
AN ORDER OF CHRISTIAN WORSHIP

February 21, 2021 | First Sunday of Lent

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 — Psalm 25:1-10 (NRSV)

¹To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

²O my God, in you I trust;

do not let me be put to shame;

do not let my enemies exult over me.

³Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame;

let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

⁴Make me to know your ways, O LORD;

teach me your paths.

⁵Lead me in your truth, and teach me,

for you are the God of my salvation;

for you I wait all day long.

⁶Be mindful of your mercy, O LORD, and of your steadfast love,

for they have been from of old.

⁷ Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions;
according to your steadfast love remember me,
for your goodness' sake, O LORD!

⁸ Good and upright is the LORD;
therefore he instructs sinners in the way.

⁹ He leads the humble in what is right,
and teaches the humble his way.

¹⁰ All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness,
for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.

HYMN* — *Trust and Obey*, UMH 467

1. When we walk with the Lord in the light of his word, what a glory he sheds on our way!
While we do his good will, he abides with us still, and with all who will trust and obey.
Refrain: Trust and obey, for there's no other way to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.

2. Not a burden we bear, not a sorrow we share, but our toil he doth richly repay;
not a grief or a loss, not a frown or a cross, but is blest if we trust and obey.
Refrain: Trust and obey, for there's no other way to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.

3. But we never can prove the delights of his love until all on the altar we lay;
for the favor he shows, for the joy he bestows, are for them who will trust and obey.
Refrain: Trust and obey, for there's no other way to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.

4. Then in fellowship sweet we will sit at his feet, or we'll walk by his side in the way;
what he says we will do, where he sends we will go; never fear, only trust and obey.
Refrain: Trust and obey, for there's no other way to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.

— Words: John H. Sammis, 1887 (1 Jn. 1:7)

Children's Message

HYMN* — *Holy Spirit*

(In-person and online only because no license is available for radio use.)

Scripture Reading — Mark 1:9-15

⁹ In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰ And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹ And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

¹² And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. ¹³ He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

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

HYMN* — *Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days*, UMH 269

1. Lord, who throughout these forty days, for us didst fast and pray,
teach us with thee to mourn our sins and close by thee to stay.
2. As thou with Satan didst contend, and didst the victory win,
O give us strength in thee to fight, in thee to conquer sin.
3. As thou didst hunger bear, and thirst, so teach us, gracious Lord,
to die to self, and chiefly live by thy most holy word.
4. And through these days of penitence, and through thy passion-tide,
yea, evermore in life and death, Jesus, with us abide.
5. Abide with us, that so, this life of suffering over past,
an Easter of unending joy we may attain at last.

— Words: Claudia F. Hernaman, 1873 (Mt. 4:1-11; Mk. 1:12-13; Lk. 4:1-13)

Scripture Reading — Isaiah 58:1-14 (NRSV)

- ¹ Shout out, do not hold back!
Lift up your voice like a trumpet!
Announce to my people their rebellion,
to the house of Jacob their sins.
- ² Yet day after day they seek me
and delight to know my ways,
as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness
and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;
they ask of me righteous judgments,
they delight to draw near to God.
- ³ “Why do we fast, but you do not see?
Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?”
Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day,
and oppress all your workers.
- ⁴ Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight
and to strike with a wicked fist.
Such fasting as you do today
will not make your voice heard on high.
- ⁵ Is such the fast that I choose,
a day to humble oneself?
Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush,
and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?
Will you call this a fast,
a day acceptable to the LORD?
- ⁶ Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the thongs of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?
- ⁷ Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,
and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover them,

and not to hide yourself from your own kin?
⁸Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up quickly;
your vindicator shall go before you,
the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.
⁹Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;
you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

If you remove the yoke from among you,
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,
¹⁰if you offer your food to the hungry
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,
then your light shall rise in the darkness
and your gloom be like the noonday.

¹¹The LORD will guide you continually,
and satisfy your needs in parched places,
and make your bones strong;
and you shall be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water,
whose waters never fail.

¹²Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,
the restorer of streets to live in.

¹³If you refrain from trampling the sabbath,
from pursuing your own interests on my holy day;
if you call the sabbath a delight
and the holy day of the LORD honorable;
if you honor it, not going your own ways,
serving your own interests, or pursuing your own affairs;

¹⁴then you shall take delight in the LORD,
and I will make you ride upon the heights of the earth;
I will feed you with the heritage of your ancestor Jacob,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

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.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of mercy, we begin this Lenten season in confession.
We do not live according to your ways, but according to our own.
We condone violence, we tolerate injustice,
and we use what power we have without regard for others.
Forgive us, we pray,
when we are tempted to follow paths other than those you set before us.
Teach us your commandments; help us to turn from all forms of evil,
and draw us toward your coming kingdom.
In covenantal love, remember us, we pray,
and be for us, once more and always, the source of salvation.
In Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

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(A time of 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* — *The Summons*, FWS 2130

1. Will you come and follow me if I but call your name? Will you go where you don't know and never be the same? Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known, will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?
2. Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name? Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same? Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare? Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?
3. Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name? Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same? Will you kiss the leper clean, and do such as this unseen, and admit to what I mean in you and you in me?
4. Will you love the "you" you hide if I but call your name? Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same? Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around, through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?
5. Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name. Let me turn and follow you and never be the same. In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show. Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

— Words: John Bell © 1987 WGRG The Iona Community (Scotland), admin. by GIA Publications, Inc. — CCLI# 811889

Blessing

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).

SERMON NOTES AND DOODLES

The Newsletter

February 21, 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 Barb Hawk [2/16/21]

COMMUNITY PRAYER CONCERNS: Samantha Schmitt, granddaughter of Virginia and Gary Donley [2/21], Drew and Lindsay Snitker (parents) and Chip and Janet Edwards (grandparents) of infant Ardon [2/21], Quinn Patton (nephew of Margie Miller) [2/14], 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 Lindsborg United Methodist Church and their pastor, Dallas Peterson.

GENERAL NEWS

TENTATIVE BOOK STUDY SCHEDULE — *For Uncomfortable Conversations With a Black Man*
by Emmanuel Acho

Wednesday, February 24, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. — Introduction through Chapter 4

Wednesday, March 3, 2021 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. — Chapter 5 through Chapter 8

Wednesday, March 10, 2021 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. — Chapter 9 through Chapter 11

Wednesday, March 17, 2021 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. — Chapter 12 through Chapter 15

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.

We'll use the Zoom Link that we used for our Bible Study on the Gospel of Luke. You can find the information under the heading "Wednesday Book/Bible Study" at: abilenefirstumc.org/zoom-meetings/.

— John Collins, 2/7/21

BIRTHDAY WISHES — Sandy Sleichter will be celebrating on February 26. Her family is asking for a card shower for her. While we are hoping we can keep it a surprise, we don't know if that is possible as she will see the church bulletin. (Meredith Sleichter, Sandy's daughter-in-law). Cards can be sent to: Sandy Sleichter, c/o Jill Sleichter Deines, 2521 Brookville Cir, Manhattan, KS 66502 — Staff, 2/14/21

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.

UPDATE: They're in! We'll keep you posted.

— John Collins, 2/7/21



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

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.

— John Collins, 2/7/21

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS: April 7, 2021 is the deadline for scholarship applications to be submitted to the church office. Applications can be found on the church website or you may pick one up in the church office.

— 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

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 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/)

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22

7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts - Peatling

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23

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

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

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24

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

6:30 p.m. Book Study "Uncomfortable Conversations with a Black Man"

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25

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

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

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26

12:00 p.m. Offices Close

3:30 p.m. Salina Rescue Mission

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27

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

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28

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

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

MONDAY, MARCH 1

7:00 p.m. Staff Parish Meeting

7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts - Peatling

TUESDAY, MARCH 2

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

6:30 p.m. Outreach Committee Meeting

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 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
6:30 p.m. Book Study "Uncomfortable Conversations with a Black Man"

THURSDAY, MARCH 4

5:00 a.m. Prayer Vigil begins @ Homes
9:30 a.m. EOTT Guild - Peatling
10:00 a.m. Parkinson's Group Exercise - Narthex

FRIDAY, MARCH 5

12:00 p.m. Offices Close

STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

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Pam Simpson, Office Administrator — Email: office@abilenefirstumc.org

Wendy Robinson, Director of Children and Youth Ministries — Email: wendy@abilenefirstumc.org

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

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

CLOSING CREDITS FOR WORSHIP

Anna Gugler and Angie Hoerner, Piano

Carson Woodworth, Special Music

Sandi Dutt and Mary Jane Oard, Liturgists

Joy Clemence and Jensen Woodworth, Sound

Cecelia Clemence and Carson Woodworth Slides

Joy Clemence, Video

Clark Williamson, Director of Music Ministries

Wendy Robinson, Director of Children and Youth Ministries
