



*On countless occasions, history has witnessed a baby become a King. Only once, however, has a King become a baby. O come let us adore him*

*-David Cassidy*

## 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

## Christmas

Christmas celebrates God's incarnation, which means "in the flesh." Christmas is all about the amazing truth that God took on our flesh, our bones, and our human life. The task of the Christmas liturgy is to recall us, amid all the joyful customs and celebrations of Christmas, to this central truth of the Word made flesh for our salvation.

### WELCOME TO ABBOTT CHURCH

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (read responsively)

*Psalm 148*

Praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord from the heavens;

praise him in the heights!

**2 Praise him, all his angels;**

**praise him, all his hosts!**

3 Praise him, sun and moon,

praise him, all you shining stars!

**4 Praise him, you highest heavens,**

**and you waters above the heavens!**

5 Let them praise the name of the Lord!

For he commanded and they were created.

**6 And he established them forever and ever;**

**he gave a decree, and it shall not pass away.** *(continued)*

7 Praise the Lord from the earth,  
you great sea creatures and all deeps,

**8 fire and hail, snow and mist,  
stormy wind fulfilling his word!**

9 Mountains and all hills,  
fruit trees and all cedars!

10 **Beasts and all livestock,  
creeping things and flying birds!**

11 Kings of the earth and all peoples,  
princes and all rulers of the earth!

**12 Young men and maidens together,  
old men and children!**

13 Let them praise the name of the Lord,  
for his name alone is exalted;  
his majesty is above earth and heaven.

**14 He has raised up a horn for his people,  
praise for all his saints,  
for the people of Israel who are near to him.**

**Praise the Lord!**

**SILENT PREPARATION**

Good Christians, now rejoice,  
With heart and soul and voice!  
Give ye heed to what we say:  
Jesus Christ is born today!  
Earth and Heav'n before him bow,  
And he is in the manger now.  
Christ is born today,  
Christ is born today!

Good Christians, now rejoice,  
With heart and soul and voice!  
Now ye hear of endless bliss:  
Jesus Christ was born for this!  
He has ope'd the heavenly door,  
And man is blessed forevermore.  
Christ was born for this,  
Christ was born for this!

Good Christian, now rejoice,  
With heart and soul and voice!  
Now ye need not fear the grave;  
Jesus Christ was born to save!  
Calls you one and calls you all  
To gain his everlasting hall.  
Christ was born to save,  
Christ was born to save!

CONFESSION OF SIN (in unison)

Lord of grace and truth,  
we confess our unworthiness  
to stand in your presence as your children.  
Your Son our Savior was born in poverty in a manger.  
Forgive our greed and rejection of your ways.  
We have sinned: forgive and heal us.

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

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

May the God of all healing and forgiveness draw you to himself  
and cleanse you from all your sins, that you may behold the glory of his  
Son, the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: **AMEN**

## **SONG OF PRAISE**

*Come, See a Child of Low Estate*

**Come, see a child of low estate,  
in manger bed reclining;  
Yet on His humble dwelling place  
bright stars in heav'n are shining**

**This little babe is Christ the Lord,  
whom saints have long expected,  
for man He comes to live and die,  
despised, betrayed, rejected**

**For man He comes to render the veil  
which hides death's gloomy portal,  
and make a home where where man with Him  
in peace may dwell, immortal**

**He comes to triumph o'er the grave,  
and rise on Easter morning,  
and reign in heav'n at God's right hand,  
until the last Day's dawning**

**So may we all His grace partake:  
from Jesus, meek and lowly,  
may we his faithful servants be  
kept by his Spirit holy!**

Words: W.D. Springett, 1899

Music: Karl Digerness, 2014

## EXTENDING GOD'S WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS and GREETING

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

All: **And also with you.**

## BAPTISMS

Lena Jane Warren and Margaret Jules Warren

## SONG OF PRAISE

*What Child is This?*

What Child is this, who, laid to rest  
On Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom Angels greet with anthems sweet,  
While shepherds watch are keeping?

*This, this is Christ the King,  
Whom shepherds guard and Angels sing;  
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,  
The Babe, the Son of Mary.*

Why lies He in such mean estate,  
Where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear, for sinners here  
The silent Word is pleading.

So bring Him incense, gold and myrrh,  
Come, peasant, king to own Him;  
The King of kings salvation brings,  
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.

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

*Members of the congregation lead us in prayer.*

Lord Jesus Christ, you humbled yourself and became the servant of all. Cast now our gaze upon your cross, that we would be dazzled by its brightness, and all our pride and selfishness would fade.

For this, O Lord, we pray:

**All Lord, hear our prayer.**

Almighty Father, you exalted your Son and gave him a name above every name. May all rulers and authorities learn from him, that the path to greatness is through humility, looking to the good of others more than their own. For this, O Lord, we pray:

**All Lord, hear our prayer.**

Spirit of Christ, draw near to all who suffer and who are laid low by cares and worries. Grant them encouragement in Christ, to hold fast to the word of life, and know they do not labor in vain.

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 forever and ever. Amen.**



## SCRIPTURE FOR THE SERMON

PHILIPPIANS 2:5-11

5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, 6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. 9 Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

## SERMON

PASTOR PAUL WARREN

*"What Child Is This?"*

## 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)*

## CLOSING HYMN

*Go, Tell it on the Mountain*

*Go, tell it on the mountain,  
Over the hills and everywhere  
Go, tell it on the mountain,  
That Jesus Christ is born.*

While shepherds kept their watching  
O'er silent flocks by night  
Behold throughout the heavens  
There shone a holy light.

The shepherds feared and trembled,  
When lo! above the earth,  
Rang out the angels chorus  
That hailed the Savior's birth.

Down in a lowly manger  
The humble Christ was born  
And God sent us salvation  
That blessed Christmas morn.

## 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.*



## 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

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:**

**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.



## Welcome to Abbott.

We're glad we worshiped  
with you today!

December 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 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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### OFFICE ADMIN:

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### TREASURER:

Al Rode Jr.

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