



**AN ORDER OF
CHRISTIAN WORSHIP**

October 3, 2021 | 19th Sunday after Pentecost

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

A Church of open hearts, open minds, and open doors
that seeks to make disciples of Jesus Christ.

601 North Cedar, Abilene, Kansas 67410

785-263-2623 — www.abilenefirstumc.org

GATHERING

Gathering of the Congregation

Welcome and Announcements

HYMN*

I Come With Joy, vss 1-4

UMH-617

CALL TO WORSHIP

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

The risen Christ is with us.

Praise the Lord!

Opening Prayer

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Scripture Reading

Psalm 26 (CEB)

¹ Establish justice for me, LORD,

because I have walked with integrity.

I've trusted the LORD without wavering.

² Examine me, LORD; put me to the test!

Purify my mind and my heart.

³ Because your faithful love is right in front of me—

I walk in your truth!

⁴ I don't spend time with people up to no good;

I don't keep company with liars.

⁵ I detest the company of evildoers,

and I don't sit with wicked people.

⁶ I wash my hands—they are innocent!
I walk all around your altar, LORD,
⁷ proclaiming out loud my thanks,
declaring all your wonderful deeds!
⁸ I love the beauty of your house, LORD;
I love the place where your glory resides.
⁹ Don't gather me up with the sinners,
taking my life along with violent people
¹⁰ in whose hands are evil schemes,
whose strong hands are full of bribes.
¹¹ But me? I walk with integrity.
Save me! Have mercy on me!
¹² My feet now stand on level ground.
I will bless the LORD in the great congregation.

HYMN*

My Hope Is Built

UMH-368

Children's Message

Choral Anthem [10:30]

A Communion Invitation

Scripture Reading

Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-11 (NRSV)

¹ Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, ² but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. ³ He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴ having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

. . . ^{2:5} Now God did not subject the coming world, about which we are speaking, to angels.

⁶ But someone has testified somewhere, "What are human beings that you are mindful of them, or mortals, that you care for them? ⁷ You have made them for a little while lower than the angels; you have crowned them with glory and honor, ⁸ subjecting all things under their feet."

Now in subjecting all things to them, God left nothing outside their control. As it is, we do not yet see everything in subjection to them, ⁹ but we do see Jesus, who for a little while was made lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

¹⁰ It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. ¹¹ For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters.

HYMN*

And Can It Be That I Should Gain

UMH-363

Scripture Reading

Mark 10:1-16 (CEB)

¹ Jesus left that place and went beyond the Jordan and into the region of Judea. Crowds gathered around him again and, as usual, he taught them. ² Some Pharisees came and, trying to test him, they asked, "Does the Law allow a man to divorce his wife?"

³ Jesus answered, "What did Moses command you?"

⁴ They said, "Moses allowed a man to write a divorce certificate and to divorce his wife."

⁵ Jesus said to them, "He wrote this commandment for you because of your unyielding hearts. ⁶ At the beginning of creation, *God made them male and female.* ⁷ *Because of this, a man should leave his father and mother and be joined together with his wife,* ⁸ *and the two will be one flesh. So they*

are no longer two but one flesh. ⁹Therefore, humans must not pull apart what God has put together.”

¹⁰Inside the house, the disciples asked him again about this. ¹¹He said to them, “Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her; ¹²and if a wife divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery.”

¹³People were bringing children to Jesus so that he would bless them. But the disciples scolded them. ¹⁴When Jesus saw this, he grew angry and said to them, “Allow the children to come to me. Don’t forbid them, because God’s kingdom belongs to people like these children. ¹⁵I assure you that whoever doesn’t welcome God’s kingdom like a child will never enter it.” ¹⁶Then he hugged the children and blessed them.

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

UMH-71

PRAYERS OF CONFESSION AND WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Merciful God, we confess

that we have not loved you with our whole heart.

We have failed to be an obedient church.

We have not done your will,

we have broken your law,

we have rebelled against your love,

we have not loved our neighbors,

and we have not heard the cry of the needy.

Forgive us, we pray.

Free us for joyful obedience,

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

All pray in silence.

Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

Glory to God. Amen!

Stewardship Moment

Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings

RESPONSE* *Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow* UMH-95

THANKSGIVING AND COMMUNION

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

FWS 2257

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.**

RECEIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

Jesus Christ the bread of heaven. **Amen.**

Jesus Christ the cup of salvation. **Amen.**

Prayer Following Communion

GOING FORTH

HYMN*

One Bread, One Body

UMH-620

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 throughout the service, 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: Mike Clemence [9/12]

COMMUNITY PRAYER CONCERNS: Those grieving the loss of Nathen Bailey (Kevin Bailey's father) [10/3], Phyllis Garrett [9/19], Joetta Nagely [9/19], Arthur Sprouse [9/12], Robyn Motl (friend of Angie Hoerner) [9/12], Chris Hoffman's son [9/12], Mike Burton [9/12], those grieving the loss of Dina Smith Bruce [9/12],

THOSE WORSHIPPING FROM HOME: Gary Donley, Evelyn York, Velma Becker, Joe Clemence, Steve Crump, 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, Jackson Ranles, and James L. Wise, Jr.

THOSE IN AUTHORITY: The President, the Governor, the Mayor, 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 Industry United Methodist Church and their pastor, Paula Scripter.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

Today United Methodists will join Christians around the globe to recognize our unity in Christ by celebrating World Communion Sunday. In The United Methodist Church, donations to the World Communion Special Sunday support scholarships to equip U.S. students of color and international students to transform the church and their communities as both laity and clergy. Special envelopes are available in the bulletin. (10/3)

COFFEE AND COOKIES ARE BACK

We recently restarted serving coffee and cookies after the 8:15 and 10:30 services last Sunday. This week, there will be a sign-up sheet available in the narthex (lobby) for those of you who would like to volunteer. (10/3)

FLEEING FROM HELL OR RUNNING TO GOD? by John Collins

Today, I had a good, practical question about my sermon on Hell this past Sunday (September 26, 2021). The question boiled down to this: if Hell only means destruction, if the consequence of Hell is not eternal torment, but rather simply that one ceases to exist, what reason is there to turn to God? What follows are short versions of my two best answers.

First, most people want to continue to exist. Sometimes, on hectic days, I think ceasing to exist wouldn't be so bad—it would really free up my schedule—but most of the time, I fall into the human default position of wanting to continue being. When the early Methodists talked about “fleeing the wrath to come,” they were probably referring to eternal torment. However, for me, annihilation would still fall under the category of “the wrath to come.”

Second, while both fleeing Hell and moving toward God point you in the same general direction, your motivation can make a big difference. For example, would you want to marry someone who only wanted to get out of a bad situation, or would you prefer to marry someone who loved you and wanted to be with you? I think God will take us either way, but I can't help but think that God would rather we come because God's love pulls us in than that we come because the fear of Hell is pushing us away. Either way, we will be welcomed home, but our motivation makes a difference in the nature of our journey. (10/3)

YOUTH PRAISE BAND RETURNS

The youth praise band plans to be back next Sunday (October 10, 2021) to lead us in worship. Members are Braden Adams, Magda Meneley, Maren Meneley, Carson Woodworth, Jensen Woodworth, and Joy Clemence. (10/3)

CHOIRS STARTING UP AGAIN by Clark Williamson

Our adult choirs are returning for music ministry at FUMC. The Bell Choir has had four practices. There are still 3 ringer positions that need to be filled, to cover all vacant spots. The ensemble practices on Wednesday at 7:00 in the sanctuary. Ability to read music is helpful but not a requirement. Our Bell Choir plays their piece at the 10:30 service, approximately once a month. Please call me if you interested and would like more information. (785-280-3355).

The Chancel Choir had their first rehearsal on Wednesday, Sept. 15th at 6:15 downstairs in Wright Hall. We'd love for all former and new singers to participate. Choral music of all styles will be sung. All voice type ranges are needed. No audition is necessary. The Choir especially needs some more tenor and bass singers.

PERMANENT 8:15 LIVESTREAM LINK

Below is what will hopefully be a permanent link for watching our 8:15 worship service live: vimeo.com/event/1266906.

ONE ZOOM TO RULE THEM ALL

In an attempt to make attending Zoom meetings easier, We're trying something new. Instead of a different Zoom Meeting every time we get together, We've set up a standard zoom meeting for almost everything we do. The information is below.

Standard Zoom Meeting

<https://bit.ly/38bf9qZ>

Meeting ID: 937 0998 7388 — Passcode: 67410

Manually Dial In With a Touch-Tone Phone

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Meeting ID: 937 0998 7388 — Passcode: 67410

NURSERY

A nursery is provided for children during each service. It is located in Room 205 near the south entrance to the church. If you need assistance locating the nursery, our ushers and greeters will be happy to direct you, but please note our "to those with young children" section.

WE'RE ON THE RADIO AND STREAMING ONLINE

If you can't make it to church, but would like to listen to one of our services live, simply tune into KABI 1560 AM at 10:30 a.m. You can also stream the worship service at abilenefirstumc.org.

CHURCH CALENDAR

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 3-WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

- 8:15 a.m. In-Person Worship Service / Online Streaming
- 9:20 a.m. Small Groups & Sunday School Classes
- 10:30 a.m. In-Person Worship Service / KABI 1560 AM

MONDAY, OCTOBER 4

- 6:00 p.m. Nominations Committee - 200/Zoom
- 7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts - Peatling
- 7:00 p.m. Staff Parish Meeting - 200/Zoom

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 5

- 10:00 a.m. Parkinson's Group Exercise - Narthex
- 6:30 p.m. Outreach Committee - 200/Zoom

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 6

- 12:00 p.m. UMW Potluck Luncheon
- 1:30 p.m. Staff Meeting
- 3:30 p.m. Power & Light
- 6:00 p.m. Communion via Zoom
- 6:00 p.m. Youth Group
- 6:15 p.m. Chancel Choir
- 7:00 p.m. Bell Choir

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 7

- 5:00 a.m. Prayer Vigil begins
- 9:00 a.m. Card Ministry Group
- 9:30 a.m. EOTT Quilt Guild
- 10:00 a.m. Parkinson's Group Exercise - Narthex
- 6:00 p.m. Cub Scouts - Peatling

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 10

- 8:15 a.m. In-Person Worship Service / Online Streaming
- 9:20 a.m. Small Groups & Sunday School Classes
- 10:30 a.m. In-Person Worship Service / KABI 1560 AM

MONDAY, OCTOBER 11

- 6:00 p.m. Board of Trustees - 200
- 7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts - Peatling
- 7:00 p.m. Sand Spring Rustlers 4-H Club

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 12

- 9:30 a.m. Cancer Support Group - 200
- 10:00 a.m. Parkinson's Group Exercise - Narthex

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 13

- 1:30 p.m. Staff Meeting
- 3:30 p.m. Power & Light
- 6:00 p.m. Communion via Zoom
- 6:00 p.m. Youth Group
- 6:15 p.m. Chancel Choir
- 7:00 p.m. Bell Choir

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 14

- 5:00 a.m. Prayer Vigil begins
- 9:00 a.m. Card Ministry Group
- 10:00 a.m. Parkinson's Group Exercise - Narthex
- 6:00 p.m. Cub Scouts - Peatling

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 17

- 8:15 a.m. In-Person Worship Service / Online Streaming
- 9:20 a.m. Small Groups & Sunday School Classes
- 10:30 a.m. In-Person Worship Service / KABI 1560 AM

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. "UMH" stands for *The United Methodist Hymnal* (blue book); "FWS" stands for *The Faith We Sing* (black book); and "WS" 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 Angie Hoerner, Piano
Jason Vinduska and Will Burton, Liturgists
Wendy Robinson and Jackson Green, Sound
Chantay Porter and Tyler Green, Slides

CONTACT INFORMATION

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