



AN ORDER OF **WORD AND TABLE**

May 9, 2021 | Sixth Sunday of Easter | Mother's Day

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
with a mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ.

GATHERING

Gathering of the Congregation

Announcements

HYMN*

I Come With Joy

H-617

1. I come with joy to meet my Lord, forgiven, loved and free, in awe and wonder to recall his life laid down for me, his life laid down for me.
2. I come with Christians far and near to find, as all are fed, the new community of love in Christ's communion bread, in Christ's communion bread.
3. As Christ breaks bread and bids us share, each proud division ends. The love that made us makes us one, and strangers now are friends, and strangers now are friends.
4. And thus with joy we meet our Lord. His presence, always near, is in such friendship better known; we see and praise him here, we see and praise him here.

— WORDS: Brian Wren, 1968. © 1971 Hope Publishing Co — CCLI# 811889

CALL TO WORSHIP — Psalm 98:7-9 (NRSV)

Let the sea roar, and all that fills it;

the world and those who live in it.

Let the floods clap their hands;

let the hills sing together for joy

at the presence of the LORD,

for he is coming to judge the earth.

He will judge the world with righteousness,

and the peoples with equity.

Opening Prayer

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Scripture Reading

Acts 10:44-48 (CEB)

⁴⁴While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell on everyone who heard the word. ⁴⁵The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles. ⁴⁶They heard them speaking in other languages and praising God. Peter asked, ⁴⁷“These people have received the Holy Spirit just as we have. Surely no one can stop them from being baptized with water, can they?” ⁴⁸He directed that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited Peter to stay for several days.

HYMN* *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing* H-400

1. Come, thou fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace; streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise. Teach me some melodious sonnet sung by flaming tongues above. Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of thy redeeming love.

2. Here I raise mine Ebenezer; hither by thy help I'm come; and I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home. Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God; he, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.

3. O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be! Let thy goodness, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee. Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love; here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for thy courts above.

— WORDS: Robert Robinson, 1758

Children's Message

Special Music

O For A Thousand Tongues to Sing

performed by the A&M United Methodist Church Virtual Choir

Scripture Reading

1 John 5:1-5 (NRSV)

¹ Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. ² By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. ³ For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, ⁴ for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. ⁵ Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

HYMN*

Reckless Love

On Screen

Scripture Reading

John 15:9-17 (NRSV)

⁹ As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹ I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

¹² "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³ No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵ I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. ¹⁶ You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so

that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. ¹⁷ I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

Sermon

A STATEMENT OF FAITH*

We are not alone, we live in God's world.

We believe in God:

who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the church:

to celebrate God's presence,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.

We are not alone. Thanks be to God. 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

H-890

**Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you,
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done, and by what we have left
undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart;**

**we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your name. Amen.**

(Silent Prayer of Confession)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Almighty God have mercy on us,
forgive all our sins, through our Lord Jesus Christ,
strengthen us in all goodness,
and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life.
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 (Online and Radio Broadcast)

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (In-Person)

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*

What A Friend We Have In Jesus

H-526

1. What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear! What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer! O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear, all because we do not carry everything to God in prayer.

2. Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere? We should never be discouraged; take it to the Lord in prayer. Can we find a friend so faithful who will all our sorrows share? Jesus knows our every weakness; take it to the Lord in prayer.

3. Are we weak and heavy laden, cumbered with a load of care? Precious Savior, still our refuge; take it to the Lord in prayer. Do thy friends despise, forsake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer! In his arms he'll take and shield thee; thou wilt find a solace there.

— Words: Joseph M. Scriven, ca. 1855

Dismissal with 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], Sandy Sleichter [5/9].

COMMUNITY PRAYER CONCERNS: Those grieving the loss of Ron Rutz (friend of Marla Rutz) [5/9], Al Ehrich (brother of Connie Stewart) [5/9], Silynda Christiensen, 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 Salina Trinity United Methodist and their pastor, Craig Hauschild.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MAY IS FOOD PANTRY MONTH — This month we're collecting money for the Abilene Area Food Pantry and items for the Little Free Pantry at the church. Items that we especially need are Energy/Snack/Granola bars, peanut butter and jelly, pancake mix, toilet paper, macaroni and cheese, canned meat/fish, individual cereal packets, pasta, spaghetti sauce, fruit snacks, snack bars, canned fruit, feminine products, and bottled water. It's especially helpful if you think of things you would like to eat in the coming summer months and of things that are easy for kids to prepare and eat on their own.

— John Collins, 5/9/21

VOICES: OUR ACTUAL BEHAVIOR

From C. S. Lewis:

“Fine feelings, new insights, greater interest in ‘religion’ mean nothing unless they make our actual behavior better; just as in an illness ‘feeling better’ is not much good if the thermometer shows that your temperature is still going up.”^[1]

Lewis wrote these words in *Mere Christianity* in 1952. Some parts are dated or were never accurate in the first place (e.g., don't take marriage advice from a single man writing during the Eisenhower administration). But what is remarkable is not what he gets wrong, but the great deal he gets right.

^[1]C. S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity* (New York, NY: HarperOne, 2001), 210.

— John Collins, 5/9/21

VACCINATION HELP — Do you need help arranging and finding transportation to get a COVID-19 vaccination? We have volunteers who are ready to help. Call the church office at 785-263-2623. — Staff, 5/9/21

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, 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. (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

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

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.

— Staff

CHURCH CALENDAR

SATURDAY, MAY 8

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

SUNDAY, MAY 9

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 10

7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts - Peatling

6:00 p.m. Board of Trustees

7:00 p.m. Worship Design

TUESDAY, MAY 11

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

WEDNESDAY, MAY 12

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 13

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

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

5:30 p.m. Small Group Quilters - 200

FRIDAY, MAY 14

12:00 p.m. Church Office Closes

SATURDAY, MAY 15

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

SUNDAY, MAY 16-SENIOR RECOGNITION

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 17

5:15 p.m. Memorials Committee

7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts - Peatling

TUESDAY, MAY 18

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

WEDNESDAY, MAY 19

1:30 p.m. Staff Meeting via Zoom

3:30 p.m. Final Power & Light of School Year

6:00 p.m. Communion via Zoom

6:00 p.m. Final Youth Group of School Year

THURSDAY, MAY 20

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

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

FRIDAY, MAY 21

12:00 p.m. Church Office Closes

SATURDAY, MAY 22

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

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, Kristy Engle, and Angie Hoerner, Piano
Velda Becker, Ward Turnbull, and Will Burton, Liturgists
Cecilia Clemence, Chantay Porter, and Mason Cook, Slides
Joy Clemence, Chesney Sprinkle, and Mason Cook, Sound

CONTACT INFORMATION

John Collins, Pastor

620-252-9622 (Mobile) — john@revcollins.com

Pam Simpson, Office Administrator

Phone: 785-263-2623 — office@abilenefirstumc.org

Wendy Robinson, Director of Children and Youth Ministries

wendy@abilenefirstumc.org

Clark Williamson, Director of Music Ministries

clark@abilenefirstumc.org

Pam Jackson, Parish Visitor

parishvisitor@abilenefirstumc.org