

# FOURTH OF SUNDAY ADVENT/CHRISTMAS - PEACE DECEMBER 19, 2021

## WE GATHER IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD

Prelude Organist, Janice Hedberg

Welcome and Greeting in Jesus' Name The Rev. Dr. Ivan E. Greuter

\*Opening #182 "O Come, All Ye Faithful" *ADESTE FIDELES*

\*Call to Worship **THE PEACE CANDLE**

The One who will rule Israel is from of old, from the ancient days.

**The One on whom we wait is from the most unexpected place, from Bethlehem of Ephrathah.**

The Shepherd's mother is in labor.

**The whole world cries out with her in labor pains.**

We need the Shepherd to stand and feed his flock.

**For the whole world is groaning in need of God's peace.**

We light the peace candle this week because Jesus is the Prince of Peace.

**In Jesus we shall live securely as Christ's peace extends to the ends of the earth.**

†Reading based Micah 5:2-5, the Holy Bible, New International Version (NIV), © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2021 by Biblica, Inc. from Reformed Worship Number 141 (September 2021) © 2021 by Worship Ministries of the Christian Reformed Church. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

\*Song of Faith #242 "O Sing a Song of Bethlehem" *KINGSFOLD*

\*Opening Prayer – God of Peace, you send us the Prince of Peace. We long for his peace to rule in our lives and relationships. We yearn for every corner of your world to be subject to your peace. We eagerly await the days when your whole flock will live in the security of your peace. May we, through the power of your Spirit, shine the peace of Christ in the darkness. We pray through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, One God, for ever and ever.

\*Songs of Praise #178 "Emmanuel, Emmanuel"  
#191 "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear" *CAROL*

## WE HEAR THE WORD OF THE LORD

Scripture Reader: Colleen Smith

The First Reading **Micah 5:2-5a**

The Second Reading **Hebrews 10:5-10**

\*The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ **Luke 1:39-45**

Responsorial #180 "O Little Town of Bethlehem" *ST. LOUIS*

**Announcements & Presentation of Tithes, Gifts, and Donations** - Collection plates are in the front and back of the sanctuary, and you can also give online.

**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.

**Offertory Special Music**

**Children's Sermon** (Kids 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade and Younger can walk to Children's Church)

**Prayer & Message** "Listen! Do You Hear It Coming?"  
**The Reverend Doctor Ivan E. Greuter, Senior Minister**

## WE RESPOND 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 #614 "Let There be Peace on Earth" *MILLER/JACKSON*

\*Spoken Benediction

\*Postlude Organist, Janice Hedberg

## HOW TO BECOME A FULLY DEVOTED FOLLOWER OF JESUS

**GOOD NEWS!** God loves you and wants to rescue all people from the consequences of evil. The Bible teaches the way to become a fully devoted follower of Jesus Christ:

1. **ADMIT** – Admit to God you have done wrong things (sinned) which have hurt God and others. 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** – Accept and trust that Jesus is God's one and only Son who died on the cross in your place and give God the credit for raising Jesus 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 fully devoted follower of Jesus by trusting Him to be your Rescuer and Redeemer (Savior) and Ultimate Leader (Lord). (See Romans 10:9 and 10; Romans 10:13; Matthew 16:24; Luke 9:23)
4. **DEDICATE YOUR LIFE TO THE JESUS WAY** - Tell your family and friends about your new trust in Jesus Christ by coming to the front of the Sanctuary at the end of a worship service to publicly share your decision to be a follower of Jesus (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](http://www.abc-usa.org)



FOURTH SUNDAY  
OF  
*Advent*

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