



# **AN ORDER OF CHRISTIAN WORSHIP**

Ascension Sunday | May 16, 2021 | Graduation Sunday

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.

# GATHERING

Gathering of the Congregation

Greeting and Announcements

## **HYMN\***

*Hail the Day that Sees Him Rise*

H-312

1. Hail the day that sees him rise, Alleluia! To his throne  
above the skies, Alleluia! Christ, awhile to mortals given,  
Alleluia! Reascends his native heaven, Alleluia!

2. There the glorious triumph waits, Alleluia! Lift your  
heads, eternal gates, Alleluia! Christ hath conquered death  
and sin, Alleluia! Take the King of glory in, Alleluia!

3. See! The heaven its Lord receives, Alleluia! Yet he loves  
the earth he leaves, Alleluia! Though returning to his  
throne, Alleluia! Still he calls the world his own, Alleluia!

4. See! He lifts his hands above, Alleluia! See! He shows the  
prints of love, Alleluia! Hark! His gracious lips bestow,  
Alleluia! Blessings on his church below, Alleluia!

— Charles Wesley, 1739

## **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Christ is risen.

**He is risen indeed!**

Christ has ascended into heaven.

**He has ascended indeed!**

Opening Prayer

# PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Scripture Reading

Ephesians 1:15-23 (NRSV)

<sup>15</sup> I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason <sup>16</sup> I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. <sup>17</sup> I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, <sup>18</sup> so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, <sup>19</sup> and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. <sup>20</sup> God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, <sup>21</sup> far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. <sup>22</sup> And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, <sup>23</sup> which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

**HYMN\***

*Crown Him with Many Crowns*

H-327

1. Crown him with many crowns, the Lamb upon his throne, Hark! how the heavenly anthem drowns all music but its own. Awake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee, and hail him as thy matchless King through all eternity.
2. Crown him the Lord of life, who triumphed o'er the grave, and rose victorious in the strife for those he came to save. His glories now we sing, who died, and rose on high, who died, eternal life to bring, and lives that death may die.

3. Crown him the Lord of peace, whose power a scepter sways from pole to pole, that wars may cease, and all be prayer and praise. His reign shall know no end, and round his pierced feet fair flowers of paradise extend their fragrance ever sweet.

4. Crown him the Lord of love; behold his hands and side, those wounds, yet visible above, in beauty glorified. All hail, Redeemer, hail! For thou hast died for me; thy praise and glory shall not fail throughout eternity.

— Matthew Bridges, 1851, and Godfrey Thring, 1874 (Rev. 19:12)

## Children's Message

### Recognition of Graduates:

Mason Cook, Olivia Crist, and Miller Unruh

### **HYMN\***      *I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry*      F-2051

1. "I was there to hear your borning cry, I'll be there when you are old. I rejoiced the day you were baptized, to see your life unfold.

2. I was there when you were but a child, with a faith to suit you well; in a blaze of light you wandered off to find where demons dwell.

3. "When you heard the wonder of the Word I was there to cheer you on; you were raised to praise the living Lord, to whom you now belong.

4. If you find someone to share your time and you join your hearts as one, I'll be there to make your verses rhyme from dusk till rising sun.

5. "In the middle ages of your life, not too old, no longer young, I'll be there to guide you through the night, complete what I've begun.

6. When the evening gently closes in and you shut your weary eyes, I'll be there as I have always been with just one more surprise.

7. "I was there to hear your borning cry, I'll be there when you are old, I rejoiced the day you were baptized, to see your life unfold. — John Ylvisaker © 1991 John Ylvisaker — CCLI# 811889

Scripture Reading

Luke 24:44-53 (NRSV)

<sup>44</sup>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." <sup>45</sup>Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, <sup>46</sup>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, <sup>47</sup>and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup>You are witnesses of these things. <sup>49</sup>And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

<sup>50</sup>Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. <sup>51</sup>While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. <sup>52</sup>And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; <sup>53</sup>and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

Special Music

*Hard to Get* written by Rich Mullilins  
Sung by A Ragamuffin Band

Scripture Reading

Acts 1:1-11 (NRSV)

<sup>1</sup>In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning <sup>2</sup>until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions

through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen.<sup>3</sup> After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.<sup>4</sup> While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me;<sup>5</sup> for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

<sup>6</sup> So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?"<sup>7</sup> He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority.<sup>8</sup> But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."<sup>9</sup> When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.<sup>10</sup> While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them.<sup>11</sup> They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

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

(A time of silent prayers of confession.)

Words of Assurance

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, [pause] not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

## GOING FORTH

### HYMN\*

*Lift High the Cross*

H-159

*Refrain:* Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim till all the world adore his sacred name. 1. Come, Christians, follow this triumphant sign. The hosts of God in unity combine.

*Refrain 2.* Each newborn servant of the Crucified bears on the brow the seal of him who died.

*Refrain 3.* O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree, as thou hast promised, draw the world to thee.

*Refrain 4.* So shall our song of triumph ever be: Praise to the Crucified for victory!

*Refrain*

— *George William Kitchin and Michael Robert Newbolt, 1916, alt. © 1974 Hope Publishing Co. — CCLI# 811889*

Dismissal with Blessing and Postlude\*

## **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:** 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], 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 University United Methodist and their pastor, Nick Talbot.

# 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.”<sup>[1]</sup>

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.

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<sup>[1]</sup>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

**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](http://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](http://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/](https://AbileneFirstUMC.org/zoom-meetings/) for details. — Staff

# CHURCH CALENDAR

## **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](https://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

**SUNDAY, MAY 23**

- Online Service Available at [AbileneFirstUMC.org](http://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 24**

- 7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts - Peatling

**TUESDAY, MAY 25**

- All Day Clergy Session - Annual Conference
- 10:00 a.m. Parkinson's Group Exercise - Narthex

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 26**

- 1:30 p.m. Staff Meeting via Zoom
- 6:00 p.m. Communion via Zoom

**THURSDAY, MAY 27**

- 5:00 a.m. Prayer Vigil begins @ Homes
- 10:00 a.m. Parkinson's Group Exercise - Narthex

**FRIDAY, MAY 28**

- 12:00 p.m. Church Office Close

# 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

Heather Unruh, Mary Jane Oard, and Kent Wyatt, Liturgists

Liz Collins, Ward Turnbull and Mason Cook, Sound

Cecilia Clemence, Troy Boyd and Mason Cook, Slides

Joy Clemence, Video Cameras

Clark Williamson, Director of Music Ministries

Wendy Robinson, Director of Children and Youth Ministries

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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