

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS JANUARY 1, 2023

WE GATHER IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD

Prelude Janice Hedberg-Boyce, Church Organist

Welcome and Greeting in Jesus' Name

*Opening (Stand) #193 "Sing We Now of Christmas" NOEL NOUVELET

*Call to Worship (Stand)

Praise the Lord from the highest heavens!
Heavenly hosts and angels, praise him!

**Let them praise the name of the Lord,
For he commanded and they were created,**

Praise the Lord from the earth,
And from the ocean's very depths!

**All peoples and rulers, old and young together,
Praise the name of the Lord.**

Let us recount the gracious deeds of the Lord,
Because of all he has done for us.

†Timothy Matthew Slemmons, "Lightening from the East: Liturgical Elements for Reformed Worship, Year A." ©2014. Cascade Books, Eugene, OR. Used with permission. All rights reserved

*Song of Praise (Stand) #200 "While by the Sheep" JUNST

*Opening Prayer (Stand)

Songs of Faith Holy Is His Name / His Name is Wonderful *Worship Team*

WE HEAR THE WORD OF THE LORD

Scripture Reader: Sonia Roling

The First Reading Isaiah 63:7-9

The Second Reading Hebrews 2:10-18

*The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ Matthew 2:13-23

*Responsorial (Stand) 209 "Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow" FOLLOW

*Greeting and Sharing Peace with Family and Neighbors (Stand)

Children's Sermon (Children can walk to Children's Church)

Announcements & Prayers of the Community 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, the power, and the glory forever.

Presentation of Tithes, Gifts, and Donations - Worshipers are invited to give their tithes, gifts, and offerings to the Lord.



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Prayer of Dedication – Lord God of Israel, let your name be proclaimed in the midst of the great congregation, and let the name of Jesus be praised throughout the earth and in the highest heavens. Let your children exult in your praiseworthy acts of mercy and redemption; and may these benefactions testify to the great favor you have shown us, and to the grace you have shown the world in sending Jesus Christ to set us free. Bless these gifts, that they, with the whole creation, may proclaim the good news!

Song of Devotion #205 "Away in a Manger" CRADLE SONG

A Prayer of Illumination & The Message

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.

*Closing Hymn (Stand) #180 "O Little Town of Bethlehem" ST. LOUIS

*Spoken Benediction

*Postlude Janice Hedberg-Boyce, Church Organist

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:

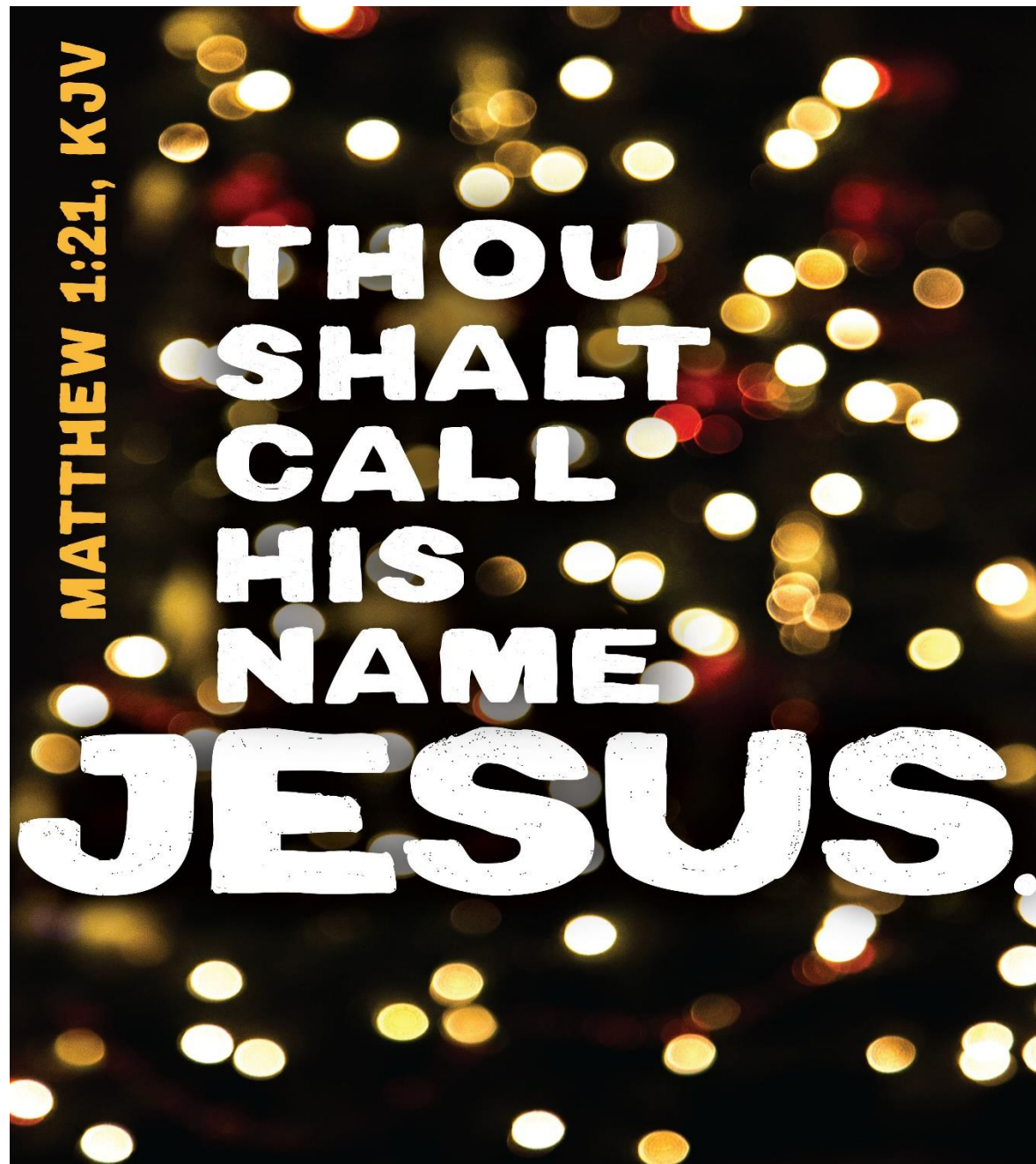
1. **ADMIT** – Admit to God you have done wrong things (sinned) which have hurt God and others. Apologize to God and turn away from harmful behavior and start doing good things (See Romans 3:23; Romans 6:23; 1 John 1:9; Acts 3:19).
2. **BELIEVE JESUS CHRIST DIED FOR YOU AND GOD HAS RAISED HIM FROM THE 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 5,000 local congregations comprised of 1.3 million members across the United States and Puerto Rico.

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