

EPIPHANY SUNDAY JANUARY 8, 2023

WE GATHER IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD

Prelude Janice Hedberg-Boyce, Church Organist

Welcome and Greeting in Jesus' Name

*Opening (Stand) # "The First Noel"

*Call to Worship (Stand)

Come, O nations, to the light of Christ Jesus.

O rulers of the peoples, pay tribute to the Lord.

Arise and shine, for your light has come.

For the mystery of Christ has been revealed!

If darkness should cover the whole earth,

The Lord will arise upon you.

Clouds and thick darkness surround the peoples.

But the people of God shall see the glory of the Lord!

See, O Lord, how your people come to you.

See and be radiant, that your children may draw near.

Proclaim the praise of Jesus our Lord!

For the mystery of Christ is revealed!

†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

*Opening Prayer (Stand)

Song of Faith # "We Three Kings"

WE HEAR THE WORD OF THE LORD

Scripture Reader: Sonia Roling

The First Reading Isaiah 60:1-6

The Second Reading Ephesians 3:1-12

*The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ Matthew 2:1 - 12

*Responsorial (Stand) "As with Gladness"
"O Sing a Song of Bethlehem"

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

Children's Sermon (Kids 3rd Grade and Younger can walk to Children's Church)

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 - Worshippers are invited to give their tithes, gifts, and offerings to the Lord.



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Prayer of Dedication – O Shepherd of Israel, King of the Jews, you are our hoy, our eternal treasure, for by your grace you have invited us, unworthy though we are, to be fellow heirs with you, members of the same body, sharers in the promises that God made from of old. Therefore, to you who offered yourself for us, we offer a portion of the boundless riches you have graciously shared with us. Receive these tributes to your righteous goodness, and use them, we pray, for your glory.

Special Music # "All Hail King Jesus" Worship Team

A Prayer of Illumination & The Message "Who Would Have Thought?"
The Reverend Beverly McCurdy, Retired UMC Clergy

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) # "This Little Light of Mine"

*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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