



AN ORDER OF CHRISTIAN WORSHIP

April 18, 2021 | Third Sunday of Easter

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

Announcements

HYMN*

Holy Spirit

On Screen

CALL TO WORSHIP

Christ is risen!

Alleluia!

The tomb is empty!

Alleluia!

Christ is alive!

Alleluia!

And we shall be like him.

Alleluia! Amen.

Opening Prayer

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Scripture Reading

Acts 3:12-18 (NRSV)

¹²When Peter saw it, he addressed the people, "You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk? ¹³The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. ¹⁴But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to

have a murderer given to you, ¹⁵ and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. ¹⁶ And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you.

¹⁷ “And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. ¹⁸ In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer.

HYMN*

Christ is Risen

H-313

1. Christ is risen, Christ is living, dry your tears, be unafraid! Death and darkness could not hold him, nor the tomb in which he lay. Do not look among the dead for one who lives forevermore; tell the world that Christ is risen, make it known he goes before.

2. If the Lord had never risen, we'd have nothing to believe; but his promise can be trusted: “You will live, because I live.” As we share the death of Adam, so in Christ we live again; death has lost its sting and terror, Christ the Lord has come to reign.

3. Death has lost its old dominion, let the world rejoice and shout! Christ, the firstborn of the living, gives us life and leads us out. Let us thank our God, who causes hope to spring up from the ground. Christ is risen, Christ is giving life eternal, life profound.

— Nicolás Martínez, 1960; trans. by Fred Kaan, 1972 (1 Cor. 15)

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Children’s Message

Special Music [10:30]

Easter Song

— St. Paul UMC, Lincoln, Nebraska Worship Team

Scripture Reading

1 John 3:1-7 (NRSV)

¹ See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ² Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. ³ And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

⁴ Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. ⁵ You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. ⁶ No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. ⁷ Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

HYMN*

Amazing Grace

H-378

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.
3. Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come; 'tis grace hath brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
4. The Lord has promised good to me, his word my hope secures; he will my shield and portion be, as long as life endures.
5. Yea, when this flesh and heart shall fail, and mortal life shall cease, I shall possess, within the veil, a life of joy and peace.

— John Newton, 1779; st. 6 anon.

6. When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun, we've no less days to sing God's praise than when we first begun.

Scripture Reading

Luke 24:36b-48 (NRSV)

^{36b} Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." ³⁷ They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. ³⁸ He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? ³⁹ Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." ⁴⁰ And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. ⁴¹ While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" ⁴² They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³ and he took it and ate in their presence.

⁴⁴ Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." ⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶ and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷ and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things.

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*

Gloria Patri

H-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

**Holy God, before you our hearts are open,
and from you no secrets are hidden.**

**We bring to you now
our shame and sorrow for our sins.**

**We have forgotten
that our life is from you and unto you.**

We have neither sought nor done your will.

**We have not been truthful in our hearts,
in our speech, in our lives.**

We have not loved as we ought to love.

**Help us and heal us,
raising us from our sins into a better life,
that we may end our days in peace,**

**trusting in your kindness unto the end;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen.**

(A time of silent prayers of confession.)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Who is in a position to condemn?
Only Christ, Christ who died for us, who rose for us,
who reigns at God's right hand and prays for us.
Thanks be to God who gives us the victory
through our Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

A Stewardship Moment

Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings

(If you are a guest, please feel no obligation to give.)

RESPONSE

Doxology

H-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,
but deliver us from evil.**
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

GOING FORTH

HYMN*

This Is My Father's World

H-144

1. This is my Father's world, and to my listening ears all nature sings, and round me rings the music of the spheres. This is my Father's world: I rest me in the thought of rocks and trees, of skies and seas; his hand the wonders wrought.
2. This is my Father's world, the birds their carols raise, the morning light, the lily white, declare their maker's praise. This is my Father's world: he shines in all that's fair; in the rustling grass I hear him pass; he speaks to me everywhere.
3. This is my Father's world. O let me ne'er forget that though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the ruler yet. This is my Father's world: the battle is not done. Jesus who died shall be satisfied and earth and heaven be one.

— Maltbie D. Babcock, 1901

Blessing and Postlude*

**Meaning: *Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.*

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!

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: Ray Wyatt [4/18], Angie Hoerner [4/4], Keith Emig, [4/4], Sara Burwell [3/28], Sandy Sleichter [4/4].

COMMUNITY PRAYER CONCERNS: Junior Soeken, Tim Birzer (Friends of Diane Wyatt), [4/18], Skipper Blake (Janice Hoffman's son-in-law) [4/4], Dennis Williamson (Clark's brother) [3/21], Kim Goodman [7/15/2018].

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.

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 Church of the Cross United Methodist and their pastor, Loren Drummond.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

2021-2022 SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED — The scholarship committee met and awarded the scholarships to the following students:

First Time Applicants (Members and Active Participants)

Miller Unruh — \$900

Olivia Crist — \$900

Mason Cook — \$900

First Time Applicants (Non-Members)

Regan Ditto — \$300

Prior Recipients

Audrey Unruh — \$500

Tucker D. Robinson — \$500

Chesney Sprinkle — \$500

Beth Holmes — \$500

ABILENE AREA FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION

In May, we'll be collecting money for the Abilene Area Food Pantry

UMC SPECIAL SUNDAY TODAY — This week is Native American Ministries special offering. We recognize and support the contribution of Native Americans to the church and society. Part of the funds collected allow us to collaborate with existing native ministries, create programs and support seminary scholarships for UM Native Americans. Fifty percent of the

offering remains in our annual conference to develop local ministries.

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

COVID-19 VACCINATIONS — The CDC continues to recommend mask-wearing in public even for those who have had the vaccine. Our current policy of social distancing and mask wearing was set without an end date by the Church Council, and the Church Council has left it in place at present. The next Church Council meeting is scheduled for April 19, 2021

— 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. 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. Visit AbileneFirstUMC.org/zoom-meetings/ for details.

CHURCH CALENDAR

SATURDAY, APRIL 17

10:30 a.m. In-Person Worship Service

SUNDAY, APRIL 18

Online Service Available at AbileneFirstUMC.org

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

10:30 a.m. In-Person Worship Service

10:30 a.m. Worship Via KABI 1560 AM

MONDAY, APRIL 19

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

7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts - Peatling

TUESDAY, APRIL 20

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

7:00 p.m. EOTT Board Meeting - Wright Hall

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21

1:30 p.m. Staff Meeting via Zoom

6:00 p.m. Communion via Zoom

6:00 p.m. Youth Group

THURSDAY, APRIL 22

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

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

6:00 p.m. Cub Scouts

FRIDAY, APRIL 23

12:00 p.m. Church Office Closes

SATURDAY, APRIL 24

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

SUNDAY, APRIL 25

Online Service Available at AbileneFirstUMC.org

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

10:30 a.m. In-Person Worship Service

10:30 a.m. Worship Via KABI 1560 AM

MONDAY, APRIL 26

7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts - Peatling

TUESDAY, APRIL 27

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

7:00 p.m. EOTT Quilt Guild - Wright Hall

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28

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 29

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

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

FRIDAY, APRIL 30

12:00 p.m. Church Office Closes

NOTES AND DOODLES

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Please note that **bold type** indicates congregational participation. An asterisk (*) indicates that you are invited to stand as you are able. "H" stands for *The United Methodist Hymnal* (blue book).

OUR MISSION AND VISION

Mission: to make disciples of Jesus Christ.

Vision: a church of open hearts, open minds, and open doors.

CLOSING CREDITS

Angie Hoerner and Kristy Engle, Piano

Mary Jane Oard and Kent Wyatt, Liturgists

Mason Cook and Troy Boyd, Sound

Mason Cook and Ward Turnbull, Slides

Clark Williamson, Director of Music Ministries

Wendy Robinson, Director of Children and Youth Ministries

CONTACT INFORMATION

John Collins, Pastor

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Clark Williamson, Director of Music Ministries

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Pam Jackson, Parish Visitor

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