



**AN ORDER OF
CHRISTIAN WORSHIP**

December 12, 2021 | Third 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

¹⁷The LORD, your God, is in your midst,
a warrior who gives victory;
he will rejoice over you with gladness,
he will renew you in his love;
he will exult over you with loud singing
¹⁸as on a day of festival.

I will remove disaster from you,
so that you will not bear reproach for it.

¹⁹I will deal with all your oppressors
at that time.

And I will save the lame
and gather the outcast,
and I will change their shame into praise
and renown in all the earth.

²⁰At that time I will bring you home,
at the time when I gather you;
for I will make you renowned and praised
among all the peoples of the earth,
when I restore your fortunes
before your eyes, says the LORD.

HYMN*

God Almighty, We Are Waiting

WS-3047

Children's Message

Choral Anthem [10:30]

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

Scripture Reading

Philippians 4:4-7 (NRSV)

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵ Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which

surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

HYMN*

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

UMH-229

Scripture Reading

Luke 3:7-18 (NRSV)

⁷John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ⁹Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

¹⁰And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" ¹¹In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." ¹²Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" ¹³He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." ¹⁴Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

¹⁵As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

¹⁸ So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

Children and Youth Christmas Pageant

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

(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. This is simply one of the ways we worship God.)

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*

There's a Song in the Air

UMH-249

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: Myckie Spencer [12/12], Sondra Murnahan [12/5], Ellouise 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: Those grieving the loss of William "Mike" Burton (Will Burton's father) [12/12], 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 Woodbine-Lyona-Hope United Methodist Churches and their pastor Betty Bouray.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF — The following is from a series of daily devotions from the writings of Frederick Buechner.

“LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR as yourself is part of the great commandment. The other way to say it is, 'Love yourself as your neighbor.' Love yourself not in some egocentric, self-serving sense but love yourself the way you would love your friend in the sense of taking care of yourself, nourishing yourself, trying to understand, comfort, strengthen yourself. Ministers in particular, people in the caring professions in general, are famous for neglecting themselves with the result that they are apt to become in their own way as helpless and crippled as the people they are trying to care for and thus no longer selves who can be of much use to anybody. If your daughter is struggling for life in a raging torrent, you do not save her by jumping into the torrent with her, which leads only to your both drowning together. Instead you keep your feet on the dry bank—you maintain as best you can your own inner peace, the best and strongest of who you are—and from that solid ground reach out a rescuing hand. "Mind your own business" means butt out of other people's lives because in the long run they must live their lives for themselves, but it also means pay mind to your own life, your own health and wholeness, both for your own sake and ultimately for the sake of those you love too. Take care of yourself so you can take care of them. A bleeding heart is of no help to anybody if it bleeds to death.”

— Frederick Buechner,
www.frederickbuechner.com/quote-of-the-day/2021/12/9/take-care-of-yourself

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES — We'll have two Christmas Eve Services on December 24, 2021. One at 7 p.m. and one at 11 p.m. Please let the church office know if you need a ride. You can call 785-263-2623 or email office@abilenefirstumc.org.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH CHRISTMAS PAGEANT CAST — Here's the cast and crew of the children and youth Christmas pageant: Joy Clemence, Carson Woodworth, Emily Vinduska, Magda Meneley, Maren Meneley, Eyley Holt, Cora Vinduska, Jack Hunter, Luke Hunter, Anna Holt, Claire Cormack, Addi Duey, Jensen Woodworth, and Braden Adams. Thanks to everyone who participated.

NEW BIBLE STUDY GROUP — We meet every Wednesday from 5:15 to 5:55. We begin with a 5-10 minute video from bibleproject.com followed by great conversation.

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.

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.

WANT TO TALK TO THE PASTOR? — John's mobile number is 620-252-9622 and his email is john@revcollins.com, or you can write a note on the back of the attendance insert.

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.

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 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.

CHURCH CALENDAR

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

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19

- 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 20

- 5:15 p.m. Memorials Committee

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 21

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

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 22

- 1:30 p.m. Staff Meeting
- 5:15 p.m. Bible Study Group
- 6:00 p.m. Communion via Zoom

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23

- 5:00 a.m. Prayer Vigil begins
- 9:00 a.m. Card Ministry Group
- 9:00 a.m. Parkinson's Group Exercise - Narthex

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24-CHRISTMAS EVE

- Shepherds' Run
- 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship Service
- 11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship Service

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26

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

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

Angie Hoerner, Piano

Jamie and Michael Linenberger, Advent Candle Lighting [8:15]

Sue Murry, Phyllis Welton, Advent Candle Lighting [10:30]

Heather James and John Purvis, Liturgists

Kaylee Weibert and Joy Clemence, Sound

Kaxton Weibert and Sam Burton, Slides

CONTACT INFORMATION

John Collins, Pastor

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Wendy Robinson, Director of Children and Youth Ministries

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Pam Jackson, Parish Visitor

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