

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Elder # - Sheila Hammer (8:45); Meg GarverHamilton (11:00)

Deacon/Ushers † - Nick Scholl, John Futrell,
and Larry Thomas (8:45);
Nick Scholl, John Futrell, Linda Fricke,
and Sharon Condarco (11:00)

NEED TO KNOW COLUMN

Sunday, July 23 - Guest Preacher, Julie Adkins

7:30 a.m. - Men's Council Breakfast
8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. - Worship Service
9:45 a.m. - Sunday School for all ages

Wednesday, July 26

7:00 p.m. - Chancel Choir Rehearsal with a Fall Kickoff, at the home of Ben and Caroline Clifton, 329 Sycamore Dr., Murphy, TX 75094

Sunday, July 30 - Guest Preacher, Kenny Rigoulot

8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. - Worship Service
9:45 a.m. - Sunday School for all ages

Wednesday, August 2 through Wednesday, August 9

Renee Stormer will be away on vacation.

Wednesday, August 2

7:00 p.m. - Board of Deacons Meeting in Crossroads classroom
7:00 p.m. - Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, August 6 "Blessing of the Backpacks"

8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. - Worship Service - Communion
9:45 a.m. - Sunday School for all ages

Sunday, August 13 "Rally Day"

8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. - Worship Service
9:45 a.m. - Sunday School for all ages
12:00 p.m. - Stay for a picnic style lunch in Wilbanks Hall
2:00 p.m. - L.I.F.E. Youth and Faith Builders are invited to a pool party hosted by the Doughtons, at Woodcreek in Fate, TX.

Tuesday, August 15

7:00 p.m. - Christian Education Committee meeting in Crossroads

Wednesday, August 16

7:00 p.m. - Session Meeting in Crossroads classroom

Thursday, August 17

7:00 p.m. - Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, August 20

7:30 a.m. - Men's Council Breakfast
8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. - Worship Service
9:45 a.m. - Sunday School for all ages

Tuesday, August 22

6:30 p.m. - Presbyterian Women's Annual Kick-off Salad Supper.
All women are invited and asked to bring a Salad of their choice.

Sunday, August 27

8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. - Worship Service
9:45 a.m. - Sunday School for all ages

THOSE WHO SERVE

Rev. Dr. E. Jones Doughton, Pastor
Ben Clifton, Director of Music Ministries
Ryoji Shimpo, Organist
Renee Stormer, Administrative Assistant
Rev. Dr. Thomas G. Wilbanks, Pastor Emeritus

Getting to Know the Guest Preacher

Julie Adkins has been an ordained Minister of Word and Sacrament in the Presbyterian Church (USA) for 35+ years. She holds the M.Div. from Princeton Seminary, and the D. Min. from McCormick, and has served churches in San Antonio, San Angelo, New Braunfels, and Dallas. Since 2008 she has served as (very) part-time pulpit supply in a number of small churches in Grace Presbytery. If she were Methodist, she'd be a circuit rider!

Julie also has an M.A. and Ph.D. (ABD; don't get her started on this) in cultural anthropology from Southern Methodist University. She has taught at the University of Texas, Arlington for 10+ years in a long-term contingent faculty role, publishing primarily on the topic of faith-based NGOs in the U.S. and Latin America.

Julie lives in Waxahachie with her four rescue dogs (Hattie, Wesley, Winnie, and Chester), two classic cars (1967 Buick, 1948 Packard), and far too many books.

Blessing of the Backpacks

Sunday,
August 6, 2023



THE CHALLENGE



The 100 Can Challenge continues . . .
Let us carry on THE CHALLENGE to collect can goods and other non-perishable items. The donated items will be given to Sharing Life, as they feed those in need in our community. Thus far, in July we've collected **223 items**.
Thank You!

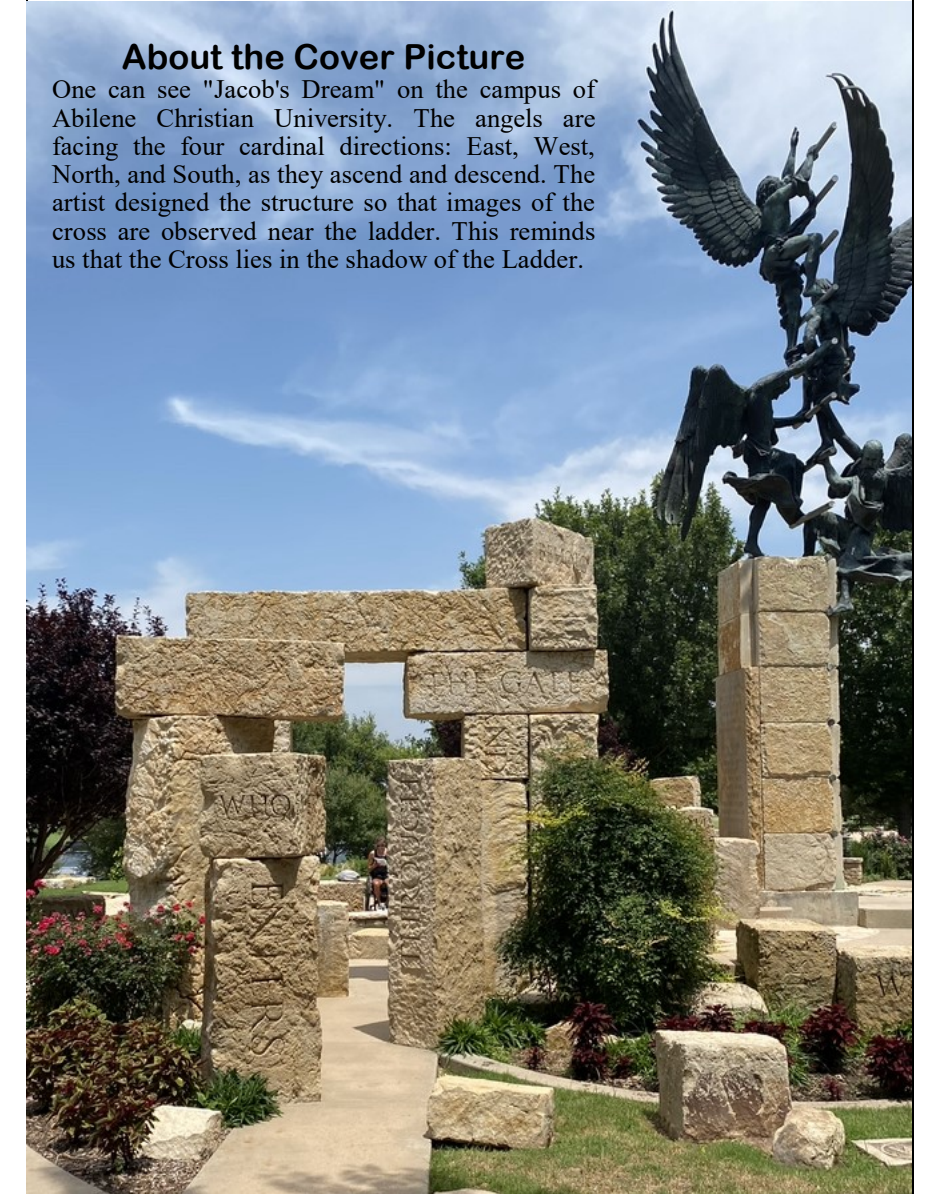
GUIDE TO WORSHIP

July 23, 2023

8:45 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

About the Cover Picture

One can see "Jacob's Dream" on the campus of Abilene Christian University. The angels are facing the four cardinal directions: East, West, North, and South, as they ascend and descend. The artist designed the structure so that images of the cross are observed near the ladder. This reminds us that the Cross lies in the shadow of the Ladder.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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MESQUITE, TEXAS 75149

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SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

STRIKING OF THE HOUR FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE *I Want Jesus to Walk with Me* arr. Larry Shackley

INTROIT 726 (vs 1) *Will You Come and Follow Me* John L. Bell

Will you come and follow Me if I but call your name?

Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?

Will you let My love be shown; will you let My name be known;

will you let My life be grown in you and you in Me?

CALL TO WORSHIP *Philippians 1:2; Psalm 18:1-3*

Grace to you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

And also to you.

We love You, Lord, our strength. The Lord is our fortress, and our deliver, our God, our rock in Whom we take refuge, our shield, our stronghold, and the horn of our salvation. Let us call upon the Lord, Who is worthy to be praised.

*HYMN 49 *The God of Abraham Praise*

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Eternal, Almighty, and Merciful God; our Judge and Redeemer, we confess that we have tried to hide from You, for we have done wrong. We have lived for ourselves, and turned from our neighbors. We have refused to bear the troubles of others. We have ignored the pain of the world, and passed by those in need. O God, in Your great mercy forgive our sin and free us from selfishness, that we may choose Your will and obey Your commandments; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

*RESPONSE (*Hymn 581*)

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. A—men. A—men.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS #

ANTHEM *Psalm 121* by Deborah Govenor
Quartet - Ben Clifton, Brenda Greer,
John Kusewitt, and Paula Kusewitt

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION #

Almighty and All-Knowing God, open our hearts and minds by the power of Your Holy Spirit, that, as Your Word is read and proclaimed, we may hear with joy what You say to us today. Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON # *Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43*

He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, "Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?" He answered, "An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, "Then do you want us to go and gather them?" But he replied, "No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.' "

Then He left the crowds and went into the house. And His disciples approached Him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field." He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of His kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!"

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON # *Romans 8:12-25*

So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him. I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

MOMENT FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

The Children and Youth are asked to come forward at this time.

THIRD SCRIPTURE LESSON *Genesis 28:10-19a*

SERMON *Yes, Even in the Wilderness* Rev. Adkins

*HYMN 775 *I Want Jesus to Walk with Me*

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH Apostles' Creed
I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

PASTORAL PRAYER

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY *Rock of Ages* arr. John Turner
Ryoji Shimpō, pianist

*DOXOLOGY (*Hymn 606*)

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION †

*HYMN 547 *Go, My Children, with My Blessing*

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*RESPONSE 726 (vs 5) *Will You Come and Follow Me* John L. Bell
Lord, Your summons echoes true when You but call my name.
Let me turn and follow You and never be the same.
In Your company I'll go where Your love and foot-steps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow in You and You in me.

*POSTLUDE *God, That Madest Earth and Heaven* arr. Jason W. Krug