



Praying is not about getting God to give us what we want; it is about learning to want what God wants to give. And he is not out to make us rich or powerful or successful. God is certainly not out to help us get our own way in everything. He wants to make us more like Jesus. The prayer life of a mature disciple reflects a desire to receive from God those good gifts that will help him or her reflect Jesus' heart and actions more closely, combined with the confidence that God will answer such prayers.

— David DeSilva, *Sacramental Life*

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)

selected verses from Psalm 145

The Lord is gracious and merciful,

slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

The Lord is good to all,

and his mercy is over all that he has made.

All your works shall give thanks to you, O Lord,

and all your saints shall bless you!

They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom

and tell of your power,

to make known to the children of man your mighty deeds,

and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,

and your dominion endures throughout all generations.

The Lord is faithful in all his words

and kind in all his works.

The Lord upholds all who are falling

and raises up all who are bowed down.

The eyes of all look to you,

and you give them their food in due season.

You open your hand;

you satisfy the desire of every living thing.

The Lord is righteous in all his ways

and kind in all his works.

The Lord is near to all who call on him,

to all who call on him in truth.

He fulfills the desire of those who fear him;

he also hears their cry and saves them.

My mouth will speak the praise of the Lord,

and let all flesh bless his holy name forever and ever.

SILENT PREPARATION

**O God, our help in ages past, our Hope for years to come,
Our Shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal Home:**

**Under the shadow of Thy throne Thy saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is Thine arm alone, and our defense is sure.**

**Before the hills in order stood, or earth received her frame,
From everlasting Thou art God, to endless years the same.**

**A thousand ages in Thy sight are like an evening gone;
Short as the watch that ends the night before the rising sun.**

**The busy tribes of flesh and blood, with all their lives and cares,
Are carried downward by they flood, and lost in following years.**

**Time, like an ever-rolling stream, bears all its sons away;
They fly forgotten, as a dream dies at the opening day.**

**O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
Be Thou our guard while life shall last, and our eternal home.**

Words by Isaac Watts, 1719, Music ascribed to William Croft, 1708

CONFESSION OF SIN *(In unison)*

Faithful God, you are the source of all beauty, goodness, truth, and love. But in our need for these things, we search many other places and settle for the counterfeits we find instead of asking you in prayer to provide what you will certainly give us. Forgive and restore us, generous Father.

(Please confess your sins silently to the Lord)

WORDS OF COMFORT & ASSURANCE OF PARDON

May God who has given you Christ for knowledge of himself and salvation, graciously give you also His pardon and His peace.

All: **AMEN**

**Come, my soul, thy suit prepare:
Jesus loves to answer prayer;
He himself has bid thee pray,
Therefore will not say thee nay.
Therefore will not say thee nay.**

**Thou art coming to a King,
Large petitions with thee bring;
For His grace and pow'r are such,
None can ever ask too much.
None can ever ask too much.**

**With my burden I begin:
Lord, remove this load of sin;
Let thy blood, for sinners spilt,
Set my conscience free from guilt.
Set my conscience free from guilt.**

**Lord, I come to Thee for rest,
Take possession of my breast;
There Thy blood-bought right maintain,
And without a rival reign.
And without a rival reign.**

**While I am a pilgrim here,
Let Thy love my spirit cheer;
As my Guide, my Guard, my Friend,
Lead me to my journey's end.
Lead me to my journey's end.**

**Show me what I have to do,
Ev'ry hour my strength renew:
Let me live a life of faith,
Let me die thy people's death.
Let me die thy people's death.**

*Come, My Soul Thy Suit Prepare words John Newton
music Julius Fischer Jr. ©2016*

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

Lord You Hear the Cry (Lord Have Mercy)

**Lord, you hear the cry of the widow weeping;
Lord, you hear the cry of the child ill-treated;
Lord, you hear the cry of the depressed one sinking;
Lord, have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy on us.**

**Lord, you hear the sound of the proud ones laughing;
Lord, you hear the sound of the childless hoping;
Lord, you hear the sound of those in debt and struggling;
Lord, have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy on us.**

*Break the heavens, Lord,
you said the poor are not forgotten.*

*Let your justice roar
in mighty waves across the earth.*

*Come and whisper peace,
O God of generous compassion.*

*Lord, have mercy on us,
Lord, have mercy on us.*

**Lord, you hear the sound of the addict craving;
Lord, you hear the sound of the greed of nations;
Lord, you hear the sound of the martyrs praying;
Lord, have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy on us.**

**Lord, we hear the sound of your kingdom coming;
Resurrection Day for creation groaning.
Mercy I receive, pouring out in loving;
Lord, have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy on us.
Lord, have mercy on us.**

© Geraldine Latty / Resound Worship, Administered by Jubilate Hymns Ltd

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Members of the congregation lead us in prayer.

Holy Spirit, we are burdened with the weight of relationships with conflict, broken trust, and tension. Give us grace to love and be loved out of the abundance of your love for us.

For this, O Lord, we pray:

All **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Jesus, we pray for comfort and healing for those who are sick. Give them wise caregivers and understanding companions, and to those whose struggles are long, give endurance and hope.

For this, O Lord, we pray:

All **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Father, we ask for your provision for those facing financial hardship. Send hands that provide for their needs, words to quiet their hearts, and your hope to see your kingdom coming stronger and surer than wealth. 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.**

And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart. 2 He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor respected man. 3 And there was a widow in that city who kept coming to him and saying, 'Give me justice against my adversary.' 4 For a while he refused, but afterward he said to himself, 'Though I neither fear God nor respect man, 5 yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will give her justice, so that she will not beat me down by her continual coming.'" 6 And the Lord said, "Hear what the unrighteous judge says. 7 And will not God give justice to his elect, who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long over them? 8 I tell you, he will give justice to them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Pastor Paul Warren

"Just 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

Communion, also called the Lord's Supper, is the family meal of Christians. We invite all baptized followers of Jesus Christ to participate. If you are not a follower of Jesus or are not prepared to share in the meal, we encourage you to spend this time in prayer. We hope this time is helpful to you as you consider your relationship with Jesus Christ and with his people, the church.

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS

*Beginning at the front of the sanctuary and working our way back, worshipers may move out of their row toward the east aisle (Manse side) of the sanctuary. Everyone **MUST** be masked to participate as they come to the table.*

At the front of the church in the east aisle, there is a hand sanitizing station where you can sanitize before approaching the table.

As you come to the table, the trays will be uncovered and you may take a cup containing a piece of bread and move across the table to take a cup of juice.

Please return to your seat down the west aisle (Parking lot side) and hold the elements until everyone that wants to participate has received them.

The pastor will invite the participants to remove their masks only long enough to partake of each element. There will be trash receptacles at each door exiting the sanctuary and everyone will be asked to dispose of their own cups.

CLOSING HYMN

There is Grace for Me

*When darkness surrounds me,
When every hope and dream
Lies broken in my hands,
Your kindness reminds me
That there is one who understands;
One who walked this lonely road before,
One who gives me strength to say:*

*Every hour in my deepest need
There is grace for me, there is grace for me.
By Your power whenever I am weak,
There is grace for me, there is grace enough for me.*

*Stand by me, revive me
When I am weary with the sorrow and the loss.
Release me, and teach me
To bring my burdens to the cross;
Blood that cleanses every trace of sin,
Love that mends the broken heart.*

*Grace when the battle is long,
Grace when temptation is strong,
Grace when my courage is gone
And doubts confound me.*

*Grace for the faith to believe,
Grace for the heart to receive,
Grace for the power to leave
The past behind me,
Christ before me,
All my hope in You!*

Susan Ashton, Chris Eaton & Stuart Townend

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BENEDICTION

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.

WE NEED YOU! There are currently many areas of service and leadership that you may be able to fill. Some areas of need are immediate and can be done during this time of COVID and limited in person activities, others are more strategic and longer term. Ministries such as "WeCare", children's ministry, social media, diaconal programs, teaching, and more all have needs. If you know of someone that you believe would make a good elder or deacon, we would encourage you to speak to that person and encourage them towards that ministry. Also speak to one of the elders or the pastor about them and let us know so that we can follow up as well.

The **SALAAM CENTER** is hoping to bless immigrant families with Christmas gifts and bags of food/hygiene items this year. They still have about 30 families with children to be "adopted." It would involve buying a "fun" gift (not clothes, up to \$20) for each child and providing a bag of food/hygiene items for the family. If you would like to adopt a family(ies), please let us know what number of kids you would like. The Salaam Center will then send you the first names of the family members, and the gender and ages of the kids.

They also need bags of food/hygiene items for about 25 couples/individuals. The suggested items for the food bags are: flour, sugar, basmati or jasmine rice, olive or cooking oil, tea or coffee (American is fine), and nuts of any kind or a special holiday treat. You could add hygiene items, like shampoo, toothpaste, deodorant, etc. or other small kitchen or household items if you'd like.

If you'd rather collect food/hygiene items and have the Center make up the bags, no problem.

The Center would like to have items by December 14th, so there's time to fill in any gaps. If anyone who would like to help deliver gifts and food, the Center is planning that all of it will be delivered over 2 days, either the two days before Christmas or the weekend (maybe Friday, Saturday) before Christmas. (This will keep many people from calling or coming to the Center to see when they'll get their gift.).

Please indicate your interest on a tear-off form or send an email to abbottchurchoffice@gmail.com.

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*
- *Armstrong family - bereavement*
- *Rode family - bereavement*

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, 11/22	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 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 ages 3-7 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!

November 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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polowarren@gmail.com

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