
AN ORDER OF CHRISTIAN WORSHIP

Palm / Passion Sunday | March 28, 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

Hosanna to the Son of David!

Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest!

Opening Prayer

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

LITURGY OF THE PALMS

Scripture Reading — Mark 11:1-11 (NRSV)

¹When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples ²and said to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. ³If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.'" ⁴They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, ⁵some of the bystanders said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" ⁶They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. ⁷Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. ⁸Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields.

⁹Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! ¹⁰Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David! Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

¹¹Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

HYMN* — *Hosanna, Loud Hosanna*, UMH 278

1. Hosanna, loud hosanna, the little children sang;
through pillared court and temple the lovely anthem rang.
To Jesus, who had blessed them close folded to his breast,
the children sang their praises, the simplest and the best.

2. From Olivet they followed mid an exultant crowd,
the victor palm branch waving, and chanting clear and loud.
The Lord of earth and heaven rode on in lowly state,
nor scorned that little children should on his bidding wait.

— Jeanette Threlfall, 1873

LITURGY OF THE PASSION

Children's Message

Special Music

Scripture Reading — Philippians 2:5-11 (NRSV)

⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

⁶who, though he was in the form of God,

did not regard equality with God

as something to be exploited,

⁷but emptied himself,

taking the form of a slave,

being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form,

⁸he humbled himself

and became obedient to the point of death—

even death on a cross.

⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him

and gave him the name

that is above every name,

¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus

every knee should bend,

in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

¹¹and every tongue should confess

that Jesus Christ is Lord,

to the glory of God the Father.

HYMN* — *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*, UMH 298

1. When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of Glory died,
my richest gain, I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride.
2. Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast, save in the death of Christ, my God;
all the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to his blood.
3. See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sorrow and love flow mingled down.
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown?
4. Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were an offering far too small;
love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.

— Isaac Watts, 1707

Scripture Reading — Mark 15:25-39

²⁵ It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him. ²⁶ The inscription of the charge against him read, "The King of the Jews." ²⁷ And with him they crucified two bandits, one on his right and one on his left. ²⁹ Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, "Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, ³⁰ save yourself, and come down from the cross!" ³¹ In the same way the chief priests, along with the scribes, were also mocking him among themselves and saying, "He saved others; he cannot save himself. ³² Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down from the cross now, so that we may see and believe." Those who were crucified with him also taunted him.

³³ When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. ³⁴ At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" ³⁵ When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "Listen, he is calling for Elijah." ³⁶ And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down." ³⁷ Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. ³⁸ And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. ³⁹ Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, "Truly this man was God's Son!"

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

**Almighty God, we confess that we have sinned,
and although we would like to deny it,
we have abandoned and forsaken you.
We are horrified by the suffering we have caused—
to you, to ourselves, and to each other.
As we confess our sins in silence,
Open the gates of your forgiveness and restore us in your love,
for the sake of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

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(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* — *What Wondrous Love Is This*, UMH 292

1. What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul, what wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul, to bear the dreadful curse for my soul.

2. What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul, what wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of life
to lay aside his crown for my soul, for my soul, to lay aside his crown for my soul.

3. To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing, to God and to the Lamb, I will sing;
to God and to the Lamb who is the great I AM,
while millions join the theme I will sing, I will sing; while millions join the theme I will sing.

4. And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on, and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on;
and when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be,
and through eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on, and through eternity I'll sing on.

— USA Folk Hymn

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

Jack Hunter, Special Music
Kristy Engle and Anna Gugler, Piano
Ward Turnbull, Liturgist
Mason Cook, Sound
Cecilia Clemence and Joy Clemence, Slides
Clark Williamson, Director of Music Ministries
Wendy Robinson, Director of Children and Youth Ministries

SERMON NOTES AND DOODLES

The Newsletter

March 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.

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 Steve Ferguson [3/14/21].

COMMUNITY PRAYER CONCERNS: Dennis Williamson (Clark's brother) [3/21], those grieving the loss of Rick Simpson Jr. (Rick's son), [3/28], 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, Margie Miller, 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 Morganville-Green United Methodist Church and their pastor, Sarah Gill.

GENERAL NEWS

PLENTY OF ROOM IN THE SANCTUARY — We have rearranged 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 — I have 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

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

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

7:30 p.m. Maundy Thursday Service - In Person (Recorded version to follow)

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

8:15 a.m. In-Person Worship Service

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, APRIL 5 - OFFICES CLOSED

7:00 p.m. Staff Parish Meeting

7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts - Peatling

TUESDAY, APRIL 6

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

6:30 p.m. Outreach Committee Meeting

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7 - SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS DUE

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 8

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

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

FRIDAY, APRIL 9

12:00 p.m. Church Office Closes

SATURDAY, APRIL 10

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

SUNDAY, APRIL 11

8:15 a.m. In-Person Worship Service

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

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