

**AM. BAPTIST WOMEN'S MINISTRY
PROJECT SUNDAY
FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT
MARCH 19, 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) # 440 "Savior, Like A Shepherd Lead Us" BRADBURY**

***Call to Worship (Stand)**

Come to Christ, O people, Come.

Gather in the presence of your Sovereign Lord.

Open our eyes, O Light of the world!

For though we may walk through vales of darkness,

We shall yet see the light of life.

Come to Christ, O people, Come.

Let us worship and bow down before the Living God.

Fill us, O Spirit. Let us feed on your Word,

And bear the fruit of the light that is good, right, and true.

†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 "Way Maker" *Worship Team*

WE HEAR THE WORD OF THE LORD

Scripture Reader: Don Johnson

The First Reading 1 Samuel 16:1-13

The Second Reading Ephesians 5:8-14

***The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ** John 9:1-41

***Responsorial (Stand) #499 "He Leadeth Me" HE LEADETH ME**

***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, although in this world we hear many messages meant to stir up discontent, we need only think of you, and we soon recognize and rejoice that you have met our greatest needs; indeed, your provisions abound, and your goodness and mercy attend us wherever we go. We thank you that, from our brimming cups, we have these gifts to share. May they be blessed as they pass from our hands to yours, and from yours to those whose eyes you would open in the light of your love, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

A Prayer of Illumination & The Message

**Ms. Jessamine Greuter, Ottawa University Dean's Scholar
American Baptist Women's Ministry of the Central Region Scholar**

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) # "The Blessing" Worship Team**

***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. www.abc-usa.org



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