



**AN ORDER OF
CHRISTIAN WORSHIP**

Third Sunday in Lent | March 20, 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*

El-Shaddai

UMH-123

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalms 27 (NRSV)

The LORD is my light and my salvation;

whom shall I fear?

The LORD is the stronghold of my life;

of whom shall I be afraid?

Opening Prayer

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Scripture Reading

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18 (NRSV)

¹ After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." ² But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" ³ And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." ⁴ But the word of the LORD came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." ⁵ He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." ⁶ And he believed

the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

⁷ Then he said to him, "I am the LORD who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess."

⁸ But he said, "O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?" ⁹ He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." ¹⁰ He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. ¹¹ And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

¹² As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.

. . . ¹⁷ When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. ¹⁸ On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates.

HYMN*

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

UMH-140

Children's Message

Scripture Reading

Philippians 3:17-4:1 (NRSV)

¹⁷ Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. ¹⁸ For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. ¹⁹ Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. ²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. ²¹ He will

transform the body of our humiliation so that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself.

¹ Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

HYMN*

What Wondrous Love Is This

UMH-292

Scripture Reading

Luke 13:31-35 (NRSV)

³¹ At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." ³² He said to them, "Go and tell that fox for me, 'Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work.' ³³ Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.' ³⁴ Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! ³⁵ See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

Sermon

Reaffirmation of the Marriage Covenant

Clemence

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

**Eternal God, Creator and preserver of all life,
author of salvation, giver of all grace:
Bless and sanctify with your Holy Spirit
Cecilia and Jon Clemence,**

**who have reaffirmed their marriage covenant.
Enable them to grow in love and peace
with you and with each other all their days,
that they may reach out
in concern and service to the world;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Blessing of the Marriage

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 Confession and Words of Assurance

Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings

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

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*

Reckless Love

On Screen

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: Carol Fick [3/20], Sondra Murnohan, [3/20], Ellouise Marshall [2/06], and those grieving the loss of Verl Eckman [3/06],

COMMUNITY PRAYER CONCERNS: Nathan Smith (son of Bob and Pandi Smith) [3/20], Jim Belvill (brother of Maria Nuss, friend of Anna Gugler) [3/13]

THOSE WORSHIPING FROM HOME: Gary Donley, Evelyn York, Velma Becker, Joe and Joanna 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.

THOSE SERVING IN THE ARMED FORCES: Greg Austin, Tim Barns, Kayla Berven, Billy Brockman, Matthew Brinker, Ross Covington, Jessica and James Green, 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 Ebenezer United Methodist Church, Clay Center, and their pastor Lillian Flegle.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIBLE STUDY

This Wednesday evening (March 23, 2022) at 5:15, we'll begin anew our Bible study on the Theme of The Royal Priesthood. This is a theme that runs throughout the entire Bible from start to finish. Our first session will focus on "Royal Priests of Eden." You can attend in person in room 200 or you can join us via Zoom at <https://wp.me/P3IZ7I-nZ>. You don't need to read anything ahead of time to participate. (Most people don't.) We'll begin with a six minute video introduction and then continue the discussion from there. If you want to watch the video or study the materials ahead of time you can go to <https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/priests-of-eden/>.

REAFFIRMATION OF THE WEDDING COVENANT

This morning, at the 10:30 worship service, Jon and Cecilia Clemence will be reaffirming their marriage covenant (renewing their vows) in celebration of their 25th Wedding Anniversary. In my 27 years of ministry, I've never done this before because I've never had this requested before (at least not that I remember). I didn't even know if United Methodists did this, but it turns out that The United Methodist Book of Worship has a liturgy for everything. Let me know if you like the reaffirmation and want to do the same. — John Collins

\$1522 FOR UKRAINE

We've collected \$1522.00 for United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) efforts in Ukraine.

2022 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

Applications for our 2022-2023 College Scholarships are available at <https://abilenefirstumc.org/downloads/>.

SERVING AT THE SALINA RESCUE MISSION

We're looking to start preparing and serving meals at the Salina Rescue Mission again. Let Pastor John know if you're interested in participating in this ministry.

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.

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 contact Pastor John Collins.

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.

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.

WANT TO TALK TO THE PASTOR?

John's contact information is 620-252-9622 (mobile phone) and john@revcollins.com, or you can write a note on the back of the attendance insert.

CHURCH CALENDAR

SUNDAY, MARCH 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, MARCH 21

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

TUESDAY, MARCH 22

- 9:00 a.m. Parkinson's Group Exercise - Narthex
- 6:30 p.m. Church Council Meeting - 200
- 7:00 p.m. EOTT Quilt Guild

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 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, MARCH 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

SUNDAY, MARCH 27

- 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, MARCH 28

- 7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts - Peatling

TUESDAY, MARCH 29

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

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30

- 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, MARCH 31

- 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

SUNDAY, APRIL 3

- 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, APRIL 4

- 7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts - Peatling
- 7:00 p.m. SPRC - 200

TUESDAY, APRIL 5

- 9:00 a.m. Parkinson's Group Exercise - Narthex
- 6:30 p.m. Outreach Committee - 200

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6

- 9:30 a.m. Prairie Arts Quilters
- 9:30 a.m. UMW Coffee
- 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, APRIL 7

- 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
- 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

Kristy Engle and Anna Gugler, Piano
Heather James and Sandi Dutt, Liturgists
Wendy Robinson and Jensen Woodworth, Sound
Baili Oakman and Carson Woodworth, Slides

CONTACT INFORMATION

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