
AN ORDER OF CHRISTIAN WORSHIP

February 14, 2021 | Transfiguration Sunday

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

HYMN* — *Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies*, UMH-173

1. Christ, whose glory fills the skies, Christ, the true, the only light, Sun of Righteousness, arise, triumph o'er the shades of night; Dayspring from on high, be near; Daystar, in my heart appear.
2. Dark and cheerless is the morn unaccompanied by thee; joyless is the day's return, till thy mercy's beams I see; till they inward light impart, cheer my eyes and warm my heart.
3. Visit then this soul of mine; pierce the gloom of sin and grief; fill me, Radiance divine, scatter all my unbelief; more and more thyself display, shining to the perfect day.

— Charles Wesley, 1740

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Scripture Reading — 2 Kings 2:1-12 (NRSV)

¹ Now when the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. ² Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here; for the LORD has sent me as far as Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel. ³ The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you

know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?" And he said, "Yes, I know; keep silent."

⁴ Elisha said to him, "Elisha, stay here; for the LORD has sent me to Jericho." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they came to Jericho. ⁵ The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?" And he answered, "Yes, I know; be silent."

⁶ Then Elisha said to him, "Stay here; for the LORD has sent me to the Jordan." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So the two of them went on. ⁷ Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. ⁸ Then Elisha took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.

⁹ When they had crossed, Elisha said to Elisha, "Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you." Elisha said, "Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit." ¹⁰ He responded, "You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not." ¹¹ As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elisha ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. ¹² Elisha kept watching and crying out, "Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

HYMN* — *Swing Low, Sweet Chariot*, UMH-703

Refrain: Swing low, sweet chariot, coming for to carry me home;
swing low, sweet chariot, coming for to carry me home.

1. I looked over Jordan, and what did I see, coming for to carry me home?
A band of angels coming after me, coming for to carry me home. *Refrain*
2. If you get there before I do, coming for to carry me home;
tell all my friends I'm coming too, coming for to carry me home. *Refrain*
3. I'm sometimes up, I'm sometimes down, coming for to carry me home;
but still my soul feels heavenly bound, coming for to carry me home. *Refrain*
4. The brightest day that I can say, coming for to carry me home;
when Jesus washed my sins away, coming for to carry me home. *Refrain*

— African American Spiritual

Children's Message

HYMN* (Online and In Person Only) — *What A Beautiful Name*

Scripture Reading — 2 Corinthians 4:3-6 (NRSV)

³ And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. ⁴ In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. ⁵ For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. ⁶ For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

HYMN* — *Standing On Holy Ground*, FWS-2272

We are standing on holy ground, and I know that there are angels all around;
Let us praise Jesus now; we are standing in his presence on holy ground.
We are standing on holy ground, and I know that there are angels all around;
Let us praise Jesus now; we are standing in his presence on holy ground.

— Words: Geron Davis (Exod. 3:5) © 1983 Meadowgreen Music Co./Songchannel Music Co. — CCLI# 811889

Scripture Reading — Mark 9:2-10 (NRSV)

²Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, ³and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. ⁴And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. ⁵Then Peter said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” ⁶He did not know what to say, for they were terrified.

⁷Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, “This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!” ⁸Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

⁹As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. ¹⁰So they kept the matter to themselves, questioning what this rising from the dead could mean.

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 glory, beauty, and grace, we have tried to hide from you—
to hide our faces, to hide our sin—
yet you have never hidden your love for us.
We have tried to search for you—
in clouds and on mountaintops—
yet you have already revealed yourself to us in Jesus Christ.
Forgive us, and transform us so that our lives may shine
with your glory, beauty, and grace. Amen.**

— Reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from *Feasting on the Word* © *Worship Companion*. Copyright 2014
Alt. 2021 by John Collins.

(A time of silent prayers of confession.)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

This is the good news of the gospel: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.
Thanks be to God. Amen.

A Stewardship Moment/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 Battle Hymn of the Republic*, UMH-717 vs 1-3, 5

1. Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord; he is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored; he hath loosed the fateful lightning of his terrible swift sword; his truth is marching on.

Refrain: Glory, glory, hallelujah! Glory, glory, hallelujah! Glory, glory, hallelujah!
His truth is marching on.

2. I have seen him in the watchfires of a hundred circling camps, they have builded him an altar in the evening dews and damps; I can read his righteous sentence by the dim and flaring lamps; his day is marching on. *Refrain*

3. He has sounded forth the trumpet that shall never call retreat; he is sifting out the hearts of men before his judgment seat; O be swift, my soul, to answer him; be jubilant, my feet!
Our God is marching on. *Refrain*

5. He is coming like the glory of the morning on the wave, he is wisdom to the mighty, he is honor to the brave; so the world shall be his footstool, and the soul of wrong his slave.
Our God is marching on. *Refrain*

— Words: Sts. 1-4, Julia Ward Howe, 1861; st. 5, anon.

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).

CLOSING CREDITS

Kristy Engle and Angie Hoerner, Piano
Ward Turnbull and Andrea Purvis, 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

The Newsletter

February 14, 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]

COMMUNITY PRAYER CONCERNS: 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 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 Lincoln-Beverly United Methodist Church and their pastor, Kaye Metzler.

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

VOICES: CENTURIES OF MISGUIDED CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY

I came across a great theological nugget from Rodney J. Hunter in my reading for this Sunday's sermon. Unless the Holy Spirit really surprises me, it won't make it into the sermon, but I wanted to share it with you.

"It is important, however, when speaking of the way of the cross, to be clear about what it does not mean. It does not mean that we should seek or regard suffering as a spiritual good in itself or as inherently saving and redemptive—as centuries of misguided Christian theology and piety have often maintained." [1]

That's a really important point. Hunter immediately goes on to explain further that

"Jesus did not die because his suffering **as such** [emphasis mine] could purge the world of sin and evil. He died because the powers of evil sought to destroy his witness to nonviolent love, justice, and truth. His passion revealed, not only the "evilness of evil"—its intrinsic, deadly violence—but the transforming power of divine love, a powerful, assertive love that does not dominate and defeat evil so much as challenge, expose, and seek to transform it. Such love alone ultimately carries the day; it alone is truly redemptive and saving. [2]

[1] and [2]. Rodney J. Hunter in *Feasting on the Word: Year B, Volume 1: Advent through Transfiguration*.

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

REOPENING TEAM — The church council met January 25, 202. 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

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 here:

— 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

ASH WEDNESDAY—Because of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, we will not have the traditional imposition of ashes this Ash Wednesday, but we are planning to observe the day. We plan to have the in-person Ash Wednesday service at 10:30 on February 17, 2020. Hopefully, I’ll be able to get a video of that service posted to Vimeo and Facebook by 5 p.m. If you plan to watch the service online, I would encourage you to get a bowl of dirt, one that you can leave sitting out until Easter.

At 6 p.m., our regular communion service (over Zoom) will incorporate the Ash Wednesday liturgy. For that service, you’ll probably want bread, grape juice, and dirt. We can provide all three if you need us to; just let me know. You can find the Zoom link at: abilenefirstumc.org/zoom-meetings/.

— John Collins, 2/14/21

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

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 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- ASH WEDNESDAY

10:30 a.m. Ash Wednesday Service

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/)

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

STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

John Collins, Pastor — Mobile Phone: 620-252-9622 / Email: john@revcollins.com

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