



*Most of the trouble in the world is caused by people wanting to be important.*  
- T. S. Eliot

*One of the greatest ironies of the history of Christianity is that its leaders constantly gave in to the temptation of power even though they continued to speak in the name of Jesus, who did not cling to His divine power but emptied himself and became as we are.*

- 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*

**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

### Epiphany

Epiphany follows Christ's birth and points us out from that moment to the world. The Magi traveled from afar to worship Jesus, and their eyes were opened to who God is and what he is doing. The Light is dawning in the darkness, drawing in all peoples. May we, with eyes wide open, see and celebrate the fact that Jesus is the light of the world—and of our lives too.

### WELCOME TO ABBOTT CHURCH

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (read responsively)

from *Psalms* 34

I will bless the Lord at all times;  
**his praise shall continually be in my mouth.**

My soul makes its boast in the Lord;  
**let the humble hear and be glad.**

O magnify the Lord with me,  
**and let us exalt his name together.**

Look to him, and be radiant;  
**so your faces shall never be ashamed.**

This poor soul cried, and was heard by the Lord,  
**and was saved from every trouble.**

The angel of the Lord encamps  
**around those who fear him, and delivers them.**

O taste and see that the Lord is good;  
**happy are those who take refuge in him.**

## SILENT PREPARATION

### OPENING HYMN

*TH#70 Praise my Soul, the King of Heaven*

**Praise, my soul, the King of heaven; to his feet thy tribute bring;  
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,  
Who, like me, his praise should sing?  
Praise him, praise him, praise him, praise him,  
Praise the everlasting King!**

**Praise him for his grace and favor to our fathers in distress.  
Praise him, still the same forever, slow to chide, and swift to bless;  
Praise him, praise him, praise him, praise him,  
Glorious in his faithfulness!**

**Father-like he tends and spares us; well our feeble frame he knows.  
In his hand he gently bears us, rescues us from all our foes;  
Praise him, praise him, praise him, praise him,  
Widely as his mercy goes.**

**Angels, help us to adore him; ye behold him face to face.  
Sun and moon, bow down before him, dwellers all in time and space.  
Praise him, praise him, praise him, praise him,  
Praise with us the God of grace!**

## CONFESSION OF SIN (in unison)

Holy Father, we often come to you arrayed in our finest, trying hard to hide our scars and burdens, to hold onto our illusions of wholeness. We pray lofty-sounding prayers as if we never were unclean. Father, let us come to you without pretense, in honesty and weakness. Let us pray from sincere hearts, knowing that you see through our illusions with love.

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

## WORDS OF COMFORT AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

May you know God's gracious presence. He is close to the broken, he forgives those crushed in Spirit. May his peace guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

All: **AMEN**

## SONG OF PRAISE

*TH#416 With Broken Heart and Contrite Sigh*

With broken heart and contrite sigh, A trembling sinner, Lord, I cry;  
Thy pard'ning grace is rich and free: O God, be merciful to me.

I smite upon my troubled breast,  
With deep and conscience guilt oppressed,  
Christ and His cross my only plea: O God, be merciful to me.

Far off I stand with tearful eyes, Nor dare uplift them to the skies;  
But Thou dost all my anguish see: O God, be merciful to me.

Nor alms, nor deeds that I have done, Can for a single sin atone;  
To Calvary alone I flee: O God, be merciful to me.

And when, redeemed from sin and hell,  
With all the ransomed throng I dwell,  
My raptured song shall ever be, "God has been merciful to me."

*Words by Cornelius Elven, 1852*

## 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

*How Can it Be?*

I am guilty - Ashamed of what I've done, what I've become  
These hands are dirty - I dare not lift them up to the Holy One

*You plead my cause, You right my wrongs  
You break my chains, You overcome  
You gave Your life to give me mine  
You say that I am free, how can it be?  
How can it be?*

I've been hiding - Afraid I've let You down  
Inside I doubt that You still love me  
But in Your eyes there's only grace now

Though I fall, You can make me new  
From this death I will rise with You  
Oh, the grace reaching out for me, yeah  
How can it be? How can it be?

*Source: Musixmatch*

*Songwriters: Ingram Jason David / Ingram Jason*

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

*Members of the congregation lead us in prayer.*

God of healing, you have authority and power to heal the broken.  
We pray for all who cry out, "How long, O Lord, how long?" Answer the  
groans of those who suffer situations beyond their control. For those  
enduring sickness, unemployment, or victimization, show them your  
eager and healing arms that they might flee to you.

For this, O Lord, we pray:

**All Lord, hear our prayer.**

*(continued)*

God of peace, you love your enemies with perseverance and generosity. Where we struggle or refuse to love, soften our hearts. Teach us to love like you, so that we would pray for our enemies: unjust bosses, hateful neighbors, those who mock you, who cause pain. Free us from answering evil with evil and teach us costly patience. For this, O Lord, we pray:  
**All Lord, hear our prayer.**

God of love, you pursue your people and gather them into your family. We ask you to bless our church family for your great purposes. We pray we would become a place of refuge for neighbors and friends. Revive and renew our hearts and our neighborhoods. Grant us love and enduring concern for those not yet gathered in. 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.**

9 He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt: 10 "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector.

11 The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. 12 I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.' 13 But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' 14 I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted."

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

PASTOR PAUL WARREN

*"Humble Yourself"*

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)*



**Rock of Ages, cleft for me, Let me hide myself in Thee;  
Let the water and the blood, From Thy riven side which flowed,  
Be of sin the double cure, Save me from its guilt and power.**

**Not the labor of my hands Can fulfill Thy law's demands;  
Could my zeal no respite know, Could my tears forever flow,  
All could never sin erase, Thou must save, and save by grace.**

**Nothing in my hands I bring, Simply to Thy cross I cling;  
Naked, come to Thee for dress, Helpless, look to Thee for grace:  
Foul, I to the fountain fly, Wash me, Savior, or I die.**

**While I draw this fleeting breath,  
When mine eyes shall close in death,  
When I soar to worlds unknown, See Thee on Thy judgment throne,  
Rock of Ages, cleft for me, Let me hide myself in Thee.**

*WORDS: Augustus Toplady, MUSIC: James Ward*

**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!

January 10, 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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### OFFICE ADMIN:

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### TREASURER:

Al Rode Jr.

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