



This . . . is about being at home with God. It is about enjoying the soul-satisfying pleasures of his triune being. What blessings God has in store for everyone who enters his everlasting house! What fellowship we will share with the ancient men of faith, and with believers from all nations! What feasting we will enjoy as we recline together at the table of God! And what joy we will have in Christ, who is the master of God's house! – Phil Ryken

THANK YOU for JOINING US

We are made to worship together, but we find ourselves living in a particular and unprecedented moment that has not touched American lives in generations. The good news is that while we are made to worship God together, we do not need to be in a particular place to meet with God. So I hope you have gathered together with your housemates, family, and maybe a couple others. God is present with us at all times, and He delights to meet with you today regardless of where you are or how many people you are with. We seek to offer this service as an encouragement to you amid these difficult times. We look forward to worshiping together again, breaking bread and giving hugs to one another. You are missed.

As an encouragement to others, please take a picture of your home gathering, post it to social media with the hashtag *#abbottchurchathome* and tag us on Instagram *@abbottchurchbaltimore*

QUOTES for REFLECTION

The narrow door - the tight squeeze in front of absolutely free salvation - is faith in Jesus death . . . It's forbidding narrowness lies not in the fact that it is so small it is hard to find; rather it lies in the fact that it is so repulsive it is hard to accept. It lets in the riffraff, since all they have to be is dead; and offends the classy, since they wouldn't even be caught dead entertaining such a proposition.

-Robert Farrar Capon

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

ORDER OF WORSHIP
THE SEASON OF EASTER

The fullness of the resurrection requires more than a day to unpack. The Easter season is a fifty-day celebration that ends on Pentecost Sunday (the Greek word pentekoste means “fiftieth”). The Easter season is a time to let the implications of the resurrection sink in deeper, inviting us to realign our worldview and conform our living to the reality that we have been raised with Christ to new life. Easter is full of joy and the laughter of love—the grave is empty, love has won, Christ is risen! Give yourself over to the experience of that joy—take in the absolute wonder of God’s purposeful plan of salvation. - Philip Reinders

Thank you for joining our livestream this morning. Please send prayer requests to the pastor by text message 410.299.6929

WELCOME TO ABBOTT CHURCH

CALL TO WORSHIP (read responsively)

Isaiah 45:5-8

5 I am the Lord, and there is no other;
apart from me there is no God.

**I will strengthen you,
though you have not acknowledged me,**

6 so that from the rising of the sun
to the place of its setting

people may know there is none besides me.

I am the Lord, and there is no other.

7 I form the light and create darkness,

I bring prosperity and create disaster;

I, the Lord, do all these things.

8 “You heavens above, rain down my righteousness;
let the clouds shower it down.

Let the earth open wide,

let salvation spring up,

let righteousness flourish with it;

I, the Lord, have created it.

SILENT PREPARATION

OPENING HYMN

TH#400 *Come Thou Fount*

Come, Thou Fount of every blessing, Tune my heart to sing Thy
grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing, Call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet, Sung by flaming tongues above;
Praise the mount, I'm fixed upon it, Mount of God's unchanging love.

Here I raise my Ebenezer; Hither by Thy help I'm come;
And I hope, by Thy good pleasure, Safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, Wand'ring from the fold of God:
He, to rescue me from danger, Interposed His precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be;
Let that grace now, like a fetter, Bind my wand'ring heart to Thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, Prone to leave the God I love;
Here's my heart, O take and seal it, Seal it for Thy courts above.

Words by Robert Robinson, 1758

Music by Asahel Nettleton, 1825

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 COMFORT & ASSURANCE 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**

**Come, all you vagabonds, come all you 'don't belongs'
Winners and losers, come, people like me.
Come all you travelers, tired from the journey,
Come wait a while, stay a while, welcomed you'll be.**

**Come all you questioners, looking for answers,
And searching for reasons, and sense in it all;
Come all you fallen, and come all you broken,
Find strength for your body, and food for your soul.**

***Come to the feast, there is room at the table.
Come let us meet in this place.
With the King of all kindness, Who welcomes us in,
With the wonder of love, and the power of grace.
The wonder of the love, and the power of grace.***

**Come those who worry 'bout houses and money,
And all those who don't have a care in the world;
From every station and orientation,
The helpless, the hopeless, the young and the old.**

**Come all believers and dreamers and schemers,
And come all you restless, just searching for home;
Movers and shakers and givers and takers,
The happy, the sad and the lost and alone.**

**Come self-sufficient with wearied ambition,
And come those who feel at the end of the road.
Fiery debaters and religion haters,
Accusers, abusers, the hurt and ignored.**

Stuart Townend, Mark Edwards & Phil Baggaley

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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

The Age to Come

As we wait for the age to come as we look for the rising sun
we will sing, we will sing

Every nation, tribe, and tongue singing praise to the risen one
to our King, to our King!

*We cry glory to the Lord, glory to the Lord
glory to the Lord almighty reign
Let the Hallelujahs ring, Hallelujahs ring
We rejoice and are glad in our King.*

Oh the day of the Lord draws near when He comes and He wipes
the tears from our eyes, tears from our eyes

And the wolf will dwell with the lamb, reconciled by the great I AM
by our King, by our King!

Words and Music by Mac Meador, 2020

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 PRAISE

TH#549 *Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts*

Jesus, Thou Joy of loving hearts,
Thou Fount of life, Thou Light of men,
From the best bliss that earth imparts,
We turn unfilled to Thee again.

Thy truth unchanged hath ever stood;
Thou savest those that on Thee call;
To them that seek Thee, Thou art good,
To them that find Thee, all in all!

We taste Thee, O Thou living Bread,
And long to feast upon Thee still;
We drink of Thee, the Fountain-head,
And thirst our souls from Thee to fill!

Our restless spirits yearn for Thee,
Where'er our changeful lot is cast;
Glad when Thy gracious smile we see,
Blest, when our faith can hold Thee fast.

O Jesus, ever with us stay,
Make all our moments calm and bright,
Chase the dark night of sin away,
Shed o'er the world Thy holy light.

Words by Bernard of Clairvaux 1150

Arr. and tr. by Ray Palmer 1858

Music by Henry Baker, 1862

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

As we continue to join hands from a distance, here are 20 prayers for our neighbors everywhere:

- 1. For the church, struggling with faith in the midst of global suffering: God, we believe in your willingness to heal and your power to do so. Help our unbelief.*
- 2. For those who have turned to faith in Jesus for the very first time during this pandemic: God, help our new brothers and sisters grow in the grace and knowledge of our Savior. (continued)*

3. *For those who don't know Jesus yet but find their hearts stirred by spiritual curiosities and eternal longings: God, in your kindness, lead many to repentance and obedient faith in your Son.*
4. *For first responders and frontline health care workers, especially in epicenters of infection: God, reinforce their ranks and strengthen them with supernatural energy.*
5. *For companies with the ability (and the mandate) to manufacture much-needed protective equipment for our frontline health care workers: God, establish the work of their hands.*
6. *For transit workers, police officers, and other public servants working tirelessly, often without adequate protection: God, give them stamina every day and keep them from falling ill.*
7. *For nursing homes, rehabilitation centers, and other long-term care facilities: God, encourage the lonely residents and strengthen the staff members who help them. Prevent further spread of infection, and comfort families who can no longer visit their loved ones.*
8. *For the incarcerated, who are particularly vulnerable to the spread of this virus: God, give wisdom to prison officials. Protect inmates and staff from both violence and illness. Deliver them all from fear.*
9. *For women and children in abusive situations: God, restrain those who commit harm. Provide protection and rescue for victims and comfort them in their vulnerability.*
10. *For countries in the developing world: God, contain the spread of infection in our world's most densely populated and poorest cities. Spare countries already burdened with disease and chronic poor health.*
11. *For Asian Americans in the United States, Africans in China, and other people all over the world subjected to COVID-related racism: God, confront this evil with your swift justice, and deliver our brothers and sisters from cruelty.*
12. *For everyone anxious about the economic future—how they'll pay for housing, food, and essential medicines: God, connect them to sources of help through the church, the government, and the community. Enable them to look toward you for provision.*
13. *For small churches without cash reserves: God, keep their doors open, and urge your people to give generously.*
14. *For educators, forced to adapt curricula to online learning, and for students, forced to exercise more autonomy: God, make homes a place of curiosity, inquiry, and study. Give special help to children without regular access to the internet and other digital tools.*

(continued)

15. For those disappointed by the cancellation of milestone celebrations like graduations, weddings, or baby showers: God, comfort them in their disappointments, and make it possible for them to gather again with friends and family.

16. For expectant mothers, who face the prospect of labor and delivery without the support team they'd planned for: God, deliver them from fear, and fill them with joy as they witness new life.

17. For women facing unexpected pregnancy in this time of economic crisis: God, help them to find the practical and emotional support they need to keep them from seeking abortions.

18. For churches, parachurch ministries, and other Christian organizations doing online evangelism and discipleship: God, bless our imperfect digital efforts and continue to advance the kingdom of Jesus through your people.

19. For those dying alone in hospitals and for their loved ones: God, draw near to them and, by your mercy, let them encounter Christ, the friend who never leaves and never forsakes.

20. For those involved with politics at every level: God, help our leaders to work collaboratively and communicate efficiently, setting aside self-interest for the common good.

God, we acknowledge that you spoke the world into being and continue to sustain it with your Word. We trust in your wisdom, power, and goodness. Help us at every opportunity to love as you loved and to serve as you serve. Give us courage to speak of our hope in Jesus, who suffered for us, rose from the dead, and is coming again. Amen.

-Jen Pollock Michel

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 13:22-30

22 He went on his way through towns and villages, teaching and journeying toward Jerusalem. 23 And someone said to him, "Lord, will those who are saved be few?" And he said to them, 24 "Strive to enter through the narrow door. For many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able. 25 When once the master of the house has risen and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and to knock at the door, saying, 'Lord, open to us,' then he will answer you, 'I do not know where you come from.' 26 Then you will begin to say, 'We ate and drank in your presence, and you taught in our streets.' 27 But he will say, 'I tell you, I do not know where you come from. Depart from me, all you workers of evil!' 28 In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God but you yourselves cast out. 29 And people will come from east and west, and from north and south, and recline at table in the kingdom of God. 30 And behold, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last."

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Pastor Paul Warren

"Only a few?"

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.

-Ask God to grow into a deeper hunger and desire to commune with him and his people in this time of waiting and separation.

CLOSING HYMN

We Will Feast in the House of Zion

We will feast in the house of Zion.

We will sing with our hearts restored.

He has done great things, we will say together.

We will feast and weep no more.

We will not be burned by the fire; He is the LORD our God.

We are not consumed, by the flood; Upheld, protected, gathered up.

In the dark of night, before the dawn, My soul, be not afraid.

For the promised morning, oh how long? Oh God of Jacob, be my strength.

Every vow we've broken and betrayed, You are the Faithful One

And from the garden to the grave, Bind us together, bring shalom.

We Will Feast in the House of Zion Words and Music Sandra McCracken

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POSTLUDE

God be with You Till We Meet Again

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.

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.

*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,
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.

*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.*

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

BENEDICTION

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 ONLINE

Today, 4/26	10:45 AM Morning Worship
Monday-Friday, 4/27-5/1	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!

April 26, 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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