



**AN ORDER OF
CHRISTIAN WORSHIP**

Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany | February 13, 2022

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* *For the Beauty of the Earth*, vss. 1, 4, 5, 6 UMH-92

CALL TO WORSHIP

Opening Prayer

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Scripture Reading

Jeremiah 17:5-13 (NRSV)

⁵ Thus says the LORD:

Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals
and make mere flesh their strength,
whose hearts turn away from the LORD.

⁶ They shall be like a shrub in the desert,
and shall not see when relief comes.

They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness,
in an uninhabited salt land.

⁷ Blessed are those who trust in the LORD,
whose trust is the LORD.

⁸ They shall be like a tree planted by water,
sending out its roots by the stream.

It shall not fear when heat comes,
and its leaves shall stay green;
in the year of drought it is not anxious,
and it does not cease to bear fruit.

⁹The heart is devious above all else;
it is perverse—

who can understand it?

¹⁰I the LORD test the mind
and search the heart,
to give to all according to their ways,
according to the fruit of their doings.

¹¹Like the partridge hatching what it did not lay,
so are all who amass wealth unjustly;
in mid-life it will leave them,
and at their end they will prove to be fools.

¹²O glorious throne, exalted from the beginning,
shrine of our sanctuary!

¹³O hope of Israel! O LORD!
All who forsake you shall be put to shame;
those who turn away from you shall be recorded
in the underworld,
for they have forsaken the fountain of living water,
the LORD.

HYMN* *Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)* WS-3104

Children's Message

Choral Anthem [10:30] *Come, Christians, Join to Sing*

Scripture Reading Luke 6:17-26 (NRSV)

¹⁷He came down with them and stood on a level place,
with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of
people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and
Sidon. ¹⁸They had come to hear him and to be healed of
their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean
spirits were cured. ¹⁹And all in the crowd were trying to

touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

²⁰ Then he looked up at his disciples and said:

“Blessed are you who are poor,
for yours is the kingdom of God.

²¹ “Blessed are you who are hungry now,
for you will be filled.

“Blessed are you who weep now,
for you will laugh.

²² “Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. ²³ Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets.

²⁴ “But woe to you who are rich,
for you have received your consolation.

²⁵ “Woe to you who are full now,
for you will be hungry.

“Woe to you who are laughing now,
for you will mourn and weep.

²⁶ “Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.

HYMN*

Lord, I Want to Be a Christian

UMH-402

Scripture Reading

1 Corinthians 15:12-20 (NRSV)

¹² Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³ If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; ¹⁴ and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain. ¹⁵ We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ

—whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. ¹⁶ For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. ¹⁷ If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. ¹⁸ Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. ¹⁹ If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. ²⁰ But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.

Sermon

A STATEMENT OF FAITH*

UMH 883

We are not alone, we live in God's world.

We believe in God:

who has created and is creating
who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the church:

to celebrate God's presence,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.

We are not alone.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

RESPONSE*

Gloria Patri

UMH-71

Prayers of Intercession

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-94

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*

We Are Called

FWS-2172

Dismissal with Blessing 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: Ellouise Marshall [2/06], Hope Higgins [1/16], and Don Rickley [1/16], those grieving the loss of Sara Burwell [2/06].

COMMUNITY PRAYER CONCERNS: Sonja Zeithamel (Pam Jackson's sister) [1/16], Mike Jantz [2/06]

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 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 Clay Center United Methodist Church and their pastor Reuben Langat.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

AN INSPIRING STORY ABOUT THE LITTLE FREE PANTRY

Here's a story from Lisa Divel about how important this ministry is:

“Every time that we have been at the Little Free Pantry and someone in need was there, they have all commented about how thankful they were for the Little Free Pantry. The story that I love most is of a woman who stopped at the church, and I helped her put food items in the Little Free Pantry (she was donating). I told her, ‘thank you,’ and she said, ‘no, thank you. There have been times when I needed the Little Free Pantry, or we were not going to eat, and I’m paying it back.’ ”

JOHN (AND JENNY AND LIZ) ARE MOVING

In last November's Appointive Recommendation, The Staff Parish Relations Committee indicated to the Bishop and his cabinet that: “Our [Abilene First UMC's] mission can be met with our current pastor, but we would also be open to a new pastor who has gifts/skills in the area(s) of [a] fresh perspective to re-invigorate and help the church grow.” I agreed with this assessment wholeheartedly. For the same reason, I indicated that I was ready for a move on my own appointive recommendation.

After a process of careful discernment, the Bishop is appointing me to Manhattan College Avenue UMC effective July 1, 2022. The Bishop and Cabinet will work hard to discern the pastor who will take my place and make that announcement as soon as possible, but I will continue to serve as your pastor until the end of June.

COOKIES NEEDED FOR COFFEE TIME — We are looking for donations of cookies to be shared during coffee time each week. If you could share, please leave cookies in the kitchen. You don't need to be available to serve them.

VOICES: I HAVE DECIDED TO STICK WITH LOVE

A quote from last week's sermon in context:

"I have also decided to stick with love, for I know that love is ultimately the only answer to mankind's problems. And I'm going to talk about it everywhere I go. I know it isn't popular to talk about it in some circles today. And I'm not talking about emotional bosh when I talk about love; I'm talking about a strong, demanding love. For I have seen too much hate. I've seen too much hate on the faces of sheriffs in the South. I've seen hate on the faces of too many Klansmen and too many White Citizens' Counselors in the South to want to hate, myself, because every time I see it, I know that it does something to their faces and their personalities, and I say to myself that **hate is too great a burden to bear**. I have decided to love. If you are seeking the highest good, I think you can find it through love. And the beautiful thing is that we aren't moving wrong when we do it, because John was right, God is love. He who hates does not know God, but he who loves has the key that unlocks the door to the meaning of ultimate reality." — Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., "Where Do We Go From Here?" [1]

QUESTOR'S SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS — This adult Sunday School class is open for anyone interested in studies on Sunday morning. The class meets in room 200 following the first worship service. They will begin a brand new study on Romans starting Jan 23. It is a 6 week study with a DVD introduction each week. Feel free to join at 9:20 a.m.

LOOKING FOR A TIME CAPSULE — This year we are celebrating our 152nd Anniversary as a church and we're pretty sure there is a time capsule on the premises. Anyone have any idea of where it is? We've gotten a few suggestions, but the tip line is still open.

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 one of the pastors 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 sign up at tinyletter.com/jcollins11.

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.

CHURCH CALENDAR

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 13

- 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, FEBRUARY 14

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

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15

- 9:00 a.m. Parkinson's Group Exercise - Narthex

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16

- 10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 1:30 p.m. UMW Circle - 200
- 3:30 p.m. Power & Light
- 5:15 p.m. Bible Discussion Group
- 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, FEBRUARY 17

- 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 Dinner
- 6:00 p.m. Cub Scouts

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 20

- 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, FEBRUARY 21

- 5:15 p.m. Memorials Committee Meeting - 200
- 7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts - Peatling

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 22

- 9:00 a.m. Parkinson's Group Exercise - Narthex
- 7:00 p.m. EOTT Quilt Guild - Wright Hall

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23

- 10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 3:30 p.m. Power & Light
- 5:15 p.m. Bible Discussion Group
- 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, FEBRUARY 24

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

Anna Gugler and Amanda Cormack, Piano
Michael Linenberger and Velda Becker, Liturgists
Kaylee Weibert and Braden Adams, Sound
Chantay Porter and Sam Burton, Slides

CONTACT INFORMATION

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