



AN ORDER OF CHRISTIAN WORSHIP

May 2, 2021 | Fifth 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

RE-GATHERING*

Days of Elijah

W-3186

1. These are the days of Elijah, declaring the Word of the Lord. And these are the days of your servant, Moses; righteousness being restored. And though these are days of great trials, of famine and darkness and sword, still we are the voice in the desert crying, "Prepare ye the way of the Lord."

Refrain: Behold he comes riding on the clouds, shining like the sun at the trumpet call. So lift your voice, it's the year of Jubilee. And out of Zion's hill salvation comes.

2. These are the days of Ezekiel, the dry bones becoming as flesh. And these are the days of your servant, David, rebuilding the temple of praise. And these are the days of the harvest; the fields are as white in the world. And we are your laborers in your vineyard declaring the Word of the Lord.

Refrain: Behold he comes riding on the clouds, shining like the sun at the trumpet call. So lift your voice, it's the year of Jubilee. And out of Zion's hill salvation comes.

— Robin Mark © 1996 Song Solutions Daybreak UK,
admin. in North and South America by Integrity's Hosanna! Music (ASCAP)
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CALL TO WORSHIP

Opening Prayer

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Scripture Reading

1 John 4:7-21 (NRSV)

⁷ Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹ God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹ Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

¹³ By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴ And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. ¹⁵ God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶ So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. ¹⁷ Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸ There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. ¹⁹ We love because he first loved us. ²⁰ Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. ²¹ The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

1. When peace, like a river, attendeth my way, when sorrows like sea billows roll; whatever my lot thou has taught me to say, It is well, it is well with my soul.

Refrain:

It is well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.

2. Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come, let this blest assurance control, that Christ has regarded my helpless estate, and hath shed his own blood for my soul.

Refrain

3. My sin, oh, the bliss of this glorious thought! My sin, not in part but the whole, is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more, praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!

Refrain

4. And, Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight, the clouds be rolled back as a scroll; the trump shall resound, and the Lord shall descend, even so, it is well with my soul.

Refrain

— Words: Horatio G. Spafford, 1873

Children's Message

Scripture Reading

John 15:1-8 (NRSV)

¹"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. ² He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered,

thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷ If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

HYMN*

My Hope Is Built

H-368

1. My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness. I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

Refrain: On Christ the solid rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand; all other ground is sinking sand.

2. When darkness veils his lovely face, I rest on his unchanging grace. In every high and stormy gale, my anchor holds within the veil.

Refrain: On Christ the solid rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand; all other ground is sinking sand.

3. His oath, his covenant, his blood support me in the whelming flood. When all around my soul gives way, he then is all my hope and stay.

Refrain: On Christ the solid rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand; all other ground is sinking sand.

4. When he shall come with trumpet sound, O may I then in him be found! Dressed in his righteousness alone, faultless to stand before the throne.

Refrain: On Christ the solid rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand; all other ground is sinking sand.

— WORDS: Edward Mote, 1834

Scripture Reading

Acts 8:26-40 (NRSV)

²⁶ Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) ²⁷ So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court

official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸ and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹ Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." ³⁰ So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" ³¹ He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him.

³² Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: "Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. ³³ In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth."

³⁴ The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" ³⁵ Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus.

³⁶ As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" ³⁸ He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹ When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰ But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Message by Amanda Cormack

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

(A time of silent prayers of confession.)

Words of Assurance

Invitation to Present Tithes and Offerings

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**Lord, I Want to Be a Christian*

H-402

1. Lord, I want to be a Christian, in my heart, in my heart;
Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart. In my heart, in
my heart, Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.
2. Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart, in my heart;
Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart. In my heart, in
my heart, Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart.

3. Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart, in my heart;
Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart. In my heart, in my
heart, Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart.

4. Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart, in my heart;
Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart. In my heart, in my
heart, Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart.

— Words: African American spiritual

Dismissal with Blessing*

Postlude*

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

NOTES AND DOODLES

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], Sandy Sleichter [4/4].

COMMUNITY PRAYER CONCERNS: Silynda Christensen, Mark & Glenn Minter (friends of Velda Becker) [5/2], Junior Soeken (Brother of Diane Wyatt), Tim Birzer (Brother-in-law of Diane Wyatt) [4/18], 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 Grand Avenue First United Methodist and their pastor, Doug Birdsong.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OUR WORSHIP DILEMMA — I've been praying for and trying to think of a solution to our current in-person worship dilemma. We have at least four different schools of thought when it comes to worship. Here's my understanding of them (I know of people in each of these categories):

1. People who are worshipping from home because they don't believe it's safe to be in large groups no matter what precautions are taken.
2. People who are worshipping in the sanctuary because they believe that the precautions we are taking are adequate.
3. People who are worshipping in the sanctuary despite their belief that the precautions we are taking are unnecessary.
4. People who are worshipping from home (or attending elsewhere) because they believe that the precautions we are taking are unnecessary.

I've been praying for and trying to think of a solution that can bring all four groups together on the same page. Your thoughts and suggestions are welcome.

P.S. Someone on facebook suggested another category: "5. Worshipping from home because they like to wear pajamas and sit in bed."

— John Collins, 5/2/21

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).

— John Collins, 4/25/21

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

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

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

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

Angie Hoerner, Piano

Jason Vinduska and Andrea Purvis, Liturgists

Mason Cook, Sound and Slides

Clark Williamson, Director of Music Ministries

Wendy Robinson, Director of Children and Youth Ministries

CONTACT INFORMATION

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