



*The webbing together of God, humans, and all creation in justice, fulfillment, and delight is what the Hebrew prophets called shalom. We call it peace, but it means far more than mere peace of mind or a cease-fire between enemies. In the Bible, shalom means universal flourishing, wholeness and delight — a rich state of affairs in which natural needs are satisfied and natural gifts fruitfully employed, a state of affairs that inspires joyful wonder as its Creator and Savior opens doors and welcomes the creatures in whom he delights. Shalom, in other words, is the way things ought to be.*

*- Cornelius Plantinga, Not the Way It's Supposed To Be*

## 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*

**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.

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

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## ORDER OF WORSHIP

# The Christian Year

Christian-year spirituality is nothing less than the calling to enter by faith into the incarnation, the life and ministry, the death and resurrection of Jesus. God's saving action is not only presented to us through the practice of the Christian year, it also takes up residence within us and transforms us by the saving and healing presence of Christ in our lives. As we enter the saving events of Jesus, he shapes us by the pattern of his own living and dying so that our living and dying in this world is a living and dying in him.

-Robert Webber

## Advent

Advent is a season of hopeful expectation and preparation, as the Church anticipates the coming of Christ – both at his birth in Bethlehem many years ago, and at his future, final coming to judge the world at the end of time. During Advent, we prepare our hearts for the Lord, so that when he comes, he may find us watching and waiting.

### WELCOME TO ABBOTT CHURCH

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (read responsively)  
verses)

*Psalm 85(selected*

You, Lord, showed favor to your land;  
**you restored the fortunes of Jacob.**

You forgave the iniquity of your people  
**and covered all their sins.**

You set aside all your wrath  
**and turned from your fierce anger.**

Restore us again, God our Savior,  
**and put away your displeasure toward us.**

Will you not revive us again,  
**that your people may rejoice in you?**

Show us your unfailing love, Lord,  
**and grant us your salvation.**

I will listen to what God the Lord says;  
**he promises peace to his people, his faithful servants—**

Surely his salvation is near those who fear him,  
**that his glory may dwell in our land.** *(continued)*

Love and faithfulness meet together;  
**righteousness and peace kiss each other.**

Faithfulness springs forth from the earth,  
**and righteousness looks down from heaven.**

The Lord will indeed give what is good,  
**and our land will yield its harvest.**

Righteousness goes before him  
**and prepares the way for his steps.**

## **SILENT PREPARATION**

### **LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE - Litany of Peace**

- Matt, Lisa, Bridger & Larsen DeCamp

Leader: Why do we light the Advent candles?

All: **The light reminds us that Jesus is the light of the world who comes into the darkness of our lives to bring newness, life and peace.**

Leader: What is the meaning of the second lighted candle?

All: **The second lighted candle is the candle of Peace. It draws attention to the longing of God's people for a Messiah to come and lead them to victory over their enemies and to bring them peace.**

Leader: What is "peace"?

All: **Peace is much more than just the absence of conflict or warfare. The Bible calls it "shalom" which means universal flourishing, health, wholeness, soundness, harmony and delight, in other words, "the way things ought to be".**

Leader: Isaiah prophesied that the Messiah would be the Prince of Peace. How is Jesus our Prince of Peace?

All: **The New Testament proclaims that Jesus is our peace, having reconciled us to God by his death on the cross. He came and preached peace to those who were far away and peace to those who were near, and through him we have access to God the father.**

*(continued)*

Leader: Since Jesus has come and brought us peace with God, what are we still waiting for?

All: **Our world is not yet fully redeemed. We await Jesus' second advent when Isaiah's prophetic vision will be completely fulfilled and the crooked will be made straight, the rough places will be made smooth, flowers will bloom in the desert, the wolf will lie down with the lamb, weeping will cease, the foolish will be made wise, the wise will be made humble, humans will beat their swords into ploughshares and death will be ended. Things will finally be they way they ought to be.**

**OPENING HYMN**

*TH#147 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

**O come, O come, Immanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here,  
until the Son of God appear.**

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

**O come, O come, thou Lord of might,  
who to thy tribes on Sinai's height,  
In ancient times didst give the law  
in cloud and majesty and awe.**

**O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free,  
thine own from Satan's tyranny;  
From depths of hell thy people save,  
and give them victory o'er the grave.**

**O come, Thou Dayspring from on high  
And cheer us by thy drawing nigh;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
and death's dark shadows put to flight.**

**O come, thou Key of David, come  
and open wide our heavenly home;  
Make safe the way that leads on high,  
and close the path to misery.**

### **CONFESSION OF SIN (in unison)**

**God of peace and renewal, we are impatient as we await your coming. We grumble against one another, and our hearts are weak. Come among us and save us, that we may have joy and gladness.**

*(Please confess your sins silently to the Lord)*

### **WORDS OF COMFORT AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

May almighty God, who sent his Son into the world to save sinners, bring you his pardon and peace, now and for ever.

All: **AMEN**

### **SONG OF PRAISE**

*When Love Came Down to Earth*

**When Love came down to earth and made His home with men,  
The hopeless found a hope, the sinner found a friend.  
Not to the powerful, but to the poor He came,  
And humble, hungry hearts were satisfied again.**

*What joy, what peace has come to us!*

*What hope, what help, what love!*

**When every unclean thought, and every sinful deed  
Was scourged upon His back and hammered through His feet.  
The Innocent is cursed, the guilty are released;  
The punishment of God on God has brought me peace.**

*What joy, what peace has come to us!*

*What hope, what help, what love!*

**Come lay your heavy load down at the Master's feet;  
Your shame will be removed, your joy will be complete.  
Come crucify your pride, and enter as a child;  
For those who bow down low He'll lift up to His side.**

*What joy, what peace has come to us!*

*What hope, what help, what love!*

## 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

*I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day*

I heard the bells on Christmas Day  
Their old familiar carols play,  
And wild and sweet the words repeat  
Of peace on earth, good will to men.

I thought how, as the day had come,  
The belfries of all Christendom  
Had rolled along the unbroken song  
Of peace on earth, good will to men.

And in despair I bowed my head:  
"There is no peace on earth," I said,  
"For hate is strong and mocks the song  
Of peace on earth, good will to men."

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:  
"God is not dead, nor doth he sleep;  
The wrong shall fail, the right prevail,  
With peace on earth, good will to men."

Till, ringing singing, on its way,  
The world revolved from night to day,  
A voice, a chime, a chant sublime,  
Of peace on earth, good will to men!

*Words by Henry W. Longfellow*

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER.**

*Members of the congregation lead us in prayer.*

Lord God, ruler of nations, bring peace and justice to our divided world. We pray for those in lands ravaged by war. End fighting and oppression, heal wounds, return homes and property, comfort those grieving, and restore purpose in life. For this, O Lord, we pray:

**All Lord, hear our prayer.**

Jesus, creator and sustainer of all things, we mistreat and damage the environment. People face dangers: drought, fire, and storm. Bring rescue and restore harmony. Help us to be wise stewards of your creation, and sustain us with resources needed for life.

For this, O Lord, we pray:

**All Lord, hear our prayer.**

Holy Spirit of power and peace, we are easily divided by race, riches, varying opinions, and desire for power. Take away fear, envy, and revenge.

Give us humility to love as we are loved, with generosity, welcome, and grace. 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 forever and ever. Amen.**



25 Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. 26 And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. 27 And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, 28 he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,  
29 "Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace,  
according to your word;  
30 for my eyes have seen your salvation  
31 that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,  
32 a light for revelation to the Gentiles,  
and for glory to your people Israel."  
33 And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON**

**Pastor Paul Warren**

*Advent Role Models: Simeon*

**OFFERING**

*The offering is a way for members and friends of Abbott Church to support the church's mission and ministry. If you are our guest today, please feel under no compulsion to give. If you would like to give online, you may do so at [www.abbottchurch.org/giving](http://www.abbottchurch.org/giving)*

## **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.

## **CLOSING HYMN**

TH#580 *When Peace like a River*

**When peace like a river attendeth my way,  
When sorrows like sea billows roll;  
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say,  
It is well, it is well with my soul.**

*It is well (it is well)  
With my soul (with my soul);  
It is well, it is well with my soul.*

**Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,  
Let this blest assurance control,  
That Christ has regarded my helpless estate  
And has shed His own blood for my soul.**

**My sin, O the bliss of this glorious thought!  
My sin, not in part, but the whole,  
Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more;  
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!**

**O Lord, haste the day when the faith shall be sight,  
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll,  
The trump shall resound and the Lord shall descend;  
"Even so"- it is well with my soul.**

## **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:**

Today is the **second Sunday in Advent**. We want to encourage everyone to find ways to fully engage in a this season of the church year. One helpful tool can be found at [www.thecommonrule.org](http://www.thecommonrule.org), where they have a downloadable advent guide.

**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.

## 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*
- *Mike Brooks, son of Earl and Betty Brooks, fighting a rare cancer.*

### **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





## Welcome to Abbott.

We're glad we worshiped  
with you today!

December 6, 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

### PASTOR:

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### MINISTER OF MUSIC:

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