



AN ORDER OF CHRISTIAN WORSHIP

April 25, 2021 | Fourth 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*

10,000 Reasons

On Screen

Prelude and Lighting of Candles

CALL TO WORSHIP

He lays down his life for his sheep.

The Lord Jesus Christ is our shepherd.

He knows us, and we belong to him.

The Lord Jesus Christ is our shepherd.

He speaks, and we listen for his voice.

The Lord Jesus Christ is our shepherd.

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Opening Prayer

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Scripture Reading

Psalms 23 (NRSV)

¹ The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.

² He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;

³ he restores my soul.

He leads me in right paths
for his name's sake.

⁴ Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil;
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff—
they comfort me.

⁵ You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD
my whole life long.

HYMN*

Just As I Am

H-357

1. Just as I am, without one plea, but that thy blood was shed for me, and that thou bidst me come to thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

3. Just as I am, though tossed about with many a conflict, many a doubt, fightings and fears within, without, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

4. Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind; sight, riches, healing of the mind, yea, all I need in thee to find, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

6. Just as I am, thy love unknown hath broken every barrier down; now, to be thine, yea thine alone, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

— Charlotte Elliott, 1835

Children's Message

Special Music

¹¹“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. ¹⁴I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. ¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”

HYMN**Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

H-384

1. Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, to earth come down; fix in us thy humble dwelling; all thy faithful mercies crown! Jesus thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art; visit us with thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.
2. Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast! Let us all in thee inherit; let us find that second rest. Take away our bent to sinning; Alpha and Omega be; end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.
3. Come, Almighty to deliver, let us all thy life receive; suddenly return and never, nevermore thy temples leave. Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above, pray and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.

4. Finish, then, thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be. Let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee; changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place, till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise.

— Charles Wesley, 1747

Scripture Reading

1 John 3:16-24 (NRSV)

¹⁶We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. ¹⁷How does God’s love abide in anyone who has the world’s goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

¹⁸Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. ¹⁹And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him ²⁰whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. ²¹Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; ²²and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

²³And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. ²⁴All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

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;**

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.**

Invitation to the Offering

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*

Take Time To Be Holy

H-395

1. Take time to be holy, speak oft with thy Lord; abide in him always, and feed on his word. Make friends of God's children, help those who are weak, forgetting in nothing his blessing to seek.
2. Take time to be holy, the world rushes on; spend much time in secret with Jesus alone. By looking to Jesus, like him thou shalt be; thy friends in thy conduct his likeness shall see.
3. Take time to be holy, let him be thy guide, and run not before him, whatever betide. In joy or in sorrow, still follow the Lord, and, looking to Jesus, still trust in his word.
4. Take time to be holy, be calm in thy soul, each thought and each motive beneath his control. Thus led by his spirit to fountains of love, thou soon shalt be fitted for service above.

— William D. Longstaff, ca 1882

Dismissal with Blessing*

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], Sandy Sleichter [4/4].

COMMUNITY PRAYER CONCERNS: Junior Soeken (Brother of Diane Wyatt), Tim Birzer (Brother-in-law of Diane Wyatt) [4/18], Skipper Blake (Janice Hoffman's son-in-law) [4/4], 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 Salina First United Methodist and their pastor, Richard Fitzgerald.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COVID-19 AND WORSHIP UPDATE

We will have in-person worship every Sunday morning at 8:15 and 10:30.* There are now only two restrictions for those who attend: 1. practice social distancing and 2. wear a mask.

Those who are leading worship by reading scripture, preaching, giving the children's message, etc. will take their masks off for the sake of the hearing impaired. The exception to this is that Clark Williamson will wear a mask while leading singing.

*For the time being, we'll also have an in-person worship service at 10:30 on Saturday mornings whenever I'm not on vacation. (We've found it works better to record the service on Saturday rather than Sunday—but I can't ask those who are providing pulpit supply to preach three services).

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

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.

— 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 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

10:30 a.m. United Methodist Women Board - 200

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

SATURDAY, MAY 1

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

SUNDAY, MAY 2

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, MAY 3

7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts - Peatling

7:00 p.m. Staff Parish Meeting

TUESDAY, MAY 4

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

6:30 p.m. Outreach Committee

WEDNESDAY, MAY 5

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, MAY 6

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

9:30 a.m. EOTT Guild

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

FRIDAY, MAY 7

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); "F" stands for *The Faith We Sing* (black book); and "W" stands for *Worship and Song* (green 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

Anna Gugler and Kristy Engle, Piano

Cecilia Clemence, Ward Turnbull, Linda Rist, Liturgists

Joy Clemence, Troy Boyd, Jackson Green, Sound

Joy Clemence, Troy Boyd, Tyler Green, 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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