
AN ORDER OF CHRISTIAN WORSHIP

March 14, 2021 | Fourth 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 107:1-3 (NRSV)

¹ O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
for his steadfast love endures forever.

² Let the redeemed of the LORD say so,
those he redeemed from trouble

³ and gathered in from the lands,
**from the east and from the west,
from the north and from the south.**

Opening Prayer

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Scripture Reading — Numbers 21:4-9 (NRSV)

⁴ From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. ⁵ The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." ⁶ Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. ⁷ The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸ And the LORD said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." ⁹ So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and

put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

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

Children's Message

Special Music

Scripture Reading — John 3:14-21

¹⁴And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷"Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. ²¹But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."

HYMN* — *Have Thine Own Way Lord*, UMH 382

1. Have thine own way, Lord! Have thine own way! Thou art the potter, I am the clay. Mold me and make me after thy will, while I am waiting, yielded and still.

2. Have thine own way, Lord! Have thine own way! Search me and try me, Savior today! Wash me just now, Lord, wash me just now, as in thy presence humbly I bow.

3. Have thine own way, Lord! Have thine own way! Wounded and weary, help me I pray! Power, all power, surely is thine! Touch me and heal me, Savior divine!

4. Have thine own way, Lord! Have thine own way! Hold o'er my being absolute sway. Fill with thy Spirit till all shall see Christ only, always, living in me!

— Words: Adelaide A Pollard, 1902

Scripture Reading — Matthew 9:14-17 (NRSV)

¹⁴Then the disciples of John came to him, saying, "Why do we and the Pharisees fast often, but your disciples do not fast?" ¹⁵And Jesus said to them, "The wedding guests cannot mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them, can they? The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast. ¹⁶No one sews a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old cloak, for the patch

pulls away from the cloak, and a worse tear is made. ¹⁷ Neither is new wine put into old wineskins; otherwise, the skins burst, and the wine is spilled, and the skins are destroyed; but new wine is put into fresh wineskins, and so both are preserved.”

Sermon

A STATEMENT OF FAITH OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA (UMH 883)

We are not alone, we live in God’s world.

We believe in God:

who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the church:

to celebrate God’s presence,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death,

God is with us.

We are not alone.

Thanks be to God. 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

(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.

— 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* — *This Is A Day of New Beginnings*, UMH-383, vss 1-4

1. This is a day of new beginnings, time to remember and move on, time to believe what love is bringing, laying to rest the pain that's gone.

2. For by the life and death of Jesus, God's mighty Spirit, now as then, can make for us a world of difference, as faith and hope are born again.

3. Then let us, with the Spirit's daring, step from the past and leave behind our disappointment, guilt, and grieving, seeking new paths, and sure to find.

4. Christ is alive, and goes before us to show and share what love can do. This is a day of new beginnings; our God is making all things new.

— Words: Brian Wren, 1978; alt. 1987 (Rev. 21:5) © 1983, 1987 Hope Publishing Co. — 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

Rev. Jenny Collins, Preaching

Kristy Engle and Anna Gugler, Piano

Kent Wyatt 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

SERMON NOTES AND DOODLES

The Newsletter

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

COMMUNITY PRAYER CONCERNS: Dennis Williamson (Clark's brother) [3/21], 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], 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 Miltonvale-Glasco United Methodist Church and their pastor, Ralph Jarboe.

GENERAL NEWS

SPECIAL SUNDAY OFFERING — The United Methodist special Sunday for UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) is today. Your gift supports UMCOR's administrative costs so that all designated gifts will go to the project you specify. Your contribution ensures UMCOR's response in times of crisis. UMCOR's work is managed through the General Board of Global Ministries. Envelopes are available in the Narthex. Designate UMCOR on the memo of your check. — Staff, 3/14/21

OFFICE NEWS—Pam Simpson is taking a week off next week (March 15-19). For that reason, office hours will range from intermittent to nonexistent. You have my cell phone number (it's in the church contacts directory and on the back of the bulletin); please call if you need into the office or if you have any other questions or concerns. — John Collins, 3/14/21

COVID-19 VACCINATIONS — Last Tuesday, (March 9, 2021), I received a dose of the Johnson and Johnson COVID-19 vaccine at Auburn Pharmacy. (I got in before the rest of my age group because of my role as a pastor.) I know that some of you have now gotten vaccinated as well, and that some of you are planning on coming back to in-person worship now that you feel safer. That makes me very excited! I'm looking forward to seeing you. However, that doesn't change our policy of requiring everyone to wear masks in the church building. The CDC continues to recommend mask-wearing in public for those who have had the vaccine. Our current policy was set without an end date by the Church Council, and the Church Council has left it in place at present. Those two reasons are enough for me, but I'll also be wearing my mask because I feel very privileged to have received the vaccine already, and I want to show my solidarity with those who have not yet had the opportunity. — John Collins, 3/14/21

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 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

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
<https://bit.ly/38bf9qZ>

Manually Dial In With a Touch-Tone Phone
+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

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

FRIDAY, MARCH 19

12:00 p.m. Offices Close

SATURDAY, MARCH 20

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

SUNDAY, MARCH 21

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 22

7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts - Peatling

TUESDAY, MARCH 23

10:00 a.m. Parkinson's Group Exercise - Narthex
7:00 p.m. EOTT Quilt Guild - Wright Hall

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 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, MARCH 25

5:00 a.m. Prayer Vigil begins @ Homes
10:00 a.m. Parkinson's Group Exercise - Narthex

FRIDAY, MARCH 26

12:00 p.m. Offices Close

SATURDAY, MARCH 27

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

SUNDAY, MARCH 28

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 29

7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts - Peatling

TUESDAY, MARCH 30

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

STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

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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