



**AN ORDER OF  
CHRISTIAN WORSHIP**

December 5, 2021 | Second Sunday of Advent

**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](http://www.abilenefirstumc.org)

# GATHERING

Gathering of the Congregation

Welcome and Announcements

**HYMN**            *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*, vss 1, 5-6    UMH 211

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Opening Prayer

Lighting of the Advent Candles

# PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Scripture Reading

Malachi 3:1-4 (NRSV)

<sup>1</sup> See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. <sup>2</sup> But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; <sup>3</sup> he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. <sup>4</sup> Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

Children's Message

Scripture Reading

Luke 1:67-79 (NRSV)

<sup>67</sup> Then his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke this prophecy:

<sup>68</sup> "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,  
for he has looked favorably on his people  
and redeemed them.

<sup>69</sup> He has raised up a mighty savior for us  
in the house of his servant David,

<sup>70</sup> as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets  
from of old,

<sup>71</sup> that we would be saved from our enemies  
and from the hand of all who hate us.

<sup>72</sup> Thus he has shown the mercy  
promised to our ancestors,  
and has remembered his holy covenant,

<sup>73</sup> the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham,  
to grant us <sup>74</sup> that we,

being rescued from the hands of our enemies,  
might serve him without fear,

<sup>75</sup> in holiness and righteousness  
before him all our days.

<sup>76</sup> And you, child,

will be called the prophet of the Most High;  
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,

<sup>77</sup> to give knowledge of salvation to his people  
by the forgiveness of their sins.

<sup>78</sup> By the tender mercy of our God,  
the dawn from on high will break upon us,

<sup>79</sup> to give light to those who sit in darkness  
and in the shadow of death,  
to guide our feet into the way of peace."

Scripture Reading

Luke 3:1-6 (NRSV)

<sup>1</sup> In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, <sup>2</sup> during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup> He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, <sup>4</sup> as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight.

<sup>5</sup> Every valley shall be filled,  
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,  
and the crooked shall be made straight,  
and the rough ways made smooth;

<sup>6</sup> and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’ ”

**HYMN\***

*O Christ, the Healer*

UMH-265

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

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

**Merciful God,**

**we confess that we have not loved you  
with our whole hearts.**

**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:

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

**In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.  
Glory to God. Amen.**

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings

(If you are a guest, please feel no obligation to give.)

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

## 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\***

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

UMH-234

Dismissal with Blessing and Postlude\*

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\*\*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:** Sondra Murnahan [12/5], Ilouise Marshall [11/28], those grieving the loss of J.M Frey [11/21] and those grieving the loss of Elinor Haas [11/21].

**COMMUNITY PRAYER CONCERNS:** Kris Heger and family (brother of Michael Heger) [11/28], Rhoda Frasier [11/21]

**THOSE WORSHIPING 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 Randles, 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 Webber United Methodist Church and their pastor Betty Bouray.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**YOUTH ACTIVITIES** — During the children's message recently, Wendy Robinson rattled off a list of things the youth had been up to in the past year. I've shared that list below. I'm thankful for all these things our children and youth do.

- Made and delivered fruit baskets
- Praise Band
- Delivered signs and bulletins
- Ran slides and sound
- Raked leaves
- Sent college care packages
- Delivered thanksgiving goodies
- Helped with the Eisenhower Marathon
- VBS (Youth helping, children attending)
- Christmas Pageant
- Drive Thru Trick or Treat
- Putting up Christmas decorations
- Special music
- Zoom meetings
- Bible Study
- Donations to the Little Free Pantry
- Praying for the Congregation
- Helped with the livestream and online worship services

**ADVENT-CHRISTMAS-EPIPHANY HYMNS** — Here are the hymns we've scheduled for this Advent-Christmas-Epiphany cycle: *People Look East; Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus; O Come, O Come Emmanuel; Joy to the World; God Almighty, We Are Waiting; O Come, All Ye Faithful; Infant Holy, Infant Lowly; It Came Upon the Midnight Clear; I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light; There's a Song in the Air; He is Born, the Holy Child; Angels We*

*Have Heard on High; My Soul Gives Glory to My God; Hark! the Herald Angels Sing; Joy to the World; Away in a Manger; Silent Night; The Friendly Beasts; O Little Town of Bethlehem; Go Tell it on the Mountain; Angels From the Realms of Glory; God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen; Good Christian Friends Rejoice; In the Bleak Midwinter; What Child is This; We Three Kings; The First Noel; and Sing We Now of Christmas.*

Is one of your favorites not listed above? Let us know and we'll see what we can do. The plan is to have *O Holy Night* sung as a solo at both the 7 pm and the 11 pm Christmas Eve services.

**COMING HOME FOR CHRISTMAS** — In anticipation of the Advent and Christmas seasons the Church Council approved the theme “Coming Home for Christmas.” A large banner with that theme, our website, and our regular Sunday Morning and Christmas Eve worship times has been ordered for the church grounds. The banner will be red to match the “Love Kindness” yard signs.

We've also placed another order of 100 “Love Kindness” yard signs for those who want a first one and those who want to replace the one they have.

**WANT TO TALK TO THE PASTOR?** — John's contact information is 620-252-9622 (mobile phone) and [john@revcollins.com](mailto:john@revcollins.com), or you can write a note on the back of the attendance insert.

**CHRISTMAS CAROLING** — Singers are needed to go caroling at Heritage Center on Sunday, December 5. Enter through the museum. Please sign the green sheet in the church narthex or contact Clark Williamson (785) 280-3355. Our part in the festivities will take place that evening. Arrive by 5:45 pm. Bring a flashlight. Song sheets will be provided.

**NEW BIBLE STUDY GROUP** — The plan is to meet every Wednesday from 5:15 to 5:55. Each week we'll begin with a 5-10 minute video from [bibleproject.com](http://bibleproject.com).

You can participate in person in room 200 (the blue room) or online through Zoom. If you want to participate online, please let me know in advance so I can send you a link to the video before the meeting. — John Collins

**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](http://abilenefirstumc.org).

**INTERESTED IN MEMBERSHIP?** — Are you interested in joining the Abilene First United Methodist Church as a member and making a formal commitment to God, the church, and yourself? If so, please communicate with the pastor in person or by using the contact information found on the back of the bulletin.

**EMAIL UPDATES** — John uses a service called TinyLetter to send out blog posts by email every day or so. This way, you can keep up with the 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. You can sign up at [tinyletter.com/jcollins11](http://tinyletter.com/jcollins11).

# CHURCH CALENDAR

## **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5**

- 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
- 5:45 p.m. Caroling at the Heritage Center

## **MONDAY, DECEMBER 6**

- 7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts
- 7:00 p.m. Staff Parish Meeting - 200

## **TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7**

- 10:00 a.m. Parkinson's Group Exercise - Narthex
- 12:00 p.m. Retired Teachers Luncheon
- 6:30 p.m. Outreach Committee - 200

## **WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8**

- 1:30 p.m. Staff Meeting
- 3:30 p.m. Power & Light
- 5:15 p.m. Bible Study Group
- 6:00 p.m. Communion via Zoom
- 6:00 p.m. Youth Group Christmas Party
- 6:15 p.m. Chancel Choir
- 7:00 p.m. Bell Choir

## **THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9**

- 5:00 a.m. Prayer Vigil begins
- 9:00 a.m. Card Ministry Group
- 9:00 a.m. Parkinson's Group Exercise - Narthex
- 9:30 a.m. EOTT Guild - Peatling
- 5:30 p.m. AHS Basketball Team Dinner
- 5:30 p.m. Small Group Quilters
- 6:00 p.m. Cub Scouts - Peatling

## **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12**

- 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, DECEMBER 13**

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

## **TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14**

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

## **WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15**

- 1:30 p.m. Staff Meeting
- 1:30 p.m. Faith/Hope/Love Circle Meeting - 200
- 3:30 p.m. Power & Light
- 5:15 p.m. Bible Study Group
- 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, DECEMBER 16**

- 5:00 a.m. Prayer Vigil begins
- 9:00 a.m. Card Ministry Group
- 9:00 a.m. Parkinson's Group Exercise - Narthex
- 5:30 p.m. AHS Basketball Team Dinner
- 6:00 p.m. Cub Scouts - Peatling

# NOTES

# 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

Amanda Cormack, Speaker

Carson Woodworth, Special Music

Woodworth and Hoffman Families, Advent Candle Lighting

Kristy Engle and Anna Gugler, Piano

Jason Vinduska and Sandi Dutt, Liturgists

Wendy Robinson and Jensen Woodworth, Sound

Chantay Porter and Sam Burton, Slides

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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Pam Simpson, Office Administrator

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Wendy Robinson, Director of Children and Youth Ministries

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Clark Williamson, Director of Music Ministries

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Pam Jackson, Parish Visitor

[parishvisitor@abilenefirstumc.org](mailto:parishvisitor@abilenefirstumc.org)