
AN ORDER OF CHRISTIAN WORSHIP

February 7, 2021 | Fifth 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

Have we not known? Have we not heard?

Has it not been told to us since the beginning?

Those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength;

they shall mount up with wings like eagles;

they shall run and not be weary;

they shall walk and not faint.

— Isaiah 40:21-31

Opening Prayer

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Scripture Reading — 1 Corinthians 9:16-23 (CEB)

¹⁶If I preach the gospel, I have no reason to brag, since I'm obligated to do it. I'm in trouble if I don't preach the gospel. ¹⁷If I do this voluntarily, I get rewarded for it. But if I'm forced to do it, then I've been charged with a responsibility. ¹⁸What reward do I get? That when I preach, I offer the good news free of charge. That's why I don't use the rights to which I'm entitled through the gospel.

¹⁹Although I'm free from all people, I make myself a slave to all people, to recruit more of them. ²⁰I act like a Jew to the Jews, so I can recruit Jews. I act like I'm under the Law to those under the Law, so I can recruit those who are under the Law (though I myself am not under the Law). ²¹I act like I'm outside the Law to those who are outside the Law, so I can recruit those outside the Law (though I'm not outside the law of God but rather under the law of Christ). ²²I act weak to the weak, so I can recruit the weak. I have become all things to all people, so I could save some by all possible means. ²³All the things I do are for the sake of the gospel, so I can be a partner with it.

HYMN* — *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*, UMH-139

1. Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation. O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation! All ye who hear, now to his temple draw near; join me in glad adoration!
2. Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigning bears thee on eagle's wings, e'er in his keeping maintaining. God's care enfolds all, whose true good he upholds. Hast thou not known his sustaining?
3. Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee; surely his goodness and mercy here daily attend thee. Ponder anew what the Almighty can do, who with his love doth befriend thee.
4. Praise to the Lord, who doth nourish thy life and restore thee, fitting thee well for the tasks that are ever before thee. Then to thy need God as a mother doth speed, spreading the wings of grace o'er thee.
5. Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him! All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before him! Let the amen sound from his people again; gladly forever adore him.

— Words: Joachim Neander, 1680; sts. 1, 3, 5 trans. by Catherine Winkworth, 1863; st. 2 by S. Paul Schilling, 1986; st. 4 by Rupert E. Davies, 1983. Trans. sts. 2 and 4 © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House — CCLI# 811889

Children's Message

Scripture Reading — Psalm 147:1-11 (NRSV)

- 1 Praise the LORD!
How good it is to sing praises to our God;
for he is gracious, and a song of praise is fitting.
- 2 The LORD builds up Jerusalem;
he gathers the outcasts of Israel.
- 3 He heals the brokenhearted,
and binds up their wounds.
- 4 He determines the number of the stars;
he gives to all of them their names.
- 5 Great is our Lord, and abundant in power;
his understanding is beyond measure.
- 6 The LORD lifts up the downtrodden;
he casts the wicked to the ground.
- 7 Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving;
make melody to our God on the lyre.
- 8 He covers the heavens with clouds,
prepares rain for the earth,
makes grass grow on the hills.
- 9 He gives to the animals their food,
and to the young ravens when they cry.
- 10 His delight is not in the strength of the horse,
nor his pleasure in the speed of a runner;
- 11 but the LORD takes pleasure in those who fear him,
in those who hope in his steadfast love.

HYMN* — *O For A Thousand Tongues to Sing*, UMH-57

1. O for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer's praise, the glories of my God and King, the triumphs of his grace!
2. My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim, to spread through all the earth abroad the honors of thy name.
3. Jesus! the name that charms our fears, that bids our sorrows cease; 'tis music in the sinner's ears, 'tis life, and health, and peace.
4. He breaks the power of canceled sin, he sets the prisoner free; his blood can make the foulest clean; his blood availed for me.
5. He speaks, and listening to his voice, new life the dead receive; the mournful, broken hearts rejoice, the humble poor believe.
6. Hear him, ye deaf; his praise, ye dumb, your loosened tongues employ; ye blind, behold your savior come, and leap, ye lame, for joy.
7. In Christ, your head, you then shall know, shall feel your sins forgiven; anticipate your heaven below, and own that love is heaven.

— Charles Wesley

Scripture Reading — Mark 1:29-39 (CEB)

²⁹After leaving the synagogue, Jesus, James, and John went home with Simon and Andrew. ³⁰Simon's mother-in-law was in bed, sick with a fever, and they told Jesus about her at once. ³¹He went to her, took her by the hand, and raised her up. The fever left her, and she served them.

³²That evening, at sunset, people brought to Jesus those who were sick or demon-possessed. ³³The whole town gathered near the door. ³⁴He healed many who were sick with all kinds of diseases, and he threw out many demons. But he didn't let the demons speak, because they recognized him.

³⁵Early in the morning, well before sunrise, Jesus rose and went to a deserted place where he could be alone in prayer. ³⁶Simon and those with him tracked him down. ³⁷When they found him, they told him, "Everyone's looking for you!"

³⁸He replied, "Let's head in the other direction, to the nearby villages, so that I can preach there too. That's why I've come." ³⁹He traveled throughout Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and throwing out demons.

HYMN* — *On Eagle's Wings*, UMH-143

And God will raise you up on eagle's wings, bear you on the breath of dawn,
make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of God's hand.

And God will raise you up on eagle's wings, bear you on the breath of dawn,
make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of God's hand.

— WORDS: Michael Joncas, 1979 (Ex. 19:4) © 1979, 1989 North American Liturgy Resources — CCLI# 811889

Scripture Reading — Isaiah 40:21-31 (NRSV)

- ²¹ Have you not known? Have you not heard?
Has it not been told you from the beginning?
Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?
- ²² It is he who sits above the circle of the earth,
and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers;
who stretches out the heavens like a curtain,
and spreads them like a tent to live in;
- ²³ who brings princes to naught,
and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.
- ²⁴ Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown,
scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth,
when he blows upon them, and they wither,
and the tempest carries them off like stubble.
- ²⁵ To whom then will you compare me,
or who is my equal? says the Holy One.
- ²⁶ Lift up your eyes on high and see:
Who created these?
He who brings out their host and numbers them,
calling them all by name;
because he is great in strength,
mighty in power,
not one is missing.
- ²⁷ Why do you say, O Jacob,
and speak, O Israel,
“My way is hidden from the LORD,
and my right is disregarded by my God”?
- ²⁸ Have you not known? Have you not heard?
The LORD is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.
He does not faint or grow weary;
his understanding is unsearchable.
- ²⁹ He gives power to the faint,
and strengthens the powerless.
- ³⁰ Even youths will faint and be weary,
and the young will fall exhausted;
- ³¹ but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength,
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,
they shall run and not be weary,
they shall walk and not faint.

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.

Invitation to a time of Silent Prayers of Confession

Silent Prayers of Confession

Words of Assurance

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* — *You Are My All In All*, WS-3040

1. You are my strength when I am weak. You are the treasure that I seek. You are my all in all. Seeking you as a precious jewel, Lord, to give up I'd be a fool. You are my all in all.

2. Taking my sin, my cross, my shame, rising again I bless your name, you are my all in all. When I fall down you pick me up. When I am dry you fill my cup. You are my all in all.

Refrain: Jesus, Lamb of God, worthy is your name. Jesus, Lamb of God, worthy is your name. Jesus, Lamb of God, worthy is your name. Jesus, Lamb of God, worthy is your name.

— Words: Dennis Jernigan © 1991 Shepherd's Music, Inc., admin. by Dayspring Music, LLC — CCLI# 811889

Blessing and Postlude

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Please note that **bold type** indicates congregational participation. An asterisk (*) indicates that you are invited to stand as you are able. "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

Darrol Dunham and Kent Wyatt, Liturgists

Joy Clemence and Tray Green, Sound

Cecelia Clemence and Tyler Green, Slides

Clark Williamson, Director of Music Ministries

Wendy Robinson, Director of Children and Youth Ministries

The Newsletter

February 7, 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: 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: 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 Iona Trinity United Methodist Church and their pastor, James Rice.

GENERAL NEWS

REOPENING TEAM — The church council met last Monday (January 25, 2021). It was decided that a “Reopening Team” will be established to look at how and when to fully reopen and to evaluate where we are as a church. The team will pray and think about what we should bring back, what we should leave behind, and what we should begin.

— John Collins, 2/7/21

BOOK STUDY — We’ll begin our small group study of *Uncomfortable Conversations with a Black Man* by Emmanuel Acho on Wednesday, February 24, 2020 (the Wednesday after Ash Wednesday) at 6:30 p.m. I got my copy of the book from the local Rivendell bookstore, but copies can also be ordered online in hardback, electronic, and audible formats. Let me know if you would like me to order one for you at 620-252-9622 or john@revcollins.com.

— John Collins, 2/7/21

MISSION AND OUTREACH MEETING NOTES — The Mission and Justice Team met last Tuesday night and heard reports about the Shepherd’s Run, the Hat and Mitten Tree and the Little Free Pantry. It was noted that a lot of kids have been using the Little Free Pantry and that has created demand for kid-friendly items such as snack bars. Pastor Collins shared that we have a donor offering to purchase “Love Kindness” yard signs for an outreach project. The design is below (The signs will be white on red).



**LOVE
KINDNESS**
— Micah 6:8

www.AbileneFirstUMC.org
601 N Cedar, Abilene, Kansas



— John Collins, 2/7/21

PREACHING PURPLE — On Wednesday and Thursday (January 26-27, 2021), 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

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

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.

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

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

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/)

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 15

7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts - Peatling

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16

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

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17

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 18

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

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

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19

12:00 p.m. Offices Close

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20

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

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21

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

SERMON NOTES AND DOODLES