



AN ORDER OF
WORD AND TABLE

Fifth Sunday in Lent | April 3, 2022

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

A Church of Open Hearts, Open Minds, and Open Doors

601 North Cedar, Abilene, Kansas 67410

785-263-2623 — www.abilenefirstumc.org

GATHERING

Gathering of the Congregation

Welcome and Announcements

Piano Prelude [8:15]

Bell Choir Prelude [10:30] *Praise My Soul, the King of Heaven*

CALL TO WORSHIP

As people formed by God, we give praise to God.

Dry pathways in the sea, rivers in the desert.

Christ is among us doing a new thing!

As people restored by God, we give praise to God.

Dry pathways in the sea, rivers in the desert.

Christ is among us doing a new thing!

As people pressing on in the faith, we give praise to God.

Dry pathways in the sea, rivers in the desert.

Christ is among us doing a new thing!

Reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion*.
Copyright 2012. Alt. John R. Collins

Opening Prayer

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Scripture Reading

Philippians 3:4b-14 (CEB)

^{4b} If anyone else has reason to put their confidence in physical advantages, I have even more:

⁵ I was circumcised on the eighth day. I am from the people of Israel and the tribe of Benjamin. I am a Hebrew of

the Hebrews. With respect to observing the Law, I'm a Pharisee. ⁶With respect to devotion to the faith, I harassed the church. With respect to righteousness under the Law, I'm blameless.

⁷These things were my assets, but I wrote them off as a loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸But even beyond that, I consider everything a loss in comparison with the superior value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. I have lost everything for him, but what I lost I think of as sewer trash, so that I might gain Christ ⁹and be found in him. In Christ I have a righteousness that is not my own and that does not come from the Law but rather from the faithfulness of Christ. It is the righteousness of God that is based on faith. ¹⁰The righteousness that I have comes from knowing Christ, the power of his resurrection, and the participation in his sufferings. It includes being conformed to his death ¹¹so that I may perhaps reach the goal of the resurrection of the dead.

¹²It's not that I have already reached this goal or have already been perfected, but I pursue it, so that I may grab hold of it because Christ grabbed hold of me for just this purpose. ¹³Brothers and sisters, I myself don't think I've reached it, but I do this one thing: I forget about the things behind me and reach out for the things ahead of me. ¹⁴The goal I pursue is the prize of God's upward call in Christ Jesus.

HYMN*

And Can It Be That I Should Gain

UMH-363

Children's Message

Choral Anthem [10:30]

The Greatest Gift is Love

Scripture Reading

John 12:1-8 (NRSV)

¹ Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. ² There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. ³ Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. ⁴ But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, ⁵ "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" ⁶ (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) ⁷ Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. ⁸ You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

HYMN* *Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service* UMH-581

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 43:16-21 (NRSV)

¹⁶ Thus says the LORD,
 who makes a way in the sea,
 a path in the mighty waters,
¹⁷ who brings out chariot and horse,
 army and warrior;
they lie down, they cannot rise,
 they are extinguished, quenched like a wick:
¹⁸ Do not remember the former things,
 or consider the things of old.
¹⁹ I am about to do a new thing;
 now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness
 and rivers in the desert.

²⁰ The wild animals will honor me,
the jackals and the ostriches;
for I give water in the wilderness,
rivers in the desert,
to give drink to my chosen people,
²¹ the people whom I formed for myself
so that they might declare my praise.

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

PRAYERS OF CONFESSION AND WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Merciful God, we confess

that we have not loved you with our whole heart.

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:

Christ died for us while we were yet sinners;

that proves God's love toward us.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

Glory to God. Amen.

Presenting Our Tithes and Offerings

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

THANKSGIVING

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

UMH 14-15

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.**

HYMN*

I Come with Joy

UMH-617

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*

Let There Be Peace On Earth

UMH 431

Dismissal with Blessing*

Postlude*

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: Diedre Dunham ^[4/3], Carol Fick ^[3/20], Sondra Murnohan, ^[3/20], Ellouise Marshall ^[2/06]

COMMUNITY PRAYER CONCERNS: Barbara Stultz (sister of Fran Hunt, friend of Judy Jones) ^[4/3], those grieving the loss of Mike Johnson ^[3/27], Kathy Swisher (daughter of Eunice Gay) ^[3/27], Nathan Smith (son of Bob and Pandi Smith) ^[3/20], those grieving the loss of Jim Belvill (brother of Maria Nuss, friend of Anna Gugler) ^[3/27]

THOSE WORSHIPPING 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 Glasco United Methodist Church and their pastor Ralph Jarboe.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

EASTER FLOWERS by Pam Simpson — We are trying something new this year for Easter. We ask that you share your blooming potted flowers for worship on Sunday, April 17, 2022. Any type of blooming flower is appreciated. Bring them to the church during the week prior to April 17. Please be sure your name is on the container and take it home with you following the worship services that day.

REMAINING UMC by John Collins

Bishop Saenz sent out a video about why he will remain United Methodist following the launch of the Global Methodist Church (GMC) on May 1, 2022. He names many of the reasons why I will remain United Methodist as well. The United Methodist Church has long been a big tent denomination and I love the image the Bishop used of the UMC having a hard Jesus center and being soft around the edges to include all kinds of folks.

You can watch the video here: <https://vimeo.com/693659309>

And because I had a question about this, let me assure you that remaining United Methodist as a member of Abilene First is easy. You just stay right where you are. There's nothing else you need to do. If you're conservative, and you choose to stay—fear not—it looks like you'll have plenty of company. The UMC will remain a big tent denomination.

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.

LITTLE FREE PANTRY SUNDAY — Today is the first Sunday of the month. That means we'll be receiving collections for the Little Free Pantry (both cash and pantry items).

WORDS OF ASSURANCE FROM STEVE HARPER by John Collins

I want to share something I saw recently from Steve Harper, a retired professor at Asbury Theological Seminary—the seminary now most aligned with the GMC. Speaking of his decision to remain in the UMC, He recently wrote:

“I have learned that progressives believe in the inspiration and authority of Scripture as much as any conservative does. Our differences are about hermeneutics [the interpretation of the Bible], not revelation. . . . My witness to those who will stay in the UMC is that you will remain in a denomination that is biblical. You do not have to join the GMC to be faithful to Scripture. . . . My witness to those who will remain in the UMC is that you have not compromised or diminished your faith by commending acceptance, inclusion, and the common good. You have, in fact, decided to personify Micah's exhortation to “do justice” (Micah 6:8). . . . In sum, my witness to those who will remain in the UMC is this: if you want to be in a denomination where biblical authority, a credible theology of human sexuality, and a commitment to love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength, and your neighbor as yourself is in full force—you need not leave.”

—oobedire.wordpress.com/2022/03/17/along-the-way-parting-words-words-of-witness/

2022 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS — Applications for our 2022-2023 College Scholarships are available at abilenefirstumc.org/downloads/. The deadline is Friday, April 8.

THINGS I WANT YOU TO KNOW AS I LEAVE #1 by John Collins

On my appointive assessment this past year, I indicated to the Bishop and Cabinet that I was ready for a move. (I thought it best for both you and for me). June 30 will be the last day that I have pastoral responsibility for Abilene First UMC. July 1 will be the first day of my appointment at College Avenue UMC in

Manhattan. I will be serving full time there and so I will not be coming back to Abilene to serve in any pastoral role. (Rev. Mik King told me I was welcome to come back for funeral sermons, but I said no because I strongly believe that all my professional time should be rendered to the church to which I am appointed.) I will no longer be your pastor, but Jenny and I hope to remain your friends.

Those of you who met Mik this past Sunday have a sense of how capable and compassionate she is. You'll be in good hands. Funerals and weddings are services that bind a congregation and a new pastor together and I want your relationship with Mik to be as strong as possible.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN by Pam Simpson — The next meeting of UMW will be held on Wednesday, April 6, 2022 at 9:30 a.m. The guest speaker will be from the Love Chloe Foundation, Salina. This is a non-profit benefiting children who have cancer. It provides a way for teachers to help educate and classmates to be involved and help these children. Please join the women to hear this special presentation.

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.

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, 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
- 5:00 p.m. Confirmation Class

MONDAY, APRIL 4

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

TUESDAY, APRIL 5

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

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6

- 9:30 a.m. Prairie Arts Quilters
- 9:30 a.m. UMW Coffee-Special Program
- 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

SUNDAY, APRIL 10

- 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
- 5:00 p.m. Confirmation Class

MONDAY, APRIL 11

- 6:00 p.m. Board of Trustees - 200
- 7:00 p.m. Sand Springs 4-H - Wright Hall
- 7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts - Peatling
- 7:00 p.m. Worship Design - 200
- 7:30 p.m. Scholarship Committee

TUESDAY, APRIL 12

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

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13

- 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 14

- 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. Small Group Quilters

NOTES AND 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 Angie Hoerner, Piano
TBD and Heather Unruh, Liturgists
Nick Weibert and Joy Clemence, Sound
Kaxton Weibert and Sam Burton, Slides

CONTACT INFORMATION

John Collins, Pastor
620-252-9622 (Mobile) — john@revcollins.com

Pam Simpson, Office Administrator
Phone: 785-263-2623 — office@abilenefirstumc.org

Wendy Robinson, Director of Children and Youth Ministries
wendy@abilenefirstumc.org

Clark Williamson, Director of Music Ministries
clark@abilenefirstumc.org

Pam Jackson, Parish Visitor
parishvisitor@abilenefirstumc.org