



AN ORDER OF CHRISTIAN WORSHIP

May 23, 2021 | Pentecost Sunday

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

HYMN*

Holy Spirit You Are Welcome Here

Video

CALL TO WORSHIP

Opening Prayer

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Scripture Reading

Acts 2:1-21 (NRSV)

¹ When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. ² And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³ Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. ⁴ All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

⁵ Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. ⁶ And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. ⁷ Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?" ⁸ And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? ⁹ Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰ Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome,

both Jews and proselytes, ¹¹ Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God’s deeds of power.” ¹² All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?” ¹³ But others sneered and said, “They are filled with new wine.”

¹⁴ But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, “Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. ¹⁵ Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o’clock in the morning. ¹⁶ No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

¹⁷ ‘In the last days it will be, God declares,
that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
and your young men shall see visions,
and your old men shall dream dreams.

¹⁸ Even upon my slaves, both men and women,
in those days I will pour out my Spirit;
and they shall prophesy.

¹⁹ And I will show portents in the heaven above
and signs on the earth below,
blood, and fire, and smoky mist.

²⁰ The sun shall be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood,
before the coming of the Lord’s
great and glorious day.

²¹ Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord
shall be saved.’

HYMN*

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

H-103

1. Immortal, invisible, God only wise, in light inaccessible
hid from our eyes, most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient
of Days, almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

2. Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light, nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might; thy justice like mountains high soaring above thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.

3. To all, life thou givest, to both great and small; in all life thou livest, the true life of all; we blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree, and wither and perish, but naught changeth thee.

4. Thou reignest in glory; thou dwellest in light; thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight; all laud we would render: O help us to see 'tis only the splendor of light hideth thee.

— Walter Chalmers Smith, 1867 (1 Tim. 1:17)

Children's Message

Scripture Reading

Romans 8:22-27 (NRSV)

²²We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; ²³and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? ²⁵But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

²⁶Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. ²⁷And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

HYMN*

Days of Elijah

Video

¹ The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ² He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. ³ He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." ⁴ Then he said to me, "Prophesy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. ⁵ Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶ I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD."

⁷ So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸ I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. ⁹ Then he said to me, "Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." ¹⁰ I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

¹¹ Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' ¹² Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. ¹³ And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴ I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live,

and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act, says the LORD.”

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

Glory Be To the Father

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

Forgive us our sins, O Lord.

**Forgive us the sins of our youth and the sins of our age,
the sins of our soul and the sins of our body,**

**our secret and our whispering sins,
our presumptuous and our careless sins,
the sins we have done to please ourselves,
and the sins we have done to please others.
Forgive us the sins that we know,
and the sins that we know not;
forgive them, O Lord,
forgive them all because of your great goodness.
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

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(A time of silent prayers of confession.)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

In the name of Jesus Christ,
who sent us the Spirit of Truth, you are forgiven.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

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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*

Leaning on the Everlasting Arms

H-133

1. What a fellowship, what a joy divine, leaning on the everlasting arms; what a blessedness, what a peace is mine, leaning on the everlasting arms.

Refrain:

Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms;
leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.

2. O how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way, leaning on the everlasting arms; O how bright the path grows from day to day, leaning on the everlasting arms. (Refrain)

3. What have I to dread, what have I to fear, leaning on the everlasting arms? I have blessed peace with my Lord so near, leaning on the everlasting arms. (Refrain)

— Elisha A. Hoffman, 1887 (Dt. 33:27)

Dismissal with Blessing*

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] and those grieving the loss of Doreen Couture [5/23],

COMMUNITY PRAYER CONCERNS: Those grieving the loss of Ron Rutz (friend of Marla Rutz) [5/9], Al Ehrich (brother of Connie Stewart) [5/9], 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 Talmage-Bethany United Methodist Churches and their pastor, Julie Truhlar.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW MASK POLICY — The Church Council has approved a new policy for masks. It has three points:

- No masks or social distancing are required for the fully vaccinated. Masks and social distancing are requested of everyone else.
- No official inquiries will be made about vaccination status. (You can still talk about your experiences with friends, etc.)
- There will be no enforcement of this policy.

I know that some of you will continue masking because you're unvaccinated, but others will continue to wear masks even though they are vaccinated. Either way, if you're wearing a mask, I'll be wearing a mask with you (except for the sermon and other places where the hard of hearing need to be able to read my lips). We will continue to stream online and broadcast on the radio for those of you who feel safer worshiping from home.

— John Collins, May 23, 2021

THE HONORED DEAD — On Sunday, May 30, 2021, we'll be honoring those members we lost since May 26, 2019. Please check the list below and make sure we haven't missed anyone. Bill Sexton, Wanda West, Neva Heck, Arnold Richards, Shirley Ayre, Mary Jones, Frank Gray, Helen Kappel, Royal Barton, Wallace "Rocky" Welton, Verna Cook, Paul Hettenbach, Judy Hilton, Bob Murnahan, Eugene Rogers, Mike Engle, Barb Hawk, Steve Ferguson, Jerry Taylor, Ronald Everett, and Doreen Couture.

— John Collins, May 23, 2021

FUN WITH FLAGS — In 2020, Velda Becker made twenty flags for our children and youth to wave during the Easter worship service to make it more festive. We didn't get to use them for Easter 2020, and we didn't get to use them for Easter 2021 either. But this coming Sunday (May 23, 2021) is Pentecost Sunday and we're going to have a celebration. We'll have flags for children, youth, and probably some adults too.

— John Collins, May 23, 2021

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

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

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 22

10:30 a.m. In-Person Worship

SUNDAY, MAY 23

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 24

5:15 p.m. Memorials Committee Meeting

6:00 p.m. Reopening Team Meeting

7:00 p.m. Church Council Meeting

7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts - Peatling

TUESDAY, MAY 25

Clergy Session - Annual Conference

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

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

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

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

FRIDAY, MAY 28

Annual Conference - All Day

12:00 p.m. Church Office Closes

SATURDAY, MAY 29

Annual Conference — All Day

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

5:00 p.m. Celebration of Life - Paul Hettenbach

SUNDAY, MAY 30 - ALL SAINTS MEMORIAL SERVICE

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 31

Memorial Day - Offices Closed

TUESDAY, JUNE 1

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

6:30 p.m. Outreach Committee

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 2

1:30 p.m. Staff Meeting via Zoom

6:00 p.m. Communion via Zoom

THURSDAY, JUNE 3

5:00 a.m. Prayer Vigil begins

9:30 a.m. EOTT Guild

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

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
Sandi Dutt, Heather James, and Steve Schwarting, Liturgists
Liz Collins, Ward Turnbull and Jensen Woodworth, Sound
Liz Collins, Troy Boyd, and Carson Woodworth, Slides
Braden Adams, Video Recording

CONTACT INFORMATION

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