



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*

Please send prayer requests to George by text message 804-931-6323

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

WELCOME TO ABBOTT CHURCH

CALL TO WORSHIP (read responsively)

Psalm 4

Answer me when I call, O God of my righteousness!

You have given me relief when I was in distress.

Be gracious to me and hear my prayer!

Know that the Lord has set apart the godly for himself;

the Lord hears when I call to him.

Be angry, and do not sin;

ponder in your own hearts on your beds, and be silent.

Offer right sacrifices,

and put your trust in the Lord.

There are many who say, “Who will show us some good?”

Lift up the light of your face upon us, O Lord!”

You have put more joy in my heart

than they have when their grain and wine abound.

In peace I will both lie down and sleep;

for you alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety.

SILENT PREPARATION

OPENING HYMN

Abba Father We Approach Thee

Abba, Father! We approach Thee
In our Savior's precious name;
We, Thy children, here assembled,
Now Thy promised blessing claim;
From our sins His blood hath washed us,
'Tis through Him our souls draw nigh,
And Thy Spirit, too, hath taught us,
Abba, Father, thus to cry.

Once as prodigals we wandered
In our folly far from Thee,
But Thy grace, o'er sin abounding,
Rescued us from misery;
Thou Thy prodigals hast pardoned,
Kissed us with a Father's love,
Spread the festive board, and called us,
E'er to dwell with Thee above.

Clothed in garments of salvation,
At Thy table is our place,
We rejoice, and Thou rejoicest,
In the riches of Thy grace;
It is meet, we hear Thee saying,
We should merry and be glad,
I have found My once lost children,
Now they live who once were dead.

Abba, Father! all adore Thee,
All rejoice in Heav'n above,
While in us they learn the wonders
Of Thy wisdom, grace, and love;
Soon before Thy throne assembled,
All Thy children shall proclaim,
Glory, everlasting glory,
Be to God and to the Lamb!

CONFESSION OF SIN *(In unison)*

**Father of mercy,
we come to you heavy-laden,
burdened by the weight of sin
and wearied by the brokenness of our world.
Turn us from trusting in our own wisdom,
forgive and free us, and grant us a childlike faith in you.**
(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**

HYMN OF PRAISE

Compassion Hymn

**There is an everlasting kindness
You lavished on us
When the Radiance of heaven Came to rescue the lost;
You called the sheep without a shepherd
To leave their distress
For your streams of forgiveness
And the shade of Your rest.**

**And with compassion for the hurting,
You reached out Your hand
As the lame ran to meet You
And the dead breathed again;
You saw behind the eyes of sorrow
And shared in our tears,
Heard the sigh of the weary,
Let the children draw near.**

CHORUS

What boundless love,
What fathomless grace
You have shown us, O God of compassion!
Each day we live
An offering of praise
As we show to the world Your compassion.

We stood beneath the cross of Calvary
And gazed on Your face
At the thorns of oppression
And the wounds of disgrace,
For surely You have borne our suffering
And carried our grief
As You pardoned the scoffer
And showed grace to the thief.

How beautiful the feet that carry
This gospel of peace
To the fields of injustice
And the valleys of need—
To be a voice of hope and healing,
To answer the cries
Of the hungry and helpless
With the mercy of Christ.

Words and Music by Keith & Kristyn Getty & Stuart Townend, 2008

EXTENDING GOD'S WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS and GREETING

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

All: **And also with you.**

Holy Spirit, living Breath of God,
Breathe new life into my willing soul.
Bring the presence of the risen Lord
To renew my heart and make me whole.
Cause Your Word to come alive in me;
Give me faith for what I cannot see;
Give me passion for Your purity. Holy Spirit, breathe new life in me.

Holy Spirit, come abide within; May Your joy be seen in all I do—
Love enough to cover ev'ry sin
In each thought and deed and attitude,
Kindness to the greatest and the least,
Gentleness that sows the path of peace.
Turn my striving into works of grace.
Breath of God, show Christ in all I do.

Holy Spirit, from creation's birth,
Giving life to all that God has made,
Show Your power once again on earth;
Cause Your church to hunger for Your ways.
Let the fragrance of our prayers arise.
Lead us on the road of sacrifice
That in unity the face of Christ Will be clear for all the world to see.

Holy Spirit, Living Breath of God, Keith Getty & Stuart Townend
© 2005 Thankyou Music CCLI#14442252

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Members of the congregation lead us in prayer.

Our Father in heaven, help us to love what you love and to trust you more deeply with our lives.

Grant us grace to turn from our hypocrisy.

For this, O Lord, we pray:

All Lord, hear our prayer.

Lord Jesus Christ, bring your kingdom to bear upon our lives, this city, and your world.

May we all know your justice, peace, and daily provision. For this, O Lord, we pray:

All Lord, hear our prayer.

Spirit of God, help us in our weakness, and move us to pray as we ought.

Renew us daily in the likeness of Christ. For this, O Lord, we pray:

All Lord, hear our prayer.

And for what else should we pray?

Members of the congregation may add their own intercessions at this time, ending with, For this, O Lord, we pray:

All Lord, hear our prayer.

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

Acts 6

¹ In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenistic Jews[a] among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food.² So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, "It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables."³ Brothers and sisters, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them⁴ and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word."

⁵ This proposal pleased the whole group. They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit; also Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas from Antioch, a convert to Judaism. ⁶ They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

⁷ So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith.

⁸ Now Stephen, a man full of God's grace and power, performed great wonders and signs among the people. ⁹ Opposition arose, however, from members of the Synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called)—Jews of Cyrene and Alexandria as well as the provinces of Cilicia and Asia—who began to argue with Stephen. ¹⁰ But they could not stand up against the wisdom the Spirit gave him as he spoke.

¹¹ Then they secretly persuaded some men to say, "We have heard Stephen speak blasphemous words against Moses and against God."

¹² So they stirred up the people and the elders and the teachers of the law. They seized Stephen and brought him before the Sanhedrin. ¹³ They produced false witnesses, who testified, "This fellow never stops speaking against this holy place and against the law. ¹⁴ For we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and change the customs Moses handed down to us."

¹⁵ All who were sitting in the Sanhedrin looked intently at Stephen, and they saw that his face was like the face of an angel.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Pastor Karl Dortzbach

"Prickly Relationships"

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.

CLOSING HYMN

Chosen and Sent by the Father

**Chosen and sent by the Father before earth's creation,
Christ came from heaven in mercy to bring us salvation.
Now he sends you, God's mighty plan to pursue.
Go in the strength of His Spirit!**

**He conquered death and the grave, and our foe is defeated.
Now to earth's end must the story of hope be repeated.
So He sends you—daily His conquest renew.
Live in the strength of His Spirit!**

**He will be in you, before and behind and beside you.
All that you need he has pledged by His blood to provide you.
Thus He sends you—prove that his promise is true.
Strong in the strength of His Spirit!**

**When you have worked till life's end and his mandate completed,
Then at His side by the throne of His glory be seated.
But till that day his last commandment obey,
strengthened in might by His Spirit.**

**Savior and Lord of our lives, for your call we adore You.
All that we are we would offer in worship before You.
Ready to go, ready Your fullness to know,
Ready to serve by Your Spirit!**

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.

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

BENEDICTION

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

NEED PRAYER? From 12:00 PM until 1:00 PM, Monday through Friday, someone will be available to pray 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. Please text prayer requests to Julius or George.

The May/June Upper Rooms are have arrived at the office. Please let the office know if you would like one mailed to you. Please signify large or small edition. We can also let you do a curbside pick-up if you want to come by the office. You can also get the daily meditation from their website using the following address: <https://www.upperroom.org/devotionals>
Or if you prefer a PDF version for download to your computer or print, use this address: <https://upperroom.org/covid-19>

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, 6/14	10:45 AM Morning Worship
Monday-Friday, 6/15-6/19	12:00 PM Prayer -Please send requests to Julius, George, or to abbottchurchoffice@gmail.com

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

Tuesdays at 5:45 PM	Abbott Tutoring Center. Please see Ann Pfeifer - we need tutors!
1st Wednesdays 7:00 PM	Session Meeting @ Room 8 Next Meeting TBD
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)
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!

JUNE 14, 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

CLERK OF SESSION:

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