

# FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMASTIDE DECEMBER 26, 2021

## WE GATHER IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD

Prelude Jan Mauck, Pianist

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

\*Opening #189 "Angels, from the Realms of Glory"  
#188 "Angels We Have Heard on High"

\*Call to Worship *THE CHRIST CANDLE*

We who have walked in darkness have seen a great light!

**We who have lived in a land of deep darkness have had the light of hope,  
love, joy, and peace shined on us!**

For the yoke of our burden has been broken!

**For the rod of the oppressor has been broken!**

For a child has been born to us!

**And all authority rests on his shoulders!**

We call him Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God!

**We call him the Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace!**

The Lord establishes his kingdom with justice and righteousness.

**For this is the Messiah on whom we have waited.**

†Reading based on Isaiah 9:2-7, the Holy Bible, New International Version (NIV), © 1973, 1978, 1984,  
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\*Song of Faith #242 "O Sing a Song of Bethlehem" *KINGSFOLD*

**\*Unison Opening Prayer – Mighty God, you have sent us your Son, in whom we find our hope, who teaches us love, who gives us joy, and who rules with peace. In this baby, we have seen the Christ and his kingdom, which breaks the oppressive powers of this world. May the light of your kingdom shine from this time onward and forevermore. 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

"To Be Like You"

Worship Team

## WE HEAR THE WORD OF THE LORD

Scripture Reader: Colleen Smith

The First Reading

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26

The Second Reading

Colossians 3:12-17

\*The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

Luke 2:41-52

Responsorial #184

"What Child Is This?"

*GREENSLEEVES*

**Announcements, Prayer Requests, & Presentation of Tithes, Gifts, and Donations** – Ushers will bring collection plates to each row to receive your tithes, gifts, and donations. You can also give online.

**Offertory 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.

Special Music

"Mary Did You Know"

Soloist

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

Prayer & Message

"We Have Waited Long Enough: There He Is!"

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 #218

"Go! Tell It on the Mountain"

*AFRICAN-AMERICAN SP.*

\*Spoken Benediction

\*Postlude

Jan Mauck, Pianist

## 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)



# *Christmastide*

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