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# AN ORDER OF CHRISTIAN WORSHIP

Sunday, February 28, 2021 | Second Sunday in Lent

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

### HYMN\* — *Deep In the Shadows of the Past*, FWS 2246

1. Deep in the shadows of the past, far out from settled lands, some nomads traveled with their God across the desert sands. The dawning hope of humankind by them was sensed and shown; a promise calling them ahead, a future yet unknown.
2. While others bowed to changeless gods they met a mystery, invisible, without a name: "I AM WHAT I WILL BE"; and by their tents, around their fires, in story, song and law, they praised, remembered, handed on a past that promised more.
3. From Exodus to Pentecost the promise changed and grew, while some, remembering the past, recorded what they knew, or with their letters and laments, their prophecy and praise recovered, kindled and expressed new hope for changing days.
4. For all the writings that survived, for leaders, long ago, who sifted, copied, and preserved the Bible that we know, give thanks, and find its story yet our promise, strength and call, the model of emerging faith, alive with hope for all.

— Words: Brian Wren © 1975, 1995 Hope Publishing Co. — CCLI# 811889

# PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Scripture Reading — Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16 (NRSV)

<sup>1</sup>When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, “I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless.” <sup>2</sup>And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous.” <sup>3</sup>Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, <sup>4</sup>“As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. <sup>5</sup>No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. <sup>6</sup>I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. <sup>7</sup>I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. ...

<sup>15</sup>God said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. <sup>16</sup>I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.”

**HYMN\*** — *Oceans* (In-person and online only because no license is available for radio use.)

Children’s Message

Special Music — *Lord, I Lift Your Name on High*

Scripture Reading — Romans 4:13-25 (NRSV)

<sup>13</sup>For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. <sup>14</sup>If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. <sup>15</sup>For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

<sup>16</sup>For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, <sup>17</sup>as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”)—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. <sup>18</sup>Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become “the father of many nations,” according to what was said, “So numerous shall your descendants be.” <sup>19</sup>He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah’s womb. <sup>20</sup>No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, <sup>21</sup>being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. <sup>22</sup>Therefore his faith “was reckoned to him as righteousness.” <sup>23</sup>Now the words, “it was reckoned to him,” were written not for his sake alone, <sup>24</sup>but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, <sup>25</sup>who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

**HYMN\*** — *Standing on the Promises*, UMH 374

1. Standing on the promises of Christ my King, through eternal ages let his praises ring;  
glory in the highest, I will shout and sing, standing on the promises of God.

Refrain: Standing, standing, standing on the promises of Christ my Savior; standing, standing, I'm standing on the promises of God.

2. Standing on the promises that cannot fail, when the howling storms of doubt and fear assail, by the living Word of God I shall prevail, standing on the promises of God.

(Refrain)

3. Standing on the promises of Christ the Lord, bound to him eternally by love's strong cord, overcoming daily with the Spirit's sword, standing on the promises of God.

(Refrain)

4. Standing on the promises I cannot fall, listening every moment to the Spirit's call, resting in my Savior as my all in all, standing on the promises of God.

(Refrain)

— Words: R. Kelso Carter, 1886 (Eph. 6:14-17)

### Scripture Reading — Mark 8:31-38 (NRSV)

<sup>31</sup> Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. <sup>32</sup> He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. <sup>33</sup> But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

<sup>34</sup> He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>35</sup> For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. <sup>36</sup> For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? <sup>37</sup> Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? <sup>38</sup> Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

### 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.

—Words: 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.**

— Adapted from the Book of Common Prayer

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory — *Best of All Is God is With Us*

**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.

— 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\*** — *Leaning on the Everlasting Arms*, UMH 133

1. What a fellowship, what a joy divine, leaning on the everlasting arms;  
what a blessedness, what a peace is mine, leaning on the everlasting arms.

Refrain: Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms;  
leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.

2. O how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way, leaning on the everlasting arms;  
O how bright the path grows from day to day, leaning on the everlasting arms.  
(Refrain)

3. What have I to dread, what have I to fear, leaning on the everlasting arms?  
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near, leaning on the everlasting arms.  
(Refrain)

— WORDS: Elisha A. Hoffman, 1887 (Dt. 33:27)

Blessing and Postlude

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## 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  
Carson Woodworth, Special Music  
Velda Becker and Heather James, Liturgists  
Joy Clemence and Mason Cook, Sound  
Cecilia Clemence and Mason Cook, 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

February 28, 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:** Those grieving the loss of Barb Hawk [2/16/21] and Jerry Taylor [2/28/21].

**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, 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 Longford-Mizpah United Methodist Church and their pastor, Debra Tompsett-Welch.

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# GENERAL NEWS

**2021 ANNUAL CONFERENCE WILL BE VIRTUAL** — This week it was announced that the 2021 Annual Conference (the meeting of United Methodists from all over Kansas and Nebraska) will again be held online. The explanation from the Bishop (and I agree) is as follows:

“As we enjoy warming temperatures, spring moves closer on our horizon, and the COVID-19 pandemic appears finally to be easing across Kansas and Nebraska, vaccinations across our two states lag. Put simply, with us coming so close to overcoming the virus, now is not the time to put down our guard or put people at risk. This is why we will not meet in person on May 26-29 in Grand Island, Nebraska, as previously planned.”

The theme for this annual conference session is: “Love me ... and know that I am God” (Psalm 46; John 21:15-19).  
— John Collins, 2/7/21

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

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

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/](http://abilenefirstumc.org/zoom-meetings/).  
— John Collins, 2/7/21

**SIGNS ARE IN!** — Our “Love Kindness” signs are here. Send an email to [office@abilenefirstumc.org](mailto:office@abilenefirstumc.org) or call 785-263-2623 if you would like one delivered by the youth group, or you can stop by the church during office hours and pick one up. (The signs are free either way.)  
— 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]

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[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](mailto: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](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

**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

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### 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

**SATURDAY, MARCH 6**

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

**SUNDAY, MARCH 7**

10:30 a.m. In-Person Worship Service/Online Service Available at [AbileneFirstUMC.org](http://AbileneFirstUMC.org)

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

**MONDAY, MARCH 8**

6:00 p.m. Board of Trustees

7:00 p.m. Worship Design

7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts - Peatling

**TUESDAY, MARCH 9**

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

6:30 p.m. Outreach Committee Meeting

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 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

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

**THURSDAY, MARCH 11**

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

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

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## STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

John Collins, Pastor — Mobile Phone: 620-252-9622 / Email: [john@revcollins.com](mailto:john@revcollins.com)

Pam Simpson, Office Administrator — Email: [office@abilenefirstumc.org](mailto:office@abilenefirstumc.org)

Wendy Robinson, Director of Children and Youth Ministries — Email: [wendy@abilenefirstumc.org](mailto:wendy@abilenefirstumc.org)

Clark Williamson, Director of Music Ministries — Email: [clark@abilenefirstumc.org](mailto:clark@abilenefirstumc.org)

Pam Jackson, Parish Visitor — Email: [parishvisitor@abilenefirstumc.org](mailto:parishvisitor@abilenefirstumc.org)