

**SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
MOTHER'S DAY
MAY 14, 2023**

WE GATHER IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD

Prelude Janice Hedberg-Boyce, Church Organist

Welcome and Greeting in Jesus' Name

***Easter Proclamation:** Alleluia! Christ is risen! **He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!**

***Opening (Stand) #40** "For the Beauty of the Earth" *DIX*

***Call to Worship (Stand)**

Christ has suffered once and for all,
The righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring us to God.
**In our hearts, therefore, let us sanctify Jesus Christ as Lord,
Who has saved us and delivered us through the waters of
baptism.**

Do not be afraid, for we shall never be orphaned,
The Holy Spirit of truth and love is with us!
**Let us tell what the Lord has done for us,
We are, in Christ, not driven by the flesh, but alive in the spirit.**
Cry aloud to God, that he may be extolled.
**Let us declare the hope that is in us,
For we live and move and have our being in God!**

†Timothy Matthew Slemmons, "Lightening from the East: Liturgical Elements for Reformed Worship,
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***Opening Prayer (Stand)**

Song of Faith "Jesus Messiah" **Worship Team**

Proclamation of Faith & Forgiveness

Alleluia #289 "Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven"

WE HEAR THE WORD OF THE LORD

Scripture Reader: Pat Carpenter

The First Reading Acts 17:22-31

The Second Reading 1 Peter 3:13-22

***The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ (Stand)** John 14:15-21

***Responsorial (Stand) #530** "Faith of our Mothers" *ST. CATHERINE*

***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.

Prayer of Dedication – Eternal God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, your love for us is clearly written in your Word and inscribed for all to see across the face of your whole creation. Therefore, we in turn profess and proclaim our love for you, and we seek to do so as you have commanded, by showing our love for one another in acts of service, in gifts of grace and gratitude, and in tender works of love. Bless these gifts, we pray, that they may be used wisely in your spirit of love, and that all who benefit from their use may know they are loved – loved by you and by those who love and believe in you.

A Prayer of Illumination & The Message

The Reverend Ed O'Rear, ABCUSA Clergy, Retired

WE RESPOND TO THE HOLY SPIRIT IN FAITH & SERVICE

Invitation to Faith and Fellowship

***Closing Hymn (Stand) # 113** "Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart"

***Spoken Benediction**

HOW TO BECOME A FULLY DEVOTED FOLLOWER OF JESUS

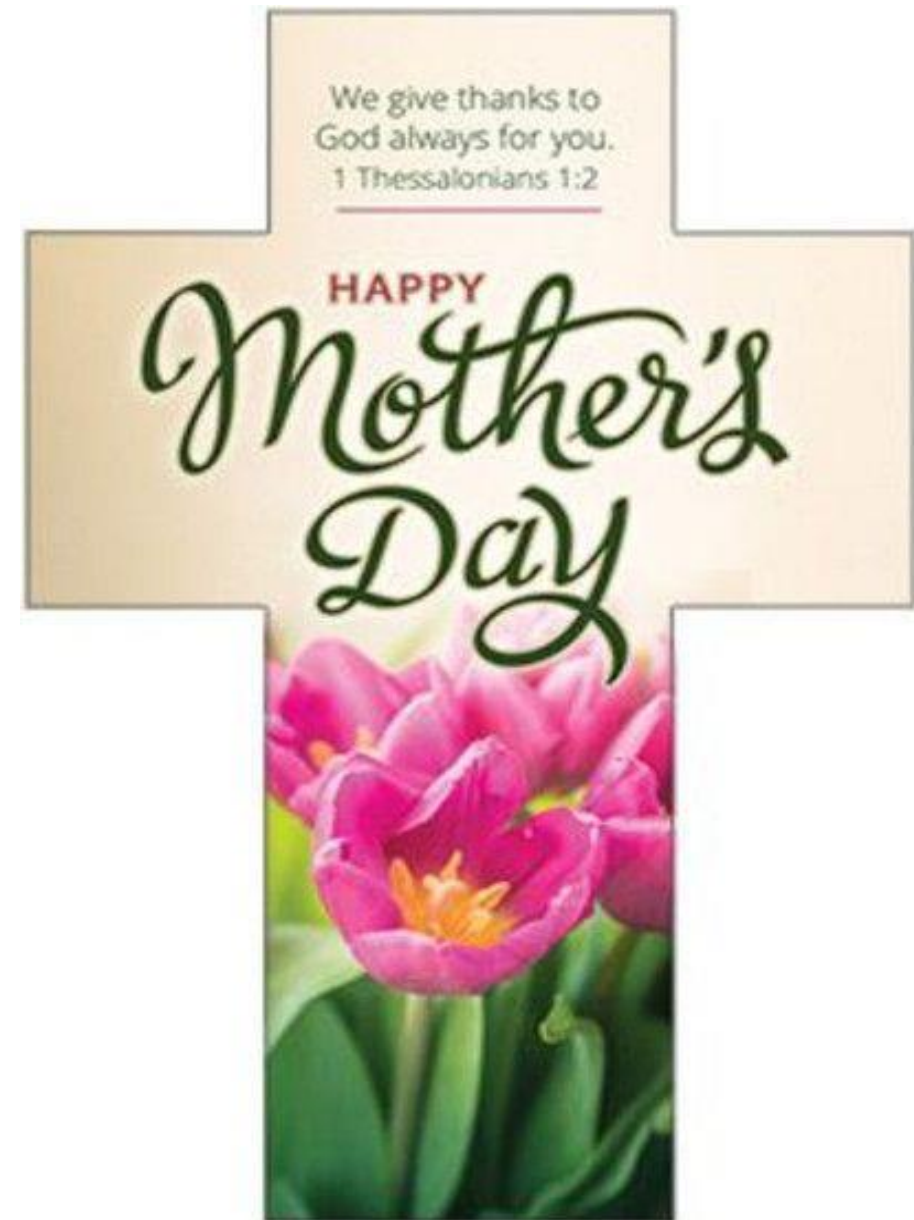
GOOD NEWS! God loves you and wants to rescue all people from the consequences of evil. The Bible teaches the way to become a fully devoted follower of Jesus Christ:

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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