
AN ORDER OF CHRISTIAN WORSHIP

January 17, 2021 | Second Sunday After Epiphany

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 — 1 Samuel 3:1-10

¹ Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD under Eli. The word of the LORD was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.

² At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; ³ the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was. ⁴ Then the LORD called, "Samuel! Samuel!" and he said, "Here I am!" ⁵ and ran to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down. ⁶ The LORD called again, "Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." ⁷ Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him. ⁸ The LORD called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the boy. ⁹ Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie

down; and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.' " So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

¹⁰ Now the LORD came and stood there, calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

HYMN* — *Be Thou My Vision*, UMH-451

1. Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart; naught be all else to me, save that thou art.
Thou my best thought, by day or by night, waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.
2. Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word; I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
Thou and thou only, first in my heart, great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.
3. Great God of heaven, my victory won, may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall, still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

— Words: Ancient Irish; trans. by Mary E. Byrne, 1905; versed by Eleanor H. Hull, 1912,
Alt. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House — CCLI# 811889

Children's Message

Special Music

Scripture Reading — Psalm 139:1-12 (NRSV)

- ¹ O LORD, you have searched me and known me.
- ² You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
you discern my thoughts from far away.
- ³ You search out my path and my lying down,
and are acquainted with all my ways.
- ⁴ Even before a word is on my tongue,
O LORD, you know it completely.
- ⁵ You hem me in, behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.
- ⁶ Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is so high that I cannot attain it.
- ⁷ Where can I go from your spirit?
Or where can I flee from your presence?
- ⁸ If I ascend to heaven, you are there;
if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.
- ⁹ If I take the wings of the morning
and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,
¹⁰ even there your hand shall lead me,
and your right hand shall hold me fast.
- ¹¹ If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me,
and the light around me become night,"
¹² even the darkness is not dark to you;
the night is as bright as the day,
for darkness is as light to you.

HYMN* — *Here I Am, Lord*, UMH-593

1. I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry. All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save. I who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright. Who will bear my light to them? Who shall I send? Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night. I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.
2. I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain. I have wept for love of them. They turn away. I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone. I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send? Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night. I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.
3. I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame, I will set a feast for them. My hand will save. Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied. I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send? Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night. I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.

— Words: Dan Schutte, 1981 (Is. 6:8) © 1981, 1983, 1989 Daniel L. Schutte and NALR — CCLI# 811889

Scripture Reading — John 1:43-51 (NRSV)

⁴³The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." ⁴⁴Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. ⁴⁵Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth." ⁴⁶Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." ⁴⁷When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, "Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!" ⁴⁸Nathanael asked him, "Where did you get to know me?" Jesus answered, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you." ⁴⁹Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" ⁵⁰Jesus answered, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these." ⁵¹And he said to him, "Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

Sermon

PRAYER

God of all the ages,
in your sight nations rise and fall and pass-through times of peril.
Now when our land is troubled, be near to judge and save.
May leaders be led by your wisdom;
may they search your will and see it clearly.
If we have turned from your way,
reverse our ways and help us to repent.
Give us your light and your truth, let them guide us;
through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of this world, and our Savior. Amen.

—Reprinted from *The United Methodist Book of Worship*,
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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.

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*, 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* — *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. — CCLI# 811889

Blessing and Postlude

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Please note that **bold type** indicates congregational participation. "H" stands for *The United Methodist Hymnal* (blue book).

CLOSING CREDITS

Anna Gugler and Angie Hoerner, Piano • Andrea Purvis and Mary Jane Oard, Liturgists
L. Collins and T. Green, Sound • L. Collins and T. Green, Slides
Clark Williamson, Director of Music Ministries
Wendy Robinson, Director of Children and Youth Ministries

SERMON NOTES AND DOODLES

The Newsletter

January 17, 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.

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], those grieving the loss of Bob Murnahan [1/10], those grieving the loss of Eugene Rogers [1/17], those grieving the loss of Mike Engle [1/17].

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, 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 Industry United Methodist Church and their pastor, Paula Scripter.

GENERAL NEWS

BISHOP SAENZ'S STATEMENT ON EVENTS AT THE CAPITAL — Bishop Saenz has written a letter addressing the shocking events that took place in the national capital last Wednesday (January 6, 2020). You can read it here. One of the things he is asking is for United Methodists in Kansas and Nebraska to pray together from this coming Sunday until Easter Sunday. Here's the prayer from The Book of Worship that he's asking us to use:

"God of all the ages, in your sight nations rise and fall and pass-through times of peril. Now when our land is troubled, be near to judge and save. May leaders be led by your wisdom; may they search your will and see it clearly. If we have turned from your way, reverse our ways and help us to repent. Give us your light and your truth, let them guide us; through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of this world, and our Savior. Amen." [1]

After what happened last week, I plan to start praying today.

[1] "A Prayer in a Time of National Crisis," The United Methodist Book of Worship (Nashville, TN: United Methodist Publishing House, 1992), 517.

— John Collins, 1/17/21

POSSIBLE BOOK STUDY: UNCOMFORTABLE CONVERSATIONS WITH A BLACK MAN

Ever since the events of this summer again brought race relations back to the forefront of public discussion, I've been looking for a book we could study together. I think I've found one in *Uncomfortable Conversations with a Black Man* by Emmanuel Acho. From the book flap:

[The book] "is an essential guide to the conversations we should all be having to increase our understanding and join the anti-racist fight. ... Filled with honest reflections and actionable conclusions, *Uncomfortable Conversations with a Black Man* is a must-read for anyone seeking to understand and eradicate racism. As Martin Luther King Jr. once said, "In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends." It's time to listen, learn, and speak."

Please let me know if you're interested in joining me in this study. You can send an email to john@revcollins.com or text or call 620-252-9622.

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.

*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 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, 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/)

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

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/)

STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

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