
AN ORDER OF CHRISTIAN WORSHIP

Fifth Sunday in Lent | March 21, 2021

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 — Jeremiah 31:31-34

³¹ The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³² It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. ³³ But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴ No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the LORD," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

HYMN* — *Come Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy*, UMH-340

1. Come, ye sinners, poor and needy, weak and wounded, sick and sore;
Jesus ready stands to save you, full of pity, love, and power.

Refrain: I will arise and go to Jesus; he will embrace me with his arms;
in the arms of my dear savior, O there are ten thousand charms.

2. Come, ye thirsty, come, and welcome, God's free bounty glorify,
true belief and true repentance, every grace that brings you nigh. *Refrain.*

3. Come ye weary, heavy laden, lost and ruined by the fall;
if you tarry till you're better, you will never come at all. *Refrain.*

4. Let not conscience make you linger, nor of fitness fondly dream;
all the fitness he requireth is to feel your need of him. *Refrain.*

— Words: Joseph Hart, 1759

Children's Message

Special Music

Scripture Reading — John 12:20-33

²⁰ Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. ²¹ They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." ²² Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. ²³ Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴ Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. ²⁵ Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶ Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

²⁷ "Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. ²⁸ Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." ²⁹ The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." ³⁰ Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. ³¹ Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. ³² And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." ³³ He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

HYMN* — *And Can It Be That I Should Gain*, UMH-363

1. And can it be that I should gain an interest in the Savior's blood!
Died he for me? who caused his pain! For me? who him to death pursued?
Amazing love! How can it be that thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

2. 'Tis mystery all: th' Immortal dies! Who can explore his strange design?
In vain the first-born seraph tries to sound the depths of love divine.
'Tis mercy all! Let earth adore; let angel minds inquire no more.

3. He left his Father's throne above (so free, so infinite his grace),
emptied himself of all but love, and bled for Adam's helpless race.
'Tis mercy all, immense and free, for O my God, it found out me!

4. Long my imprisoned spirit lay, fast bound in sin and nature's night;
thine eye diffused a quickening ray; I woke, the dungeon flamed in light;
my chains fell off, my heart was free, I rose, went forth, and followed thee.

5. No condemnation now I dread; Jesus, and all in him, is mine;
alive in him, my living Head, and clothed in righteousness divine,
bold I approach th' eternal throne, and claim the crown, through Christ my own.

— Words: Charles Wesley, 1739

Scripture Reading — Ephesians 2:1-10 (CEB)

¹ At one time you were like a dead person because of the things you did wrong and your offenses against God. ² You used to act like most people in our world do. You followed the rule of a destructive spiritual power. This is the spirit of disobedience to God's will that is now at work in persons whose lives are characterized by disobedience. ³ At one time you were like those persons. All of you used to do whatever felt good and whatever you thought you wanted so that you were children headed for punishment just like everyone else.

⁴⁻⁵ However, God is rich in mercy. He brought us to life with Christ while we were dead as a result of those things that we did wrong. He did this because of the great love that he has for us. You are saved by God's grace! ⁶ And God raised us up and seated us in the heavens with Christ Jesus. ⁷ God did this to show future generations the greatness of his grace by the goodness that God has shown us in Christ Jesus.

⁸ You are saved by God's grace because of your faith. This salvation is God's gift. It's not something you possessed. ⁹ It's not something you did that you can be proud of. ¹⁰ Instead, we are God's accomplishment, created in Christ Jesus to do good things. God planned for these good things to be the way that we live our lives.

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 — *Depth of Mercy, UMH 355*

1. Depth of mercy! Can there be mercy still reserved for me?
Can my God his wrath forbear, me, the chief of sinners, spare?
2. I have long withstood his grace, long provoked him to his face,
would not hearken to his calls, grieved him by a thousand falls.
3. I my Master have denied, I afresh have crucified, oft profaned his hallowed name,
put him to an open shame.
4. There for me the Savior stands, shows his wounds and spreads his hands.
God is love! I know, I feel; Jesus weeps and loves me still.
5. Now incline me to repent, let me now my sins lament,
now my foul revolt deplore, weep, believe, and sin no more.

— Words: Charles Wesley, 1740

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* — *Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)*, WS-3104

1. Amazing grace! how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost but now am found; was blind, but now I see.

2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear; and grace my fears relieved.
How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed.

Refrain: My chains are gone, I've been set free. My God, my Savior, has ransomed me.
And like a flood his mercy reigns, unending love, amazing grace.

3. The Lord has promised good to me; his word my hope secures.
He will my shield and portion be as long as life endures. *Refrain.*

4. The earth shall be re-made anew, Christ's glory brightly shine.
And God who calls me here and now, will be forever mine.
You are forever mine. You are forever mine.

— John Newton (stanzas), refrain by Chris Tomlin, and Louie Giglio, altered by John Collins (2016)
Refrain © 2006 worshiptogether.com Songs/sixsteps Music (ASCAP), Vamos Publishing (ASCAP), admin. at EMICMGPublishing.com
— 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).

CLOSING CREDITS

Jackson Welsh, Special Music
Angie Hoerner, Piano
Darryl Dunham and Sandi Dutt, Liturgist
Joy Clemence and Tyler Green, Sound
Cecelia Clemence and Jackson Green, Slides
Clark Williamson, Director of Music Ministries
Wendy Robinson, Director of Children and Youth Ministries

The Newsletter

March 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: Sara Burwell and those grieving the loss of Jerry Taylor [2/28/21] and Steve Furguson [3/14/21].

COMMUNITY PRAYER CONCERNS: Dennis Williamson (Clark's brother) [3/21], Rick Simpson Jr. son of Rick Simpson, [3/21] 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 Minneapolis United Methodist Church and their pastor, Cynthia Smart.

GENERAL NEWS

PLENTY OF ROOM IN THE SANCTUARY — Last Sunday, after the Worship Service, those present helped me rearrange the designated seats in the sanctuary. We now have room for thirty households in each worship service. Assuming an average of three people in each household, that's room for roughly ninety people in each service. If the Saturday and Sunday services both get filled up, we'll simply add another service. There's plenty of room for you to come back whenever it feels right. — 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 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

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>

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, 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/)

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

6:00 p.m. Communion Via Zoom

6:00 p.m. Youth Group

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. Church Office Closes

SATURDAY, MARCH 27

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

SUNDAY, MARCH 28 - PALM SUNDAY

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

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 31

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, APRIL 1

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

FRIDAY, APRIL 2 - GOOD FRIDAY

12:00 p.m. Church Office Closes

SATURDAY, APRIL 3

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

SUNDAY, APRIL 4 - EASTER SUNDAY

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/)

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

SERMON NOTES AND DOODLES