted

by John Collins 1/3/21

**A STEWARDSHIP CLARIFICATION** — In Sunday's stewardship moment, I encouraged those who could afford to do so\* to tithe their stimulus checks, especially if you've been wanting to step up to tithing. I had a question from someone seeking clarification, and I want to share my answer with everyone. I did not mean for you to give the entire \$600 to the church\*\*. What I meant to suggest was that you take a tithe (10% = \$60) of the \$600 and give that to the church as a supplement to your regular giving.

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\*Allow me to use myself as an example as someone who could do this. The COVID-19 pandemic has not been a financial hardship upon me. The \$600 stimulus check is an unexpected windfall. When I tithe it and give \$60 to the church, I'll still have a \$540 windfall that I'll be looking to put to good use.

\*\*Speaking on behalf of the church, we would not say no to the full \$600, but I was in no way suggesting that.

— John Collins, 1/10/21

**CONTINUED IMPROVEMENTS IN ONLINE WORSHIP** — We continue to improve the quality of our online and radio worship services. The quilts on the pews have cut down on the echos in a mostly empty sanctuary. This week (thanks to a special donation) we're adding an additional Mevo video camera to allow those watching online a better view of the liturgist. Stick with us, it's going to keep getting better.

— John Collins, 11/29/20

**I ENCOURAGE YOU TO WORSHIP FROM HOME** — 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 now. 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, 12/18/20

**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

<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

— 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](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, JANUARY 9**

10:30 a.m. Recording the Online Service/In-Person Worship Service

### **SUNDAY, JANUARY 10**

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/))

### **MONDAY, JANUARY 11**

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

7:00 p.m. Worship Design

7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts - Peatling

### **TUESDAY, JANUARY 12**

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

### **WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13**

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

### **THURSDAY, JANUARY 14**

5:00 a.m. Prayer Vigil begins @ Homes

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

5:00 p.m. Quilt Group - Room 200

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 15**

9:30 a.m. Hospice Quilt Sewing for Service

12:00 p.m. Offices Close

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 16**

9:30 a.m. Hospice Quilt Sewing for Service

10:30 a.m. Recording the Online Service/In-Person Worship Service

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 17**

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/))

**MONDAY, JANUARY 18**

5:15 p.m. Memorials Committee Meeting

7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts - Peatling

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 19**

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

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20**

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

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 21**

5:00 a.m. Prayer Vigil begins @ Homes

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

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 22**

12:00 p.m. Offices Close

3:30 p.m. Salina Rescue Mission

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 23**

10:30 a.m. Recording the Online Service/In-Person Worship Service

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 24**

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/))

# SERMON NOTES AND DOODLES