



apud: phillip medhurst

PARABLE OF THE UNJUST STEWARD. LUKE 16:1-9. JAN LUYKEN

excudit: harry kossuth

Instead of hoarding money and land, Jesus' advice was to use it, as far as one could, to make friends. -N.T. Wright

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

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.

**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#109 *This is my Father's*

World

**This is my Father's world,
And to my list'ning ears,
All nature sings, and round me rings
The music of the spheres.
This is my Father's world:
I rest me in the thought
Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas;
His hands the wonders wrought.**

**This is my Father's world,
The birds their carols raise,
The morning light, the lily white,
Declare their Maker's praise.
This is my Father's world:
He shines in all that's fair;
In the rustling grass I hear him pass,
He speaks to me everywhere.**

**This is my Father's world,
O let me ne'er forget
That though the wrong seems oft so strong,
God is the ruler yet.
This is my Father's world:
The battle is not done;
Jesus who died shall be satisfied,
And earth and heav'n be one.**

Words: Maltbie D. Babcock, 1901

Music: Franklin L. Sheppard, 1915

Arr. Edward Shippen Barnes, 1926

CONFESSION OF SIN *(In unison)*

**Father of all compassion, too often we do not trust your care for us.
We wait impatiently and grow faint but do not look to your provision.
We observe the scarcity of our resources with little faith and meager
hope. Have mercy upon us and forgive us. Fill us and send us out.
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**

HYMN OF PRAISE

For the Cause

**For the cause of Christ the King we give our lives, an offering
'Til all the earth resounds with ceaseless praise to the Son**

**For the cause of Christ we go with joy to reap, with faith to sow
As many see and many put their trust in the Son**

**Christ we proclaim, The Name above every name:
For all creation, ev'ry nation, God's salvation through the Son!**

**For the King once lifted high to cries of rage, of 'crucify!'
Endured the cross as every sin was laid on the Son**

**To the King who conquered death
To free the poor and the oppressed
For lasting peace for life and liberty in the Son**

**Let it be my life's refrain: to live is Christ, to die is gain;
Deny myself, take up my cross and follow the Son**

— WORDS AND MUSIC BY KEITH GETTY, KRISTYN GETTY, AND STUART TOWNEND
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Townend & Simon Brading

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

My Worth is Not in What I Own

**My worth is not in what I own; not in the strength of flesh and bone.
But in the costly wounds of love
At the cross.**

**My worth is not in skill or name; in win or lose, in pride or shame.
But in the blood of Christ that flowed
At the cross.**

*I rejoice in my Redeemer
Greatest Treasure,
Wellspring of my soul.
I will trust in Him, no other.
My soul is satisfied in Him alone.*

**As summer flowers we fade and die;
Fame, youth and beauty hurry by.
But life eternal calls to us
At the cross.**

**I will not boast in wealth or might, or human wisdom's fleeting light.
But I will boast in knowing Christ
At the cross.**

**Two wonders here that I confess; my worth and my unworthiness.
My value fixed - my ransom paid
At the cross.**

My Worth is Not in What I Own Words and Music by Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty, Graham Kendrick ©2014 Getty Music Publishing and Makeway Music CCLI 1442252

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Members of the congregation lead us in prayer.

Loving Father, send your church into the world as a people who look to the interests of others and who long for one another with the love of Christ. For this, O Lord, we pray:

All Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for leaders to strive for justice and peace; may all who suffer oppression or violence be delivered, that your church might freely minister reconciliation. For this, O Lord, we pray:

All Lord, hear our prayer.

We ask your mercy upon all who are sick or in distress; heal and comfort them in both body and spirit, and deliver them from anxiety and grant them joy. For this, O Lord, we pray:

All Lord, hear our prayer.

We beg your mercy upon the homeless, poor, and needy: grant them homes, opportunities, and resources to find relief. May we be messengers of your generous provision. 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
and the glory now and forever. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE FOR THE SERMON

Luke 16:1-9

He also said to the disciples, "There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was wasting his possessions. 2 And he called him and said to him, 'What is this that I hear about you? Turn in the account of your management, for you can no longer be manager.' 3 And the manager said to himself, 'What shall I do, since my master is taking the management away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. 4 I have decided what to do, so that when I am removed from management, people may receive me into their houses.' 5 So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he said to the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' 6 He said, 'A hundred measures of oil.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, and sit down quickly and write fifty.' 7 Then he said to another, 'And how much do you owe?' He said, 'A hundred measures of wheat.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, and write eighty.' 8 The master commended the dishonest manager for his shrewdness. For the sons of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than the sons of light. 9 And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of unrighteous wealth, so that when it fails they may receive you into the eternal dwellings.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Warren

Pastor Paul

"The Parable of the Shrewd Manager"

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

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

Streets of the City

**Lord, we stand in the shallows of all you have given,
Grateful for mercy yet hungry for more,
for the power of grace to go out from this place
to the ends of the earth.**

**We have praised You with passion and worshipped in wonder,
thrilled by Your Spirit and fed by Your word;
now to fully delight in the riches of Christ
we must go to the world.**

**For You live in the streets of the city,
You stand with the weak and the needy,
You walk with the homeless and hungry and poor.
And Your hands are the hands I am lifting,
Your voice is the life I am living;
Your love longs to meet them, but how will they know,
unless I am willing to go?**

**Lord, where are You hungry and where are You thirsty,
naked, imprisoned, with no one to care?
To give of our best to the poor and oppressed
is to give back to You. *(continued)***

**So cause us to see with the eyes of the Savior,
Give us a heart that will love as you love;
courageous compassion in words and in action
brings hope to the world.**

**You live in the streets of the city,
You stand with the weak and the needy,
You walk with the homeless and hungry and poor.
And Your hands are the hands I am lifting,
Your voice is the life I am living;
Your love longs to meet them, but how will they know?
That you live in the streets of the city,**

**You stand with the weak and the needy
You walk with the homeless and hungry and poor.
And your hands are the hands I am lifting,
Your voice is the life I am living,
Without us there's no other way they will know,
So send me, I'm ready to go.**

Stuart Townend

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PRAYERS FOR REFLECTION

Prayer for those searching

Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. Please guide me, teach me, and open to me the reality of who you are. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. Give me an understanding of you that is coherent, convincing, and that leads to the life that you promise. Amen.

Prayer of belief

Lord Jesus Christ, I admit that I am weak and sinful, but through you I am loved and accepted. I thank you for taking my place in death, in order to offer me forgiveness and renewal. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as my Savior and my Lord. Amen.

Prayer for those struggling with sin

Lord Jesus, grant that I may see in you the fulfillment of all my need, and may turn from every false satisfaction to feed on you, the true and living bread. Enable me to lay aside the sin that clings so closely, and faithfully follow you in life. Amen.

Prayer of commitment to God's people

Lord Jesus, you have called us to follow you in baptism and in a life of committed discipleship in your church. Grant that I may take the steps necessary to be one with your people and live in the fullness of your Spirit. Amen.

Prayer of thanksgiving

Lord, you have put gladness in our hearts; you have satisfied our hunger with good things. In giving all, you have not withheld from us your own dear Son. How can we withhold anything from you, our Lord and our God? Renew us day by day with the gift of your Spirit, that we may give ourselves completely to your service and walk with joy in the footsteps of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

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.

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, we will not be having our traditional community **Thanksgiving celebration** this year. However, at this time, we are making plans to do carry out meals on Thanksgiving Day. Taking every possible precaution, we will NOT be accepting any food donations this year, but we are asking for financial donations to cover all of the costs we anticipate in preparing and serving the meal. We will also be limiting the number of volunteers. If you are interested in participating in any way, please indicate on a tear-off form, or see Jerry & Ann Pfeifer for more information.

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

UPCOMING EVENTS AT ABBOTT ONLINE

Today, 10/11	10:45 AM Morning Worship
Monday-Friday, every week	12:00 PM Prayer -Please send requests to the pastor or to abbottchurchoffice@gmail.com

This morning we will again be offering a **Children's Church** program during the morning worship service. The 3rd floor is set up to accommodate proper social distancing and we ask that children that want to participate please wear masks. If you have questions, please contact Ann Pfeifer.

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!

October 11, 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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