



**AN ORDER OF  
CHRISTIAN WORSHIP**

January 2, 2022 | Epiphany Sunday

**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\***     *Sing We Now of Christmas, vss 1, 3, 4, 5*     UMH 237

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Arise, shine; for our light has come.

**The glory of the Lord has risen upon us.**

Come, let us worship the Lord of glory.

**Let us proclaim God's praise among the nations.**

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Opening Prayer

## PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Scripture Reading

Psalms 72:1-14 (NRSV)

- <sup>1</sup> Give the king your justice, O God,  
and your righteousness to a king's son.
- <sup>2</sup> May he judge your people with righteousness,  
and your poor with justice.
- <sup>3</sup> May the mountains yield prosperity for the people,  
and the hills, in righteousness.
- <sup>4</sup> May he defend the cause of the poor of the people,  
give deliverance to the needy,  
and crush the oppressor.
- <sup>5</sup> May he live while the sun endures,  
and as long as the moon, throughout all generations.
- <sup>6</sup> May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass,

like showers that water the earth.

<sup>7</sup>In his days may righteousness flourish  
and peace abound, until the moon is no more.

<sup>8</sup>May he have dominion from sea to sea,  
and from the River to the ends of the earth.

<sup>9</sup>May his foes bow down before him,  
and his enemies lick the dust.

<sup>10</sup>May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles  
render him tribute,  
may the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts.

<sup>11</sup>May all kings fall down before him,  
all nations give him service.

<sup>12</sup>For he delivers the needy when they call,  
the poor and those who have no helper.

<sup>13</sup>He has pity on the weak and the needy,  
and saves the lives of the needy.

<sup>14</sup>From oppression and violence he redeems their life;  
and precious is their blood in his sight.

## **HYMN\***

*What Child is This*

UMH 219

## Children's Message

### Scripture Reading

Isaiah 60:1-6 (NRSV)

<sup>1</sup>Arise, shine; for your light has come,  
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

<sup>2</sup>For darkness shall cover the earth,  
and thick darkness the peoples;  
but the LORD will arise upon you,  
and his glory will appear over you.

<sup>3</sup>Nations shall come to your light,  
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

<sup>4</sup>Lift up your eyes and look around;  
they all gather together, they come to you;  
your sons shall come from far away,

and your daughters shall be carried on their  
nurses' arms.

<sup>5</sup> Then you shall see and be radiant;  
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,  
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,  
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

<sup>6</sup> A multitude of camels shall cover you,  
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;  
all those from Sheba shall come.  
They shall bring gold and frankincense,  
and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

**HYMN\***

*We Three Kings*

UMH 254

Scripture Reading

Matthew 2:1-12 (CEB)

<sup>1</sup> After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in the territory of Judea during the rule of King Herod, magi came from the east to Jerusalem. <sup>2</sup> They asked, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We've seen his star in the east, and we've come to honor him."

<sup>3</sup> When King Herod heard this, he was troubled, and everyone in Jerusalem was troubled with him. <sup>4</sup> He gathered all the chief priests and the legal experts and asked them where the Christ was to be born. <sup>5</sup> They said, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for this is what the prophet wrote:

<sup>6</sup> ' You, Bethlehem, land of Judah,  
by no means are you least among the rulers of Judah,  
because from you will come one who governs,  
who will shepherd my people Israel.' "

<sup>7</sup> Then Herod secretly called for the magi and found out from them the time when the star had first appeared. <sup>8</sup> He sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search carefully for the child. When you've found him, report to me so that I too may go and honor him." <sup>9</sup> When they heard the king,

they went; and look, the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stood over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup>When they saw the star, they were filled with joy. <sup>11</sup>They entered the house and saw the child with Mary his mother. Falling to their knees, they honored him. Then they opened their treasure chests and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. <sup>12</sup>Because they were warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they went back to their own country by another route.

Sermon

### **A COVENANT PRAYER IN THE WESLEYAN TRADITION**

**I am no longer my own, but yours.  
Put me to what you will, rank me with whom you will.  
Put me to doing, put me to suffering.  
Let me be employed by you or laid aside for you,  
exalted for you or brought low for you.  
Let me be full, let me be empty.  
Let me have all things, let me have nothing.  
I freely and heartily yield all things  
to your pleasure and disposal.  
And now, O glorious and blessed God,  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
you are mine, and I am yours. So be it.  
And the covenant which I have made on earth,  
Let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.** <sup>1</sup>

**RESPONSE\***

*Gloria Patri*

UMH 71

Invitation to Holy Communion

### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

God, you have given light to the world in Jesus Christ,  
**yet we have preferred to live in darkness.**

Your justice protects the weak and the distressed,  
**yet we seek the shelter of privilege and power.**  
Your righteousness redeems the poor and the needy,  
**yet we seek the status of wealth and possession.**  
Your peace upholds the oppressed and the defenseless,  
**yet we seek security in weapons and retribution.**  
**Forgive us our sins, and lead us to true repentance,  
that we may trust you in all things. Amen.**

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Silent Prayers of Confession

### **WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

This is the good news: Christ is the light of the world,  
who grants forgiveness and healing for all our sins.  
Thanks be to God. **Amen.**

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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 AND COMMUNION**

**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

UMH 15-16

**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.<sup>2</sup>  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

## **RECEIVING THE BREAD AND CUP**

The body of Christ, given for you. **Amen.**

The blood of Christ, given for you. **Amen.**

Prayer Following Communion

# **GOING FORTH**

**HYMN\***

*The First Noel*

UMH 245

Dismissal with Blessing\*

Postlude\*

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<sup>1</sup> A note about the “Covenant Prayer in the Wesleyan Tradition” from Pastor John Collins: I don’t take the phrase “put me to suffering” to mean that God wants us to suffer or that God will force us to suffer. Instead, I see it as our affirmation that we are willing to suffer for the work of the kingdom. E.g., in the 1960s the civil rights movement involved a lot of suffering for a lot of faithful Christians. As Christians, we don’t seek suffering out, but we are willing to bear the suffering that falls on us as we seek to live out our faith.

To update the language to modern usage, I have substituted “yours” for “thine,” “you” for “thou,” etc. from the version of this prayer found in the *United Methodist Hymnal*.

<sup>2</sup> 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:

**COMMUNITY PRAYER CONCERNS:** Dennis Williamson (Clark Williamson's brother) [12/26], those grieving the loss of William "Mike" Burton (Will Burton's father) [12/12]

**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 Beloit United Methodist Church and their pastor Keith Anglemyer.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **THANKS FOR YOUR 2022 COMMITMENTS**

51 individuals/couples/families participated in this year's Stewardship Campaign by making a commitment for 2022. 14 of those were first time commitments and 17 others increased the amount they committed. A sincere thank you to everyone who participated.

## **FIRST BIBLE STUDY OF THE YEAR**

This coming Wednesday at 5:15, we'll have a Bible study on the "Son of Man." If you've ever wondered exactly what Jesus meant by using this phrase to refer to himself (and even if you haven't) this promises to be an informative session. You can join us in-person in room 200 or online by going to <https://bit.ly/3hyMOhO>. You don't need to read anything ahead of time to participate. (Most people don't.) We'll begin with a five-six minute video introduction and then continue the discussion from there. If you want to study the materials ahead of time you can go to <https://bit.ly/3ECfHEQ>.

If you're thinking about joining us, please consider this testimony from Velda Becker:

I highly encourage anyone to join the current Bible study on the Character of God. We meet weekly on Wednesdays at 5:15 p.m. in room 200 for a 45 minute session, followed by communion at 6:00 p.m. if you choose to stay. We watch an engaging video and then have a discussion using the current topic study materials for that week. Each session could be appreciated as a stand-alone class. There is no long-term commitment. I look forward to every Wednesday. This is a great opportunity to grow in your faith. Come join us in person or on Zoom!

## **WANT TO TALK TO THE PASTOR?**

John's mobile number is 620-252-9622 and his email is [john@revcollins.com](mailto: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](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, JANUARY 2**

- 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, JANUARY 3**

Offices Closed for New Year's Holiday

## **TUESDAY, JANUARY 4**

- 10:00 a.m. Parkinson's Group Exercise - Narthex
- 6:00 p.m. Cooking Class - Kitchen
- 6:30 p.m. Outreach Committee Meeting - 200

## **WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 5**

- 9:30 a.m. Prairie Art Quilters
- 9:30 a.m. UMW Circle - Coffee - Room 200
- 10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 3:30 p.m. Power & Light
- 6:00 p.m. Communion (in-person and Zoom)
- 6:00 p.m. Youth Group
- 6:15 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- 7:00 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal

## **THURSDAY, JANUARY 6**

- 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 Quilt Guild - Peatling Hall
- 5:30 p.m. Basketball Team Dinner - Wright Hall
- 6:00 p.m. Cub Scouts

## **SUNDAY, JANUARY 9**

- 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, JANUARY 10**

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

## **TUESDAY, JANUARY 11**

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

## **WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 12**

- 10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 3:30 p.m. Power & Light
- 6:00 p.m. Communion (in-person and Zoom)
- 6:00 p.m. Youth Group
- 6:15 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- 7:00 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal

## **THURSDAY, JANUARY 13**

- 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. Basketball Team Dinner - Wright Hall
- 5:30 p.m. Small Group Quilters
- 6:00 p.m. Cub Scouts

# 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

Kevin Bailey and Velda Becker, Liturgists

Kristy Engle and Jensen Woodworth, Sound

Kristy Engle and Carson Woodworth, Slides

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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