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# AN ORDER OF CHRISTIAN WORSHIP

Second Sunday of Easter | April 11, 2021

First United Methodist Church

601 North Cedar, Abilene, Kansas 67410 | 785-263-2623 | [www.AbileneFirstUMC.org](http://www.AbileneFirstUMC.org)

A Church of Open Hearts, Open Minds, and Open Doors.

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## GATHERING

Gathering of the Congregation

Greeting and Announcements

Prelude

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed!**

Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

### HYMN\* — *For the Beauty of the Earth*, UMH-92

1. For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies, for the love which from our birth over and around us lies; Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.
2. For the beauty of each hour of the day and of the night, hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light; Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.
3. For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's delight, for the mystic harmony, linking sense to sound and sight; Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.
4. For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child, friends on earth and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild; Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.
5. For thy church, that evermore lifteth holy hands above, offering up on every shore her pure sacrifice of love; Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.
6. For thyself, best Gift Divine, to the world so freely given, for that great, great love of thine, peace on earth, and joy in heaven: Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

— Words: Folliot S. Pierpoint, 1864

Opening Prayer

# PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

## Scripture Reading — Acts 4:32-35 (CEB)

<sup>32</sup>The community of believers was one in heart and mind. None of them would say, “This is mine!” about any of their possessions, but held everything in common. <sup>33</sup>The apostles continued to bear powerful witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and an abundance of grace was at work among them all. <sup>34</sup>There were no needy persons among them. Those who owned properties or houses would sell them, bring the proceeds from the sales, <sup>35</sup>and place them in the care and under the authority of the apostles. Then it was distributed to anyone who was in need.

## HYMN\* — *They'll Know We Are Christians*, FWS-2223

1. We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord, we are one in the Spirit we are one in the Lord, and we pray that all unity may one day be restored:

*Refrain:* And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love;  
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

2. We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand, we will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand, and together we'll spread the news that God is in our land: *Refrain*

3. We will work with each other, we will work side by side, we will work with each other, we will work side by side, and we'll guard human dignity and save human pride: *Refrain*

4. All praise to the Father, from whom all things come, and all praise to Christ Jesus, God's only Son, and all praise to the Spirit, who makes us one: *Refrain*

— WORDS: Peter Scholtes (John 13:34-35; Eph. 4:4-6)

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## Children's Message

## Special Music — *Thine Be The Glory*

## Scripture Reading — 1 John 1:1-2:2 (CEB)

<sup>1</sup>We announce to you what existed from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have seen and our hands handled, about the word of life. <sup>2</sup>The life was revealed, and we have seen, and we testify and announce to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us. <sup>3</sup>What we have seen and heard, we also announce it to you so that you can have fellowship with us. Our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup>We are writing these things so that our joy can be complete.

<sup>5</sup>This is the message that we have heard from him and announce to you: “God is light and there is no darkness in him at all.” <sup>6</sup>If we claim, “We have fellowship with him,” and live in the darkness, we are lying and do not act truthfully. <sup>7</sup>But if we live in the light in the same way as he is in the light, we have fellowship with each other, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, cleanses us from every sin. <sup>8</sup>If we claim, “We don't have any sin,” we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. <sup>9</sup>But if we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from everything we've done wrong. <sup>10</sup>If we claim, “We have never sinned,” we make him a liar and his word is not in us.

<sup>2:1</sup>My little children, I'm writing these things to you so that you don't sin. But if you do sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous one. <sup>2</sup>He is God's way of dealing with our sins, not only ours but the sins of the whole world.

**HYMN\*** — *Graves Into Gardens*

I searched the world, but it couldn't fill me.  
Man's empty praise and treasures that fade, are never enough.  
Then You came along and put me back together.  
And every desire is now satisfied here in Your love.  
Oh, there's nothing better than you. There's nothing better than you.  
There's nothing, nothing is better than you.  
I'm not afraid to show You my weakness.  
My failures and flaws, Lord You've seen them all and You still call me friend.  
'Cause the God of the mountain is the God of the valley.  
There's not a place your mercy and grace won't find me again.  
Oh, there's nothing better than you. There's nothing better than you.  
There's nothing, nothing is better than you.  
Lord, there's nothing, nothing is better than You  
You turn mourning to dancing. You give beauty for ashes. You turn shame into glory.  
You're the only one who can.  
You turn graves into gardens. You turn bones into armies. You turn seas into highways.  
You're the only one who can.  
Oh, there's nothing better than You. There's nothing better than You.  
Lord, there's nothing, nothing is better than you. (Repeat)  
Lord, there's nothing, nothing is better than you  
You turn graves into gardens. You turn bones into armies. You turn seas into highways.  
You're the only one who can. You're the only one who can. You're the only one who can.

— Words: Brandon Lake Chris Brown Steven Furtick Tiffany Hudson.  
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Video from worshiphousemedia.com — CCLI# 811889

Scripture Reading — John 20:19-31 (CEB)

<sup>19</sup>It was still the first day of the week. That evening, while the disciples were behind closed doors because they were afraid of the Jewish authorities, Jesus came and stood among them. He said, "Peace be with you."<sup>20</sup> After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. When the disciples saw the Lord, they were filled with joy.<sup>21</sup> Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, so I am sending you."<sup>22</sup> Then he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit.<sup>23</sup> If you forgive anyone's sins, they are forgiven; if you don't forgive them, they aren't forgiven."

<sup>24</sup>Thomas, the one called Didymus, one of the Twelve, wasn't with the disciples when Jesus came.  
<sup>25</sup>The other disciples told him, "We've seen the Lord!"

But he replied, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands, put my finger in the wounds left by the nails, and put my hand into his side, I won't believe."

<sup>26</sup>After eight days his disciples were again in a house and Thomas was with them. Even though the doors were locked, Jesus entered and stood among them. He said, "Peace be with you."<sup>27</sup> Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here. Look at my hands. Put your hand into my side. No more disbelief. Believe!"

<sup>28</sup>Thomas responded to Jesus, "My Lord and my God!"

<sup>29</sup> Jesus replied, "Do you believe because you see me? Happy are those who don't see and yet believe."

<sup>30</sup> Then Jesus did many other miraculous signs in his disciples' presence, signs that aren't recorded in this scroll. <sup>31</sup> But these things are written so that you will believe that Jesus is the Christ, God's Son, and that believing, you will have life in his name.

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

**You have shown yourself to us, O God, by Word and Spirit  
with signs and wonders, in flesh and blood,  
yet we still struggle to believe and faithfully live out the good news of Jesus Christ.  
Have mercy on us; forgive us.  
Enter into our lives and cast out our fear,  
so that we may come to trust in you and have life in Jesus' name. 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\* — *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*, UMH-140

1. Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father; there is no shadow of turning with thee; thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not; as thou hast been, thou for ever wilt be.

*Refrain:* Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see; all I have needed thy hand hath provided; great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

2. Summer and winter and springtime and harvest, sun, moon, and stars in their courses above join with all nature in manifold witness to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. *Refrain.*

3. Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth, thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide; strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow, blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! *Refrain.*

— Words: Thomas O Chisholm, 1923

Blessing

Postlude

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## 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).

### TO THOSE WITH YOUNG CHILDREN

- Relax! God put the wiggle in children; don't feel you have to suppress those wiggles in God's house.
- Consider sitting toward the front where it is easier for your little ones to engage.
- Quietly explain the parts of the service and actions of the pastors, musicians, and leaders.
- Sing the hymns, pray and voice the responses. Children learn by mimicking you.
- If you have to leave the sanctuary with your child, feel free to do so, but please come back. As Jesus said, "Let the children come to me."
- If you need or want some time to yourself, there is a nursery available during each service. It is located in Room 205 at the south end of the church. Our ushers and greeters will be happy to direct you.

### TO THE LARGER CONGREGATION

- Remember that the presence of children is a gift of hope for the future.
- Remember that the way we welcome children in worship directly affects the way they think about the church, Christianity, and even God.
- Let children know that they are at home in God's house.
- A smile of encouragement is always welcome to parents with small, active children.

### FEEL FREE TO REMAIN SEATED

If, for any reason (health, comfort, personal preference, etc.), you need/prefer to remain seated during the hymns please do so. Don't give into peer pressure. You be you!

### CLOSING CREDITS

Bishop Ruben Saenz Jr., Preaching  
Rev. Melissa Gepford, Children's Message  
Anna Gugler and Kristy Engle, Piano  
Heather Unruh, Heather James, and Steve Schwarting, Liturgists  
Carson Woodworth, Sound  
Jenson Woodworth, Slides  
Clark Williamson, Director of Music Ministries  
Wendy Robinson, Director of Children and Youth Ministries

# SERMON NOTES AND DOODLES

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# The Newsletter

April 11, 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.

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## 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:** Angie Hoerner [4/4], Keith Emig, [4/4], Sara Burwell [3/28], Sandy Sleichter [4/4].

**COMMUNITY PRAYER CONCERNS:** Skipper Blake (Janice Hoffman's son-in-law) [4/4], Dennis Williamson (Clark's brother) [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; 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 Republic United Methodist Church and their pastor.

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# GENERAL NEWS

**PLENTY OF ROOM IN THE SANCTUARY** — We have rearranged the seating and added another worship service to make more than enough room while maintaining social distancing. — John Collins, 4/11/21

## **WHAT WILL OUR RESURRECTION BODIES BE LIKE?**

On Easter Day I spoke briefly about the resurrection of our mortal bodies to eternal life. I'm curious if this topic is of enough interest to anyone else for a sermon on April 18, 2021. (We'll be listening to the Bishop's sermon this coming Sunday, April 11, 2021.) — John Collins, 4/11/21

**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. — John Collins, 3/14/21

**INTERESTED IN MEMBERSHIP?** — Are you interested in joining First United Methodist Church as a member and making a formal commitment to God, the church, and yourself? If so, please contact Pastor John Collins in person or by using the contact information below. — Staff

**EMAIL UPDATES** — John uses a service called TinyLetter to send out blog posts by email. 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](https://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

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## STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

John Collins, Pastor — Mobile Phone: 620-252-9622 / Email: [john@revcollins.com](mailto:john@revcollins.com)

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Wendy Robinson, Director of Children and Youth Ministries — Email: [wendy@abilenefirstumc.org](mailto:wendy@abilenefirstumc.org)

Clark Williamson, Director of Music Ministries — Email: [clark@abilenefirstumc.org](mailto:clark@abilenefirstumc.org)

Pam Jackson, Parish Visitor — Email: [parishvisitor@abilenefirstumc.org](mailto:parishvisitor@abilenefirstumc.org)

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## **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](http://AbileneFirstUMC.org)

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

## **MONDAY, APRIL 12**

6:00 p.m. Board of Trustees via Zoom

7:00 p.m. Worship Design via Zoom

7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts - Peatling

## **TUESDAY, APRIL 13**

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

6:30 p.m. Mission and Outreach Committee

7:30 p.m. Scholarship Committee via Zoom

## **WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14**

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

7:00 p.m. SPRC Meeting via Zoom

## **THURSDAY, APRIL 15**

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

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

## **FRIDAY, APRIL 16**

12:00 p.m. Church Office Closes

## **SATURDAY, APRIL 17**

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

## **SUNDAY, APRIL 18**

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

10:30 a.m. In-Person Worship Service/Online Service Available at [AbileneFirstUMC.org](http://AbileneFirstUMC.org)

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

## **MONDAY, APRIL 19**

7:00 p.m. Church Council Meeting via Zoom