

A CELEBRATION OF THE ASCENSION SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER MAY 16, 2021

WE GATHER IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Brice Smith

*Easter Proclamation:

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

*Greeting One Another in Jesus' Name

*Hymn #317 "Crown Him with Many Crowns" *DIADEMATA*

*Call to Worship

The Crucified Lord, Jesus Christ, has risen!

The Risen Lord has ascended with shouts of joy and praise!

The Ascended Lord reigns over every tribe and nation!

Hear our songs of praise! The sacrifice of lips that confess His name.

The Glorified Lord has been carried up to the heavenly realms.

God our Father has justified and glorified His Son forever!

Sound the trumpet! Blow the ram's horn!

Sing to the Elevated One a victory song in His temple!

The Triumphal Lord has promised to send the Holy Spirit to all.

The Lord Christ has promised to come again!

Come, Lord Jesus Christ, come! Fill us with your Holy Spirit!

Come again to receive the praise of your holy people!

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

Songs of Faith and Praise

Worship Team

Opening Prayer

The Reverend Doctor Ivan E. Greuter

Alleluia #323 "Hail the Day That Sees Him Rise" *LLANFAIR*

Congregational Prayer 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.

WE HEAR THE WORD OF THE LORD

The First Reading

Acts 1:15 – 17, 21 – 26

The Second Reading

1 John 5:9 – 13

*The Gospel

John 17:6-19

*Hymn #318 "Jesus Comes with Clouds Descending"

REGENT SQUARE

*Presentation of Tithes and Offerings & Prayer of Dedication

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

Message "I Love My Church: We Give Each Other Hope"
The Reverend Doctor Ivan E. Greuter

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.

*Hymn #341

"Jesus Shall Reign"

DUKE STREET

*Spoken Benediction & Postlude

*Please stand if able

PENTECOST – Next Sunday is the celebration of Pentecost, the day commemorating God's gift of the Holy Spirit "poured out" on his followers as a powerful witness to the nations. **Worshippers are encouraged to wear red.**

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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