
AN ORDER OF CHRISTIAN WORSHIP

January 31, 2021 | Fourth Sunday after the 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

In Christ, the God of highest heaven made a home on earth.

Through the Holy Spirit, Christ dwells among us still.

Come now, all who thirst,

and drink the water of life.

Come now, all who hunger,

and be filled with good things.

Come now, all who seek,

and be warmed by the fire of love.

— Reprinted by permission from *The Worship Sourcebook, Second Edition*, © 2013, Faith Alive Christian Resources.

Opening Prayer

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Scripture Reading — Psalm 111 (NRSV)

¹ Praise the LORD!

I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart,
in the company of the upright, in the congregation.

² Great are the works of the LORD,
studied by all who delight in them.

³ Full of honor and majesty is his work,
and his righteousness endures forever.

⁴ He has gained renown by his wonderful deeds;

the LORD is gracious and merciful.
⁵ He provides food for those who fear him;
he is ever mindful of his covenant.
⁶ He has shown his people the power of his works,
in giving them the heritage of the nations.
⁷ The works of his hands are faithful and just;
all his precepts are trustworthy.
⁸ They are established forever and ever,
to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.
⁹ He sent redemption to his people;
he has commanded his covenant forever.
Holy and awesome is his name.
¹⁰ The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;
all those who practice it have a good understanding.
His praise endures forever.

HYMN* — *Mighty to Save, WS #3038*

1. Everyone needs compassion, a love that's never failing; let mercy fall on me. Everyone needs forgiveness, the kindness of a Savior, the Hope of nations. Savior, he can move the mountains; my God is mighty to save, he is mighty to save. Forever, Author of salvation, he rose and conquered the grave; Jesus conquered the grave.

2. So take me as you find me, all my fears and failures; fill my life again. I give my life to follow everything I believe in. Now I surrender, yes, I surrender. Savior, he can move the mountains; my God is mighty to save, he is mighty to save. Forever, Author of salvation, he rose and conquered the grave; Jesus conquered the grave. Shine your light and let the whole world see we're singing for the glory of the risen King. Jesus! Shine your light and let the whole world see we're singing for the glory of the risen King. Savior, he can move the mountains; my God is mighty to save, he is mighty to save. Forever, Author of salvation, he rose and conquered the grave; Jesus conquered the grave. You're my Savior. You can move the mountains; God, you are mighty to save, you are mighty to save. Forever, Author of salvation, you rose and conquered the grave; yes, you conquered the grave. You are mighty to save.

— Ben Fielding and Reuben Morgan © 2006 Ben Fielding, Reuben Morgan, and Hillsong Publishing, admin. in the U.S. and Canada by Integrity's Hosanna! Music c/o Integrity Media, Inc. — CCLI# 811889

Children's Message

Special Music — *Shout to the Lord*

Scripture Reading — Mark 1:21-28 (NRSV)

²¹ They went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. ²² They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. ²³ Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, ²⁴ and he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God." ²⁵ But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" ²⁶ And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. ²⁷ They were all amazed,

and they kept on asking one another, “What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.”²⁸ At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

HYMN* — *Bind Us Together, FWS-2226*

Bind us together, Lord, bind us together with cords that cannot be broken. Bind us together, Lord, bind us together, Lord, bind us together in love.

There is only one God, there is only one King; There is only one body, that is why we sing.

Bind us together, Lord, bind us together with cords that cannot be broken. Bind us together, Lord, bind us together, Lord, bind us together in love.

— Words: Bob Gillman (Col. 3:14) © 1977 Kingsway's Thank You Music — CCLI# 811889

Scripture Reading — 1 Corinthians 8:1-13 (CEB)

¹ Now concerning meat that has been sacrificed to a false god: We know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge makes people arrogant, but love builds people up. ² If anyone thinks they know something, they don't yet know as much as they should know. ³ But if someone loves God, then they are known by God.

⁴ So concerning the actual food involved in these sacrifices to false gods, we know that a false god isn't anything in this world, and that there is no God except for the one God. ⁵ Granted, there are so-called “gods,” in heaven and on the earth, as there are many gods and many lords. ⁶ However, for us believers,

There is one God the Father.

All things come from him, and we belong to him.

And there is one Lord Jesus Christ.

All things exist through him, and we live through him.

⁷ But not everybody knows this. Some are eating this food as though it really is food sacrificed to a real idol, because they were used to idol worship until now. Their conscience is weak because it has been damaged. ⁸ Food won't bring us close to God. We're not missing out if we don't eat, and we don't have any advantage if we do eat. ⁹ But watch out or else this freedom of yours might be a problem for those who are weak. ¹⁰ Suppose someone sees you (the person who has knowledge) eating in an idol's temple. Won't the person with a weak conscience be encouraged to eat the meat sacrificed to false gods? ¹¹ The weak brother or sister for whom Christ died is destroyed by your knowledge. ¹² You sin against Christ if you sin against your brothers and sisters and hurt their weak consciences this way. ¹³ This is why, if food causes the downfall of my brother or sister, I won't eat meat ever again, or else I may cause my brother or sister to fall.

...

^{10:23} Everything is permitted, but everything isn't beneficial. Everything is permitted, but everything doesn't build others up. ²⁴ No one should look out for their own advantage, but they should look out for each other.

Sermon

A STATEMENT OF FAITH OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA (UMH 883)

We are not alone, we live in God's world.

We believe in God:

who has created and is creating,

who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the church:

to celebrate God's presence,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death,

God is with us.

We are not alone.

Thanks be to God. 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

We confess to you, all-knowing God, what we are.

We are not the people we like others to think we are.

**We are afraid to admit, even to ourselves,
what lies in the depths of our souls.**

But we cannot hide our true selves from you.

You know us as we are, and yet you love us.

Help us not to shrink from self-knowledge.

Teach us to respect ourselves for your sake.

Give us the courage to put our trust in your guiding power.

Raise us out of the paralysis of guilt

into the freedom and energy of forgiven people.

And for those who through long habit find forgiveness hard to accept,

we ask you to break their bondage and set them free;

through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.

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(A time of silent prayers of confession.)

Words of Assurance

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.

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* — *Marching to Zion*, UMH-733

1. Come, we that love the Lord, and let our joys be known; join in a song with sweet accord, join in a song with sweet accord and thus surround the throne, and thus surround the throne. We're marching to Zion, beautiful, beautiful Zion; we're marching upward to Zion, the beautiful city of God.

2. Let those refuse to sing who never knew our God; but children of the heavenly King, but children of the heavenly King may speak their joys abroad, may speak their joys abroad. We're marching to Zion, beautiful, beautiful Zion; we're marching upward to Zion, the beautiful city of God.

3. The hill of Zion yields a thousand sacred sweets before we reach the heavenly fields, before we reach the heavenly fields, or walk the golden streets, or walk the golden streets. We're marching to Zion, beautiful, beautiful Zion; we're marching upward to Zion, the beautiful city of God.

4. Then let our songs abound, and every tear be dry; we're marching through Emmanuel's ground, we're marching through Emmanuel's ground, to fairer worlds on high, to fairer worlds on high. We're marching to Zion, beautiful, beautiful Zion; we're marching upward to Zion, the beautiful city of God.

— Words: Isaac Watts, 1707; refrain by Robert Lowry, 1867

Blessing and Postlude

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 and Angie Hoerner, Piano

Jack Hunter, Special Music

Velda Becker and Sandi Dutt, Liturgists

Joy Clemence and Jensen Woodworth, Sound

Cecelia Clemence and Carson Woodworth, Slides

Clark Williamson, Director of Music Ministries

Wendy Robinson, Director of Children and Youth Ministries

SERMON NOTES AND DOODLES

The Newsletter

January 31, 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], Jerry Taylor [1/31] 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 WORSHIPPING 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 Jewell Trinity United Methodist Church and their pastor, Randy Whitley.

GENERAL NEWS

PLEASE JOIN US IN PRAYER — Bishop Saenz has asked United Methodists in Kansas and Nebraska to pray together for our nation 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]

[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, Reprinted 1/31/21

PREACHING PURPLE — This past Wednesday and Thursday, I attended (via Zoom) the annual clergy gathering and continuing education event in the Great Plains Conference. The theme was "Preaching Purple" based on the book *Preaching in the Purple Zone: Ministry in the Red-Blue Divide* by Leah Schade. I welcomed the opportunity to learn how to better lead First UMC through this difficult time.

— John Collins, 1/31/21

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

COMMUNION ELEMENTS AVAILABLE — If you would like to join us for communion on Wednesday but you don't have the elements (the bread and the juice), please let me know. We have plenty of the individual cups available for delivery. You can call the church office (785-263-2623), my cell phone (620-252-9622), or email me at john@revcollins.com.

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 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/)

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

6:30 p.m. Mission & Outreach Committee - Via Zoom

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

9:30 a.m. Hospice Quilt Guild - Peatling

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

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7

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

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

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 8

6:00 p.m. Board of Trustees

7:00 p.m. Worship Design

7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts - Peatling

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9

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

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10

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 11

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

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

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12

12:00 p.m. Offices Close

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13

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

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14

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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