



Although claiming my true identity as a child of God, I still live as though the God to whom I am returning demands an explanation. I still think about his love as conditional and about home as a place I am not yet fully sure of. While walking home, I keep entertaining doubts about whether I will be truly welcome when I get there... Belief in total, absolute forgiveness does not come readily.

-Henri Nouwen

To those joining us on line today...THANK YOU!

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 the pastor by text message 410.299.6929

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

ORDER OF WORSHIP

WELCOME TO ABBOTT CHURCH

CALL TO WORSHIP (read responsively)

Psalm 84:1-4, 10-12

How lovely is your dwelling place,
O Lord of hosts!

**2 My soul longs, yes, faints
for the courts of the Lord;**

my heart and flesh sing for joy
to the living God.

**3 Even the sparrow finds a home,
and the swallow a nest for herself,
where she may lay her young,**

at your altars, O Lord of hosts,
my King and my God.

**4 Blessed are those who dwell in your house,
ever singing your praise!**

For a day in your courts is better
than a thousand elsewhere.

**I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God
than dwell in the tents of wickedness.**

11 For the Lord God is a sun and shield;
the Lord bestows favor and honor.

**No good thing does he withhold
from those who walk uprightly.**

**12 O Lord of hosts,
blessed is the one who trusts in you!**

SILENT PREPARATION

OPENING HYMN

TH#400 Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

**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 Thy redeeming love**

**Here I raise my Ebenezer;
Here there by Thy great help I've come;
And I hope, by Thy good pleasure,
Safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
Wandering 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 *(In unison)*

Father, we have run from your love.

**We have marred your image in us,
sinning against heaven and against you.**

We are not worthy to be called your children. We turn to you again.

**Have mercy on us, because we know you let go of heaven
to run and hold us in your arms.**

We who were content eating dead husks

now look forward to the heavenly banquet through Christ our Lord.

Amen.(Please confess your sins silently to the Lord)

WORDS OF COMFORT & ASSURANCE OF PARDON

May God who loved the world so much that he sent his Son to be our Saviour
forgive you your sins and make you holy to serve him in the world, through
Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: **AMEN**

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!"

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

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.**

**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

Members of the congregation lead us in prayer.

Father, many times, human leaders of your church have become like the older brother in the parable. Protect us from pride and self-righteousness.

May we always rejoice as the wayward come home and be ready to admit when we've strayed. For this, O Lord, we pray:

All Lord, hear our prayer.

Lord, as we have run from you, we have not only marred your image in us but have wrought destruction on the world. Help us to repent of destructive dominion. Help us rejoice in the beauty of your world and be stewards of the corners of it we can change. For this, O Lord, we pray:

All Lord, hear our prayer.

Father, you came to earth and partook of our sorrows. You know what it is like to depend on the goodwill of others for your daily survival. Please comfort those who are in need: of shelter, of food, of money, or those who are suffering from poverty of relationships. Let us see their need with new eyes and step into their lives as you did into ours.

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:

**All 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

11 And he said, "There was a man who had two sons. 12 And the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.' And he divided his property between them. 13 Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living.

14 And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. 15 So he went and hired himself out to[a] one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. 16 And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything.

17 "But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! 18 I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. 19 I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants."' 20 And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. 21 And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' 22 But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. 23 And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. 24 For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to celebrate.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

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~~

-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

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.**

(continued)

**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

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 the pastor, Julius and/or George.

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

"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*
- *Shelly Armstrong, pancreatic cancer, on hospice care*

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, 9/27	10:45 AM Morning Worship
Monday-Friday, every week	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	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!

September 27, 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

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