

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT FEBRUARY 26, 2023

WE GATHER IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD

Prelude Janice Hedberg-Boyce, Church Organist

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

***Opening (Stand) #** "Jesus Messiah" *Worship Team*

***Call to Worship (Stand)**

Do not fail to acknowledge your sins.
Harbor no deceit within.

You, O God, see through our disguises.

Have mercy upon us and set our hearts upright.

Do not keep silent or waste away with groaning.
Direct your heartfelt prayers to the Lord.

You, O God, are a shelter for your people.

Preserve us from trouble and cover our sins,

Do not be stubborn or without understanding.
Listen and savor the word of the Lord.

You, O God, forgive our transgressions.

Teach us your ways and lead us in truth.

†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 #446 "O Love That Will Not Let Me Go" *ST. MARGARET*

WE HEAR THE WORD OF THE LORD

Scripture Reader: Fran Seymour Hunter

The First Reading Genesis 2:15 – 17; 3:1-7

The Second Reading Romans 5:12-19

***The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ** Matthew 4:1-11

***Responsorial (Stand) #254** "Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley"

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

Children's Sermon (Kids 3rd Grade and Younger 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 - Worshippers are invited to give their tithes, gifts, and offerings to the Lord.



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Prayer of Dedication – O Lord, you alone are worthy of our worship and devotion; you alone are able to sustain us with the true bread of heaven. Therefore, we present these earthly elements, and with them we offer you our lives of service, which you have purchased through the obedience of Christ. Direct our stewardship, we pray. Guide us by your Holy Spirit, as we seek to administer these gifts in a manner that is pleasing to you.

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)** "Run To The Father" *Worship Team*

***Spoken Benediction**

***Postlude** Janice Hedberg-Boyce, Church Organist

SPECIAL CALLED BUSINESS MEETING – The Council has called a special business meeting for today, February 26, immediately after worship. See Sonia Roling, Church Moderator, for more information.

HOW TO BECOME A FULLY DEVOTED FOLLOWER OF JESUS

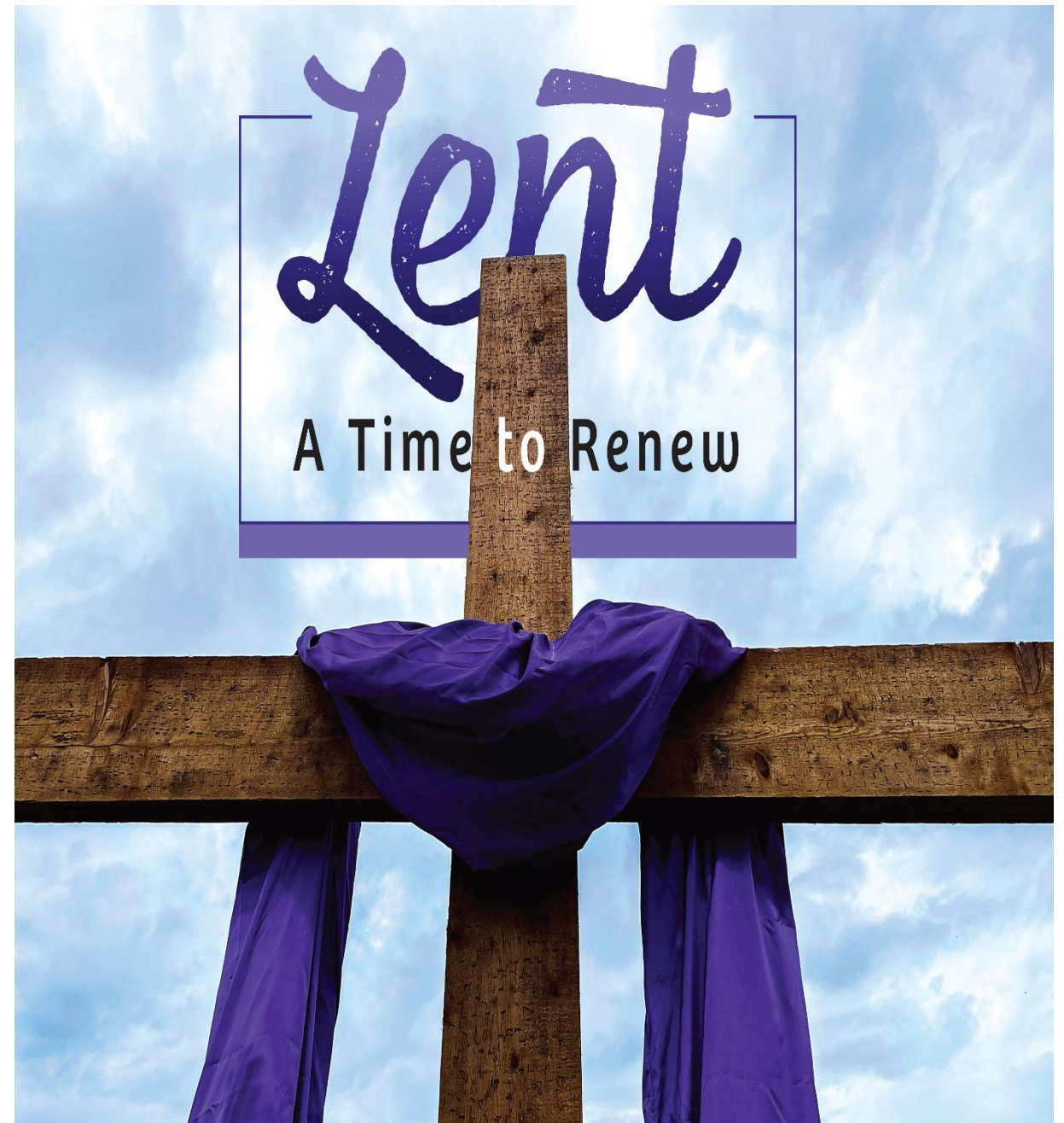
GOOD NEWS! God loves you and wants to rescue all people from the consequences of evil. The Bible teaches the way to become a fully devoted follower of Jesus Christ:

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. www.abc-usa.org



WEST SIDE BAPTIST CHURCH
1008 SW Fourth Street | Topeka, KS 66606
Phone: (785) 233-4241 | www.wsbctopeka.org