

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

MAY 2, 2021

WE GATHER IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD

Prelude Jan Mauck, Pianist

Welcome, Announcements & Greeting Time Brice Smith

Opening Song #312 "Christ is Alive!" TRURO

*Call to Worship

Apart from Christ, we can do nothing.

**Jesus is the true vine, and we are the branches,
We remain in him, and he remains in us.**

Apart from God, we cannot bear fruit.

**We come in the Spirit to give the Father glory,
We bear much fruit, showing ourselves to be his
disciples.**

Apart from the Spirit, we cannot love.

**As the Father has loved Christ, so we must love one another.
We remain in Christ's love, loving as Christ has loved us.**

Adapted from Timothy Matthew Slemmons, "When Heaven Stands Open: Liturgical Elements for Reformed Worship." Cascade Books: 2013. All rights reserved.

Song of Faith "Ancient of Days" WORSHIP TEAM

Opening Prayer

Alleluia #306 "Alleluia! Jesus IS Risen" EARTH & ALL STARS

WE HEAR THE WORD OF THE LORD

The First Reading Acts 8:26-40

The Second Reading 1 John 4:7-21

*The Gospel John 15:1-8

*Song #522 "Shall We Gather at the River" HANSON PLACE

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings & Prayer of Dedication

Children's Message (3rd Grade and younger to Junior Church)

Prayer & Message "I Love My Church: We Are Friends"
The Reverend Doctor Ivan E. Greuter

THE SERVICE OF THE TABLE OF THE LORD

Invitation to the Lord's Table – We practice *open communion*. All persons who profess faith in Jesus Christ are invited to partake of this memorial meal. You do not need to be a member of this church to partake of the bread and cup. Please hold out your hands in a cup to receive the bread and cup. Hold each gift until everyone is served, then we will feast together.

†Servers Prepare for the Table of the Lord

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving and 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever.

Holy Communion: The Lord's Supper –

Breaking of Bread – *The Body of Christ; The Bread of Heaven*
Passing of the Cup – *The Blood of Christ; The Cup of Salvation*

Communion Song "Fill My Cup Lord" WORSHIP TEAM

RESPONDING TO THE HOLY SPIRIT IN FAITH & SERVICE

***Invitation to Faith and Fellowship** – If the Spirit of God is moving you to receive God's forgiving love in Jesus, calling you to be a follower of Jesus in the waters of baptism, or encouraging you to join this Christian Church, please come forward during this song.

*Invitation Hymn #354 "Just As I Am" WOODWORTH

*Spoken Benediction & Postlude *Please stand if able

HOW TO BECOME A CHRISTIAN TODAY

GOOD NEWS! God loves you and wants to redeem all people. The Bible outlines the way to become a follower of Jesus Christ:

1. **ADMIT** – Admit to God you are a sinner (you have done wrong things). Apologize to God and turn away from harmful behavior and start doing good things (See Romans 3:23; Romans 6:23; 1 John 1:9; Acts 3:19).
2. **BELIEVE JESUS CHRIST DIED FOR YOU AND GOD HAS RAISED HIM FROM THE DEAD** - Believe that Jesus is God's one and only Son who died on the cross and rose from the dead (See Romans 5:8; Acts 4:12; Acts 16:31a; John 3:16; 1 Peter 3:18; John 14:6).
3. **CONFESS JESUS CHRIST AS YOUR LORD** – Make a religious commitment to be a follower of Jesus by trusting Him to be your Savior (Rescuer and Redeemer) and Lord (Ultimate Leader). (See Romans 10:9 and 10; Romans 10:13; Matthew 16:24; Luke 9:23)
4. **DEDICATE YOUR LIFE TO JESUS** - Tell your family and friends about your new faith in Jesus Christ by coming to the front of the Sanctuary at the end of a worship service to publicly announce your decision to be a Christian.

HOW TO JOIN THIS CHRISTIAN CHURCH - COME FORWARD – Any person professing faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, and accepting the Baptist principles, practices, and the covenant of this church, may join this Christian church. Persons interested in affiliating should speak with the Pastor, Moderator, or come forward at a meeting of the congregation. A person may join by Believer's Baptism, Letter of Transfer from a previous Christian church with prior baptism, or a Satisfactory Statement of Christian Faith.



American Baptist Church USA – American Baptist Churches USA (ABCUSA) is one of the most diverse Christian denominations today, with approximately 5,000 local congregations comprised of 1.3 million members across the United States and Puerto Rico.

www.abc-usa.org



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