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# AN ORDER OF CHRISTIAN WORSHIP

Sunday, January 24, 2021 | Third Sunday After the Epiphany

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

## PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Scripture Reading — Jonah 3:1-10

<sup>1</sup>The word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time, saying, <sup>2</sup>“Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you.” <sup>3</sup>So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days’ walk across. <sup>4</sup>Jonah began to go into the city, going a day’s walk. And he cried out, “Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!” <sup>5</sup>And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth.

<sup>6</sup>When the news reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, removed his robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. <sup>7</sup>Then he had a proclamation made in Nineveh: “By the decree of the king and his nobles: No human being or animal, no herd or flock, shall taste anything. They shall not feed, nor shall they drink water. <sup>8</sup>Human beings and animals shall be covered with sackcloth, and they shall cry mightily to God. All shall turn from their evil ways and from the violence

that is in their hands. <sup>9</sup>Who knows? God may relent and change his mind; he may turn from his fierce anger, so that we do not perish."

<sup>10</sup>When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

**HYMN\*** — *Jesus Calls Us*, UMH-398

1. Jesus calls us o'er the tumult of our life's wild, restless sea;  
day by day his sweet voice soundeth, saying, "Christian, follow me!"
2. As of old the apostles heard it by the Galilean lake,  
turned from home and toil and kindred, leaving all for Jesus' sake.
3. Jesus calls us from the worship of the vain world's golden store,  
from each idol that would keep us, saying, "Christian, love me more!"
4. In our joys and in our sorrows, days of toil and hours of ease,  
still he calls, in cares and pleasures, "Christian, love me more than these!"
5. Jesus calls us! By thy mercies, Savior, may we hear thy call,  
give our hearts to thine obedience, serve and love thee best of all.

— Words: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1852

Children's Message

Special Music — *Step by Step*

Scripture Reading — 1 Corinthians 7:25-31 (TNIV)

<sup>25</sup>Now about virgins: I have no command from the Lord, but I give a judgment as one who by the Lord's mercy is trustworthy. <sup>26</sup>Because of the present crisis, I think that it is good for a man to remain as he is. <sup>27</sup>Are you pledged to a woman? Do not seek to be released. Are you free from such a commitment? Do not look for a wife. <sup>28</sup>But if you do marry, you have not sinned; and if a virgin marries, she has not sinned. But those who marry will face many troubles in this life, and I want to spare you this.

<sup>29</sup>What I mean, brothers and sisters, is that the time is short. From now on those who are married should live as if they were not; <sup>30</sup>those who mourn, as if they did not; those who are happy, as if they were not; those who buy something, as if it were not theirs to keep; <sup>31</sup>those who use the things of the world, as if not engrossed in them. For this world in its present form is passing away.

**HYMN\*** — *I Have Decided to Follow Jesus*, FWS-2129

1. I have decided to follow Jesus, I have decided to follow Jesus,  
I have decided to follow Jesus, no turning back, no turning back.
2. The world behind me, the cross before me, the world behind me, the cross before me,  
the world behind me, the cross before me, no turning back, no turning back.
3. Though none go with me, still I will follow, though none go with me, still I will follow,  
though none go with me, still I will follow, no turning back, no turning back.

— Words: Anonymous

Scripture Reading — Mark 1:14-20

<sup>14</sup>Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, <sup>15</sup>and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”

<sup>16</sup>As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. <sup>17</sup>And Jesus said to them, “Follow me and I will make you fish for people.” <sup>18</sup>And immediately they left their nets and followed him. <sup>19</sup>As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. <sup>20</sup>Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed 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.

— Words: Lesser Doxology, 3rd-4th cent.

**HYMN OF CONFESSION** — *Depth of Mercy*, UMH-355

1. Depth of mercy! Can there be mercy still reserved for me?  
Can my God his wrath forbear, me, the chief of sinners, spare?
2. I have long withstood his grace, long provoked him to his face,  
would not hearken to his calls, grieved him by a thousand falls.
3. I my Master have denied, I afresh have crucified,  
oft profaned his hallowed name, put him to an open shame.

4. There for me the Savior stands, shows his wounds and spreads his hands.  
God is love! I know, I feel; Jesus weeps and loves me still.
5. Now incline me to repent, let me now my sins lament,  
now my foul revolt deplore, weep, believe, and sin no more.

— Words: Charles Wesley, 1740

### **WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

We have confessed our sins,  
knowing that God is faithful, just, and merciful  
to forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

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.

— Words: 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, You Have Come to the Lakeshore*, UMH-344

1. Lord, you have come to the lakeshore looking neither for wealthy nor wise ones;  
you only asked me to follow humbly.

O Lord, with your eyes you have searched me, and while smiling have spoken my name;  
now my boat's left on the shoreline behind me; by your side I will seek other seas.

2. You know so well my possessions; my boat carries no gold and no weapons;  
you will find there my nets and labor.

O Lord, with your eyes you have searched me, and while smiling have spoken my name;  
now my boat's left on the shoreline behind me; by your side I will seek other seas.

3. You need my hands, full of caring through my labors to give others rest,  
and constant love that keeps on loving.

O Lord, with your eyes you have searched me, and while smiling have spoken my name;  
now my boat's left on the shoreline behind me; by your side I will seek other seas.

4. You, who have fished other oceans, ever longed for by those who are waiting,  
my loving friend, as thus you call me.

O Lord, with your eyes you have searched me, and while smiling have spoken my name;  
now my boat's left on the shoreline behind me; by your side I will seek other seas.

— Words: Cesareo Gabaraín; trans. by Gertrude C. Suppe, George Lockwood, and Raquel Gutiérrez-Achon, 1987  
© 1979 Ediciones Paulinas; trans. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House — CCLI# 811889

Blessing

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

Carson Woodworth, Special Music  
Anna Gugler and Angie Hoerner, Piano  
Darrol Dunham and Jason Vinduska, Liturgists  
Elizabeth Collins and Mason Cook, Sound and Slides  
Clark Williamson, Director of Music Ministries  
Wendy Robinson, Director of Children and Youth Ministries

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# SERMON NOTES AND DOODLES

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# The Newsletter

January 24, 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], 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 Jamestown/Huscher United Methodist Church and their pastor, Randy Whitley.

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# GENERAL NEWS

**INAUGURATION DAY** — It's January 20, 2021, Inauguration Day. Some are rejoicing, some are despondent. If you are rejoicing, I urge you to remember how you felt four years ago and be gentle with those who are despondent.

— John Collins, 1/24/20

**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](mailto:john@revcollins.com) or text or call 620-252-9622.

— John Collins, 1/17/20

**VOICES: I HAVE DECIDED TO STICK WITH LOVE** — A quote for Martin Luther King Jr. Day:

"I have also decided to stick with love, for I know that love is ultimately the only answer to mankind's problems. And I'm going to talk about it everywhere I go. I know it isn't popular to talk about it in some circles today. And I'm not talking about emotional bosh when I talk about love; I'm talking about a strong, demanding love. For I have seen too much hate. I've seen too much hate on the faces of sheriffs in the South. I've seen hate on the faces of too many Klansmen and too many White Citizens' Councilors in the South to want to hate, myself, because every time I see it, I know that it does something to their faces and their personalities, and I say to myself that hate is too great a burden to bear. I have decided to love. If you are seeking the highest good, I think you can find it through love. And the beautiful thing is that we aren't moving wrong when we do it, because John was right, God is love. He who hates does not know God, but he who loves has the key that unlocks the door to the meaning of ultimate reality." — Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. [1]

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[1] Martin Luther Jr. King, "Where Do We Go From Here?," in *The Radical King* (Boston, MA: Beacon Press, 2016), 175-176. You can read the speech online, but I would warn you that this is not the "safe" King you learned about in school. Link: <http://stanford.io/3ircGh3>

— John Collins, 1/24/20

**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

**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 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/))

### **MONDAY, JANUARY 25**

7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts - Peatling

### **TUESDAY, JANUARY 26**

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

7:00 p.m. EOTT Quilt Guild - Wright Hall

### **WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27**

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 28**

5:00 a.m. Prayer Vigil begins @ Homes  
10:00 a.m. Parkinson's Group Exercise - Narthex

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 29**

12:00 p.m. Offices Close

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 30**

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

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 31**

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, FEBRUARY 1**

7:00 p.m. Staff Parish Meeting  
7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts - Peatling

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2**

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

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3**

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, FEBRUARY 4**

5:00 a.m. Prayer Vigil begins @ Homes  
10:00 a.m. Parkinson's Group Exercise - Narthex

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5**

12:00 p.m. Offices Close

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6**

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

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# STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

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