



A Liturgy for Handwashing during a Pandemic

Wes Vander Lugt

As I wash my hands today
wash my heart from fear, I pray
wash my mind from needless fret
wash the world from deadly threat
wash the needy with your grace
wash me as I seek your face
wash me, Jesus, every part
wash me: body, mind, and heart.

CHILDCARE MINISTRY

You can access children's bulletins at the following address:
www.childrensbulletins.com/Covid19-childrens-activites-for-churches



Quotes for Reflection

What did the church do in the year of our Lord 2020 when sickness swept our land? We met in smaller groups, washed our hands and prayed. Unglamorous as this is, it may be the shape of faithfulness in our time . . . It is possible that, strangely enough, the absence of the church will be a great testimony to the presence of God in our care for our neighbors. — Esau McCauley

It is deeply sad that the loving thing to do right now is to step back. It is in our Christian DNA to move toward others. We are called to be one body, reaching out our arms to embrace a hurting world . . . But we do that now by stepping back. — Rebecca McLaughlin

In the midst of the squalor, misery, illness, and anonymity of ancient cities, Christianity provided an island of mercy and security. In contrast, in the pagan world, and especially among the philosophers, mercy was regarded as a character defect and pity as a pathological emotion: because mercy involves providing unearned help or relief, it is contrary to justice. This was the moral climate in which Christianity taught that mercy is one of the primary virtues—that a merciful God requires humans to be merciful. — Rodney Stark

WELCOME TO ABBOTT CHURCH

Please prayer requests to the pastor by text message 410.299.6929

CALL TO WORSHIP (read responsively)

Psalms 23

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

2 He makes me lie down in green pastures.

He leads me beside still waters.

3 He restores my soul.

He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

4 Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff,

they comfort me.

5 You prepare a table before me

in the presence of my enemies;

you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. (Continued)

6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

SILENT PREPARATION

OPENING HYMN

TH#421 Rock of Ages

Rock of Ages, cleft for me, Let me hide myself in Thee;
Let the water and the blood, From Thy riven side which flowed,
Be of sin the double cure, Save me from its guilt and power.

Not the labor of my hands Can fulfill Thy law's demands;
Could my zeal no respite know, Could my tears forever flow,
All for sin could not atone, Thou must save, and thou alone.

Nothing in my hands I bring, Simply to Thy cross I cling;
Naked, come to Thee for dress, Helpless, look to Thee for grace:
Foul, I to the fountain fly, Wash me, Savior, or I die.

While I draw this fleeting breath, When mine eyes shall close in
death, When I soar to worlds unknown, See Thee on Thy judgment
throne, Rock of Ages, cleft for me, Let me hide myself in Thee.

WORDS: Augustus M. Toplady, MUSIC: James Ward

CONFESSION OF SIN

Heavenly Father, we confess to you our fears, our worries, and our
anxieties. You have given us your perfect love which casts out all fear
and your peace which transcends all understanding, but even still we
feel dislodged, displaced, untethered, and uncertain during these
times. We believe, Lord; help our unbelief.

(Please confess your sins silently to the Lord)

WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT & DECLARATION OF PARDON

May Almighty God, who in Jesus Christ has given you a kingdom that cannot be
destroyed, forgive you your sins, open your eyes to God's truth, strengthen you
to do God's will, and give you the joy of his kingdom, through Jesus Christ
our Lord.

All: **AMEN**

HYMN OF PRAISE

TH#27 Great is Thy Faithfulness

**Great is Thy faithfulness," O God my Father,
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not As Thou hast been
Thou forever wilt be.**

**"Great is Thy faithfulness!" "Great is Thy faithfulness!"
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided—
"Great is Thy faithfulness," Lord, unto me!**

**Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above,
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.**

**Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!**

Words: Thomas Obediah Chisholm (1866-1960)

Music: William Marion Runyan (1870-1957)

EXTENDING GOD'S WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS and GREETING

Minister: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All: **And also with you.**

SONG OF PRAISE

Heal us, Emmanuel

**Heal us, Emmanuel, here we are
We long to feel Thy touch
Deep wounded souls to Thee we fly
O Savior hear our cry**

**Our faith is feeble, we confess
We faintly trust Thy word
But will You pity us the less?
Be that far from You Lord! (Continued)**

Remember him who once applied
With trembling for relief
"Lord, I believe, " with tears he cried
"O help my unbelief!"

She, too, who touched you in the press
And healing virtue stole
Was answered, "Daughter, go in peace
Thy faith has made thee whole."

Like her, with hopes and fears we come
To touch You if we may
O send us not despairing home
Send none unhealed away

Words by William Cowper (alt Twit), Music by Kevin Twit and Lucas Morton ©2015 Kevin Twit Music (ASCAP) and Lucas Morton Music (BMI)

CONFESSION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth: I believe in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead; the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

SONG OF PETITION

Break Us

As I sit in the stillness of the darkest night
And I listen to the thoughts of my heart
This heart that is broken
And the wounds that reopened
O, break it by the power of your grace. (Continued)

Break us by the power of your grace
O Lord won't you break us
By the power of your grace
Break us, remake us,
Don't let the sorrow take us
O break us by the power of your grace

When I stand in the presence of a Holy God,
When I flee, and I cover my face,
This heart, hard with shame
Yet you still call my name
Will you break me by the power of your grace?

When I leave this world,
and I'm homeward bound,
To a heaven and earth that's re-made.
This world, full of sorrow,
will be glory tomorrow.
He'll re-make it by the power of His grace.

Words and Music by Kelley McRae

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Please prayer requests to the pastor by text message 410.299.6929

O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people as we cry out to you; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all of your creation; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, giver of life, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Gracious God, the comfort of all who sorrow, the strength of all who suffer: Let the cry of those who grieve come to you, that they may find your mercy present with them in all their afflictions; and give us, we pray, the strength to serve them for the sake of him who suffered for us, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us also pray...

For a swift end to COVID-19.

For those infected and those who have been exposed; grant them strength, healing, and protection. *(Continued)*

For their loved ones and caretakers; **grant them peace, comfort, and endurance.**

For those leading nations; **grant them sound minds, courage, and humility.**

For physicians, nurses, technicians, researchers, administrators, and all other healthcare employees around the world; **grant them strength by your life-giving Spirit, wisdom, and resources to do the work before them.**

For those who must work, despite the threat of sickness; **grant them protection and continued provision.**

For those who have become unemployed or underemployed during this pandemic; **grant them comfort, wisdom, and financial provision.**

For churches and their clergy; **grant them discernment and creativity to lead and minister in unprecedented circumstances.**

For parents and families; **grant them wisdom, patience and joy.**

For children; **grant them protection from fear.**

For those for whom home is not a safe haven; **grant them refuge.**

For those who are alone; **grant them a sense of your nearness and love.**

For all navigating decisions during this time of uncertainty and fear; **grant them your peace.** And for all the prayers we cannot voice because our language is insufficient or our ignorance too great; **Lord, hear our prayer. Amen.**

O God, your unfailing providence sustains the world we live in and the life we live; grant that we may never forget that our common life depends upon each other's toil; **through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Now gathering our prayers into one, let us pray boldly as our Savior has taught us:

**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.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE SERMON

Luke 13:1-9

There were some present at that very time who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. 2 And he answered them, "Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered in this way? 3 No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. 4 Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them: do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others who lived in Jerusalem? 5 No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish."

6 And he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. 7 And he said to the vinedresser, 'Look, for three years now I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and I find none. Cut it down. Why should it use up the ground?' 8 And he answered him, 'Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and put on manure. 9 Then if it should bear fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Pastor Paul Warren

"Whose Fault is it?"

OFFERING

Abbott Church depends on your generosity. It is important to realize that people's needs are only going to increase in the coming months. So will you help us come alongside others as we seek to minister with the good news of Jesus and meet people's needs? You can give online at www.abbottchurch.org/giving or by mailing a check to the church office at 3426 Bank St., Baltimore, MD 21224.

~~CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER~~

- Let's take a moment to mourn the fact that our church body is not able to assemble together this Sunday.
- Pray that the Lord would work to enable us to return to a fuller communion with one another soon.
- Give thanks that though we do not celebrate the sacrament of communion together today we have true communion with Jesus and one another through the power of the Holy Spirit, who dwells in every believer giving us union with Christ and all his people.

CLOSING HYMN

There is a Hope

**There is a hope that burns within my heart,
That gives me strength for every passing day;
A glimpse of glory now revealed in meager part,
Yet drives all doubt away:
I stand in Christ, with sins forgiv'n;
And Christ in me, the hope of heav'n!
My highest calling and my deepest joy, To make His will my home.**

**There is a hope that lifts my weary head,
A consolation strong against despair,
That when the world has plunged me in its deepest pit,
I find the Savior there!
Through present sufferings, future's fear,
He whispers 'courage' in my ear,
For I am safe in everlasting arms, And they will lead me home.**

**There is a hope that stands the test of time,
That lifts my eyes beyond the beckoning grave,
To see the matchless beauty of a day divine
When I behold His face!
When sufferings cease and sorrows die, And every longing satisfied,
Then Joy unspeakable will flood my soul, For I am truly home.**

Words and Music by Stuart Townend and Mark Edwards, 2007

BENEDICTION

**God be with you till we meet again,
By His counsels guide, uphold you,
With His sheep securely fold you,
God be with you till we meet again.**

**Till we meet, till we meet,
Till we meet at Jesus' feet;
Till we meet, till we meet,
God be with you till we meet again.**

**God be with you till we meet again,
'Neath His wings securely hide you,
Daily manna still provide you,
God be with you till we meet again.**

**God be with you till we meet again,
When life's perils thick confound you,
Put His loving arms around you,
God be with you till we meet again.**

**God be with you till we meet again,
Keep love's banner floating o'er you,
Smite death's threatening wave before you,
God be with you till we meet again.**

Sing to the Lord: Lillenas Publishing Co., Kansas City, MO, 1993

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

PRAYER for the SICK - if you would like the elders to pray with you or a family member for healing, please contact the pastor at 410.299.6929.

Directions for accessing Periscope: Once the service begins, please visit twitter.com/abbottchurch from any computer or smartphone. Click on the link that says "abbottchurch is LIVE"

NEED PRAYER? We are beginning a daily noon prayer hour at the church each weekday. From 12:00 PM until 1:00 PM, Monday through Friday, someone will be available here at the church to pray with, and for, anyone in need of prayer. The time will also be focused on praying for the ministry of our church and for God's Spirit to be at work in our midst. If you would like to be part of this new prayer ministry, please let the pastor know.

HE HEARS

“This is the assurance we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.” — 1 JOHN 5:14

Prayer tip: *The Lord is near to all who call on Him, to all who call on Him in truth. Psalm 145:18*

Please pray for:

- Your church staff, officers and leaders
- Men and women of the military, police and fire departments
- Family members and friends who are not walking with Christ
- Ongoing health concerns for the following members and friends:
Larry Halterman, Milly Flynn, Gene and Diane Shaw, Phyllis Brown, Dawn Brewer, Brent Schepleng, Clint Neuder, Brenda Neuder, Robin and Toni (Billie Mitchell’s granddaughters), Narouz family (especially Vicky), Don Sapp, Jackie Lubin
- *Raj Mohan’s wife, dementia, and granddaughter, mental health issues*
- *Lydia Frasca, chemotherapy and radiation treatment*
- *David Files, pain management*
- *Nancy Steigler - cancer surgery, recovery and salvation*

MISSIONARIES AND MINISTRIES WHICH WE SUPPORT:

- Andy and Bev Warren with MTW in Ethiopia
 - Jason and Liz Polk with MTW in Ethiopia
 - Jessica Ringsmuth with MTW in Kenya
 - Bert and Nancy Williams with MTW in Uganda
 - Bruce and Pat with MTW in France
 - Chris Garriott with RUF at the University of Maryland
 - Jacob Jasin with RUF-I at Johns Hopkins University
 - Mountain View Bible Camp — Abbott Center for the Arts
 - Abbott Tutoring Center. — We Care Ministry
- Prayer requests will be removed from list after 4 weeks unless updated*

UPCOMING EVENTS AT ABBOTT

Today, 3/29	10:45 AM Morning Worship
Monday-Friday, 3/30-4/3	12:00 PM Prayer - Please send requests to the pastor or to abbottchurchoffice@gmail.com

COMMUNITY GROUPS & ONGOING EVENTS: ALL ACTIVITIES ARE CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

Tuesdays at 5:45 PM (summer break)	Abbott Tutoring Center Please think about helping in the fall!
1st Wednesdays 7:00 PM	Session Meeting @ Room 7
Thursdays at 11:00 AM	Senior Community Group @ Room 8
Thursdays at 6:30 PM	Highlandtown Community Group @ Warren Home (Manse)
4th Fridays at 6:30 PM (5th Fridays on conflict nights)	Abbott Fellowship Night (FAA) Next Meeting: 10/25
1st & 2nd Saturday mornings 10 AM-12 PM	We Care Center @ Room 7+8
3rd Sundays after worship service	Prayer Group @ Room 8

Welcome to Abbott.

We're glad we worshiped with you today!

March 22, 2020

NAME(S) _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

How may we serve you?

(please check the appropriate box)

- I am a visitor
- I would like to find out about how to become a Christian
- I am interested in membership
(Abbott schedules classes regularly)
- I would like a call from the pastor
- I would like prayer
- I would like to join a community group
- My contact information has changed

Staff Contacts

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