
AN ORDER OF CHRISTIAN WORSHIP

March 7, 2021 | Third 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 — Psalm 19 (NRSV)

1 The heavens are telling the glory of God;
and the [sky] proclaims his handiwork.

2 Day to day pours forth speech,
and night to night declares knowledge.

3 There is no speech, nor are there words;
their voice is not heard;

4 yet their voice goes out through all the earth,
and their words to the end of the world.

In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun,
5 which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy,
and like a strong man runs its course with joy.

6 Its rising is from the end of the heavens,
and its circuit to the end of them;
and nothing is hid from its heat.

7 The law of the LORD is perfect,
reviving the soul;
the decrees of the LORD are sure,
making wise the simple;

8 the precepts of the LORD are right,
rejoicing the heart;
the commandment of the LORD is clear,
enlightening the eyes;

9 [to honor] the LORD is pure,
enduring forever;
the ordinances of the LORD are true

and righteous altogether.

10 More to be desired are they than gold,

even much fine gold;

sweeter also than honey,

and drippings of the honeycomb.

11 Moreover by them is your servant warned;

in keeping them there is great reward.

12 But who can detect their errors?

Clear me from hidden faults.

13 Keep back your servant also from the insolent;

do not let them have dominion over me.

Then I shall be blameless,

and innocent of great transgression.

14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart

be acceptable to you,

O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.

Opening Prayer

HYMN* — *Sanctuary*, FWS 2164

Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true. With thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for you.

Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true. With thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for you.

Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true. With thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for you.

— WORDS: John Thompson and Randy Scruggs

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PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Scripture Reading — Exodus 20:1-17 (CEB)

¹ Then God spoke all these words:

² I am the LORD your God who brought you out of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

³ You must have no other gods before me.

⁴ Do not make an idol for yourself—no form whatsoever—of anything in the sky above or on the earth below or in the waters under the earth. ⁵ Do not bow down to them or worship them, because I, the LORD your God, am a passionate God. I punish children for their parents' sins even to the third and fourth generations of those who hate me. ⁶ But I am loyal and gracious to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

⁷ Do not use the LORD your God's name as if it were of no significance; the LORD won't forgive anyone who uses his name that way.

⁸ Remember the Sabbath day and treat it as holy. ⁹ Six days you may work and do all your tasks, ¹⁰ but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. Do not do any work on it—not you, your sons or daughters, your male or female servants, your animals, or the immigrant who is living with you. ¹¹ Because the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and everything that is in them in six days, but rested on the seventh day. That is why the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

¹² Honor your father and your mother so that your life will be long on the fertile land that the LORD your God is giving you.

¹³ Do not kill.

¹⁴ Do not commit adultery.

¹⁵ Do not steal.

¹⁶ Do not testify falsely against your neighbor.

¹⁷ Do not desire and try to take your neighbor's house. Do not desire and try to take your neighbor's wife, male or female servant, ox, donkey, or anything else that belongs to your neighbor.

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

Children's Message

Scripture Reading — 1 Corinthians 1:18-25 (NRSV)

¹⁸ For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

¹⁹ For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."

²⁰ Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹ For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. ²² For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³ but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴ but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

HYMN* — *Lift High the Cross*, UMH 159

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim till all the world adore his sacred name.

1. Come, Christians, follow this triumphant sign. The hosts of God in unity combine.

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim till all the world adore his sacred name.

2. Each newborn servant of the Crucified bears on the brow the seal of him who died.

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim till all the world adore his sacred name.

3. O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree, as thou hast promised, draw the world to thee.

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim till all the world adore his sacred name.

4. So shall our song of triumph ever be: Praise to the Crucified for victory!

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim till all the world adore his sacred name.

— WORDS: George William Kitchin and Michael Robert Newbolt, 1916, alt. © 1974 Hope Publishing Co. — CCLI# 811889

Scripture Reading — John 2:13-22 (NRSV)

¹³The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. ¹⁵Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" ¹⁷His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." ¹⁸The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" ¹⁹Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." ²⁰The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" ²¹But he was speaking of the temple of his body. ²²After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had 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.

— Words: Lesser Doxology, 3rd-4th cent.

Prayer of Confession

(A time of silent prayers of confession.)

Words of Assurance

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.

— 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* — *Lord, I Want to Be a Christian*, UMH 402

1. Lord, I want to be a Christian, in my heart, in my heart; Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.
In my heart, in my heart, Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.
2. Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart, in my heart; Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart.
In my heart, in my heart, Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart.
3. Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart, in my heart; Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart.
In my heart, in my heart, Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart.
4. Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart, in my heart; Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart.
In my heart, in my heart, Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart.

— WORDS: African American spiritual

Blessing

Postlude

The Newsletter

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

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 Mentor-Gypsum United Methodist Church and their pastor, Rebecca Stredney.

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, 3/7/21

2020 GENERAL CONFERENCE POSTPONED

2020 General Conference, the highest legislative body in the United Methodist Church, has been postponed until 2022. You can get the full story and watch a video from the bishop at: <http://bit.ly/2OgUOL7>.
— John Collins, 3/7/21

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

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

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/.
— John Collins, 2/7/21

SIGNS ARE IN! — Our “Love Kindness” signs are here. Send an email to 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

THANK YOU — Each precious birthday greeting received truly lifted my spirits and made my 75th birthday very special! Your kind thoughtfulness will long be remembered. God bless you all. Hugs and prayers, Sandy Sleichter
— Staff

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

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	Manually Dial In With a Touch-Tone Phone
https://bit.ly/38bf9qZ	+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
Meeting ID: 937 0998 7388	Meeting ID: 937 0998 7388
Password: 67410	Password: 67410

— Staff

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

10:30 a.m. Via KABI 1560 AM / Facebook and Vimeo (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

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

FRIDAY, MARCH 12

12:00 p.m. Offices Close

SATURDAY, MARCH 13

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

SUNDAY, MARCH 14

10:30 a.m. In-Person Worship Service/Online Service Available at AbileneFirstUMC.org

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

MONDAY, MARCH 15

5:15 p.m. Memorials Committee

7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts - Peatling

TUESDAY, MARCH 16

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

6:30 p.m. Outreach Committee Meeting

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 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

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

THURSDAY, MARCH 18

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

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

CLOSING WORSHIP CREDITS

Angie Hoerner, Piano
Heather Unruh and Linda Rist, Liturgists
Joy Clemence and T. Green, Sound
Cecelia Clemence and T. Green, Slides
Clark Williamson, Director of Music Ministries
Wendy Robinson, Director of Children and Youth Ministries

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).

STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

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Clark Williamson, Director of Music Ministries — Email: clark@abilenefirstumc.org
Pam Jackson, Parish Visitor — Email: parishvisitor@abilenefirstumc.org

SERMON NOTES AND DOODLES