



To experience grace is one thing; to integrate it into your life is quite another. What I crave now is that integration, some speech that is true to the transcendent nature of grace yet adequate to the hard reality in which daily faith operates.

- Christian Wyman, *My Bright Abyss*

## 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 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)

*Psalm 121*

I lift up my eyes to the hills.

From where does my help come?

**2 My help comes from the Lord,  
who made heaven and earth.**

**3 He will not let your foot be moved;  
he who keeps you will not slumber.**

**4 Behold, he who keeps Israel  
will neither slumber nor sleep.**

**5 The Lord is your keeper;  
the Lord is your shade on your right hand.**

**6 The sun shall not strike you by day,  
nor the moon by night.**

**7 The Lord will keep you from all evil;  
he will keep your life.**

**8 The Lord will keep  
your going out and your coming in  
from this time forth and forevermore.**

## SILENT PREPARATION

### OPENING HYMN

TH#81 *A Mighty Fortress is Our God*

A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing;  
Our helper He, amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing:  
For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe;  
His craft and pow'r are great, and, armed with cruel hate,  
On earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing,  
Were not the right Man on our side, the Man of God's own choosing:  
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is He;  
Lord Sabaoth, His Name, from age to age the same,  
And He must win the battle.

And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us,  
We will not fear, for God hath willed His truth to triumph through us;  
The Prince of Darkness grim, we tremble not for him;  
His rage we can endure, for lo, his doom is sure,  
One little word shall fell him.

That word above all earthly pow'rs, no thanks to them, abideth;  
The Spirit and the gifts are ours through Him Who with us sideth;  
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also;  
The body they may kill: God's truth abideth still,  
His kingdom is forever.

*Words and Music: Martin Luther, 1529*

### CONFESSION OF SIN (in unison)

Gracious Father, your faithfulness is proven and sure, yet we have forgotten your wonderful deeds. Your love is patient and kind, yet we have hardened our hearts against you. Your presence is a wellspring of life, yet we have made our home in the desert. Have mercy on us. Help us. Remake us by your grace.

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

## WORDS OF COMFORT AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

May the God of love bring you back to himself, forgive you your sins, and assure you of his eternal love in Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: **AMEN**

## SONG OF PRAISE

*Christ Our Hope in Life and Death*

**What is our hope in life and death? Christ alone, Christ alone.  
What is our only confidence? That our souls to Him belong.**

**Who holds our days within His hand?  
What comes, apart from His command?  
And what will keep us to the end?  
The love of Christ, in which we stand.**

*O sing hallelujah! Our hope springs eternal;  
O sing hallelujah! Now and ever we confess  
Christ our hope in life and death.*

**What truth can calm the troubled soul? God is good, God is good.  
Where is His grace and goodness known?  
In our great Redeemer's blood.**

**Who holds our faith when fears arise?  
Who stands above the stormy trial?  
Who sends the waves that bring us nigh  
Unto the shore, the rock of Christ?**

**Unto the grave, what shall we sing?  
"Christ, He lives; Christ, He lives!"  
And what reward will heaven bring? Everlasting life with Him.**

**There we will rise to meet the Lord,  
Then sin and death will be destroyed,  
And we will feast in endless joy,  
When Christ is ours forevermore.**

*Christ Our Hope in Life and Death words and music by Keith Getty, Matt Boswell,  
Jordan Kauflin, Matt Merker, Matt Papa*

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Matthew Merker Music/ Getty Music Hymns and Songs/  
Love Your Enemies Publishing #CCLI 1442252*

## **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**

*TH#544 How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds*

**How sweet the Name of Jesus sounds In a believer's ear!  
It soothes his sorrows, heals his wounds, and drives away his fear**

**It makes the wounded spirit whole, and calms the troubled breast;  
'Tis manna to the hungry soul, and to the weary rest.**

**Dear Name! the Rock on which I build, my Shield and hiding place,  
My never-failing Treasury filled with boundless stores of grace;**

**Jesus, my Shepherd, Brother, Friend, My Prophet, Priest, and King,  
My Lord, my Life, my Way, my End, accept the praise I bring.**

**Weak is the effort of my heart, and cold my warmest thought;  
But when I see thee as thou art, I'll praise thee as I ought.**

**Till then I would thy love proclaim with ev'ry fleeting breath;  
And may the music of thy Name refresh my soul in death.**

*Words: John Newton, 1779*

*Music: Alexander Reinagle, 1836*

Q. What do you believe when you say, "I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth"?

**A. That the eternal Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who out of nothing created heaven and earth and everything in them, who still upholds and rules them by his eternal counsel and providence, is my God and Father because of Christ the Son. I trust God so much that I do not doubt he will provide whatever I need for body and soul, and will turn to my good whatever adversity he sends upon me in this sad world. God is able to do this because he is almighty God; and desires to do this because he is a faithful Father.**

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

Members of the congregation lead us in prayer.

Lord of our doubts, our fears often loom larger than you. Give us courage to walk through them that we might know freedom in your strong arms. For this, O Lord, we pray:

**All Lord, hear our prayer.**

Lord of our chaos, our broken world spirals out of control. Give us courage to move into its darkness, walking in your justice, love, and humility. For this, O Lord, we pray:

**All Lord, hear our prayer.**

Lord of our fears, we pray for our brothers and sisters in deep waters: refugees, the poor, the weak, the lonely, the suffering. As you were to the disciples, be immediately near to them. 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**

*Psalm 46*

God is our refuge and strength,  
a very present help in trouble.

2 Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way,  
though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea,

3 though its waters roar and foam,  
though the mountains tremble at its swelling. *Selah*

4 There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,  
the holy habitation of the Most High.

5 God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved;  
God will help her when morning dawns.

6 The nations rage, the kingdoms totter;  
he utters his voice, the earth melts.

7 The Lord of hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our fortress. *Selah*

8 Come, behold the works of the Lord,  
how he has brought desolations on the earth.

9 He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;  
he breaks the bow and shatters the spear;  
he burns the chariots with fire. *(continued)*



10 "Be still, and know that I am God.

I will be exalted among the nations,

I will be exalted in the earth!"

11 The Lord of hosts is with us;

the God of Jacob is our fortress. *Selah*

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

## **SERMON**

**Rev. Karl Dortzbach**

*"Finding Refuge"*

## **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. You can mail your giving to the church or if you would like to give online, you may do so at [www.abbottchurch.org/giving](http://www.abbottchurch.org/giving)*

My hope is built on nothing less  
than Jesus' blood and righteousness;  
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,  
But wholly lean on Jesus' name.

On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand;  
All other ground is sinking sand.  
All other ground is sinking sand.

When darkness veils His lovely face,  
I rest on His unchanging grace;  
In ev'ry high and stormy gale  
My anchor holds within the veil.

His oath, His covenant, His blood  
Support me in the whelming flood;  
When all around my soul gives way,  
He then is all my hope and stay.

When I shall launch in worlds unseen,  
O may I then be found in him;  
Dressed in his righteousness alone,  
faultless to stand before the throne.

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 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 31, 2021

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

## Contacts

**CHURCH OFFICE:**

abbottchurchoffice@gmail.com

**MINISTER OF MUSIC:**

Julius Fischer Jr.

443-722-2525

julejr88@gmail.com

**TREASURER:**

Al Rode Jr.

**SEXTON:**

Clint Neuder

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