



In the day-to-day trenches of adult life, there is actually no such thing as atheism. There is no such thing as not worshipping. Everybody worships. The only choice we get is what to worship.

- David Foster Wallace, "This Is Water"

## 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 100*

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth!

#### 2 **Serve the Lord with gladness!**

**Come into his presence with singing!**

#### 3 Know that the Lord, he is God!

It is he who made us, and we are his;

**we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.**

#### 4 Enter his gates with thanksgiving,

and his courts with praise!

**Give thanks to him; bless his name!**

#### 5 For the Lord is good;

**his steadfast love endures forever,**

**and his faithfulness to all generations.**

#### SILENT PREPARATION

Hallelujah, praise Jehovah, O my soul, Jehovah praise;  
 I will sing the glorious praises of my God through all my days.  
 Put no confidence in princes, nor for help on man depend;  
 He shall die, to dust returning, and his purposes shall end.

Happy is the man that chooses Israel's God to be his aid;  
 He is blessed whose hope of blessing on the Lord his God is stayed.  
 Heaven and earth the Lord created, Seas and all that they contain;  
 He delivers from oppression, Righteousness he will maintain.

Food he daily gives the hungry, Sets the mourning prisoner free,  
 Raises those bowed down with anguish,  
 Makes the sightless eyes to see.  
 Well Jehovah loves the righteous, and the stranger he befriends,  
 Helps the fatherless and widow, Judgment on the wicked sends.

Hallelujah, praise Jehovah, O my soul, Jehovah praise;  
 I will sing the glorious praises of my God through all my days.  
 Over all God reigns forever, through all ages he is king;  
 Unto him, thy God, O Zion, Joyful hallelujahs sing.

*Words and Music: Martin Luther, 1529*

#### CONFESSION OF SIN (in unison)

Almighty God, you have called us to glorify your name through our love for you and for one another. We confess that our praise is more on our lips than with our lives. We profess repentance while we resist change; We talk of peace while we prepare for war; We sing of love but we curse our enemies; We pray your will be done but insist on our way. Have mercy upon us, tender God, and cleanse and forgive our selfish ways. Help us to be at peace with you, one another, and ourselves as members of your kingdom, which is now at hand—through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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

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

May God who loved the world so much that he sent his son to be our Savior, forgive us our sins, raise us from death to live in his light, and make us holy to serve him in the world.

All: **AMEN**

## **SONG OF PRAISE**

*O Church of Christ, Invincible*

**O Church of Christ, invincible, the people of the Lord,  
Empowered by the Spirit's breath and nourished by his word.  
His covenant of grace will be our portion evermore,  
For He who called us will not change, our help and our reward.**

**O chosen people called by grace, the sons of Abraham,  
Who walk by faith and things unseen, and on His promise stand,  
That every nation of the earth will hear of boundless love  
That causes broken hearts to heal and pays our debts with blood.**

**O Church of Christ in sorrow now, where evil lies in wait;  
When trials and persecutions come this light will never fade.  
For though the hordes of hell may rage, their power will not endure;  
Our times are in the Father's hand, our anchor is secure.**

**O Church of Christ, upon that day when all are gathered in,  
When every tear is wiped away with every trace of sin;  
Where justice, truth and beauty shine, and death is passed away,  
Where God and man will dwell as one for all eternity.**

## **EXTENDING GOD'S WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS and GREETING**

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

All: **And also with you.**

What gift of grace is Jesus my redeemer.  
There is no more for heaven now to give.  
He is my joy, my righteousness and freedom,  
My steadfast love, my deep and boundless peace.

*To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus;  
For my life is wholly bound to His.  
Oh how strange and divine, I can sing all is mine  
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.*

The night is dark, but I am not forsaken,  
For by my side, the Savior He will stay.  
I labour on in weakness and rejoicing  
For in my need, His power is displayed.

*To this I hold, my shepherd will defend me  
Through the deepest valley He will lead.  
Oh the night has been won, and I shall overcome  
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.*

No fate I dread, I know I am forgiven;  
The future sure, the price it has been paid.  
For Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon,  
And He was raised, to overthrow the grave.

*To this I hold, my sin has been defeated.  
Jesus now and ever is my plea.  
Oh the chains are released, I can sing, I am free,  
yet not I, but through Christ in me.*

With every breath, I long to follow Jesus  
For He has said that He will bring me home.  
And day by day, I know He will renew me  
Until I stand, with joy before the throne. *(continued)*

**To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus.**

**All the glory evermore to Him.**

**When the race is complete, still my lips shall repeat**

**Yet not I, but through Christ in me.**

## **CONFESSION OF FAITH**

*Heidelberg Catechism Questions #86*

Q. Since we have been delivered from our misery by grace through Christ without any merit of our own, why then should we do good works?

**A. Because Christ, having redeemed us by his blood, is also restoring us by his Spirit into his image, so that with our whole lives we may show that we are thankful to God for his benefits, so that he may be praised through us, so that we may be assured of our faith by its fruits, and so that by our godly living our neighbors may be won over to Christ.**

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

Members of the congregation lead us in prayer.

Merciful Lord, strengthen all Christian people by your Holy Spirit, that we may live as a royal priesthood and a holy nation. Keep us from worshipping those things which cannot save, and let us bear witness to your loving redemption. For this, O Lord, we pray:

**All Lord, hear our prayer.**

With your own strong hand, intervene in this broken world, full of injustice and violence. Give to the world and its peoples the peace that comes from above, that they may find Christ's way of freedom and life.

For this, O Lord, we pray:

**All Lord, hear our prayer.**

Hold in your embrace all who witness to your love in the service of the poor and needy; all who minister to the sick and dying; and all who bring light to those in darkness, even in the hidden corners of daily life.

For this, O Lord, we pray:

**All Lord, hear our prayer.**      *(continued)*

Touch and heal all those whose lives are scarred by sin or disfigured by pain, that, raised from death to life in Christ, their sorrow may be turned to eternal joy. Hasten the day when many will come from east and west, from north and south, and feast together in your kingdom.

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 48*

Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised

in the city of our God! His holy mountain,

2 beautiful in elevation, is the joy of all the earth,

Mount Zion, in the far north, the city of the great King.

3 Within her citadels God

has made himself known as a fortress.

4 For behold, the kings assembled;

they came on together.

5 As soon as they saw it, they were astounded;

they were in panic; they took to flight.

6 Trembling took hold of them there,

anguish as of a woman in labor.

7 By the east wind you shattered

the ships of Tarshish. *(continued)*



8 As we have heard, so have we seen  
in the city of the Lord of hosts,  
in the city of our God,  
which God will establish forever. *Selah*  
9 We have thought on your steadfast love, O God,  
in the midst of your temple.  
10 As your name, O God,  
so your praise reaches to the ends of the earth.  
Your right hand is filled with righteousness.  
11 Let Mount Zion be glad!  
Let the daughters of Judah rejoice  
because of your judgments!  
12 Walk about Zion, go around her,  
number her towers,  
13 consider well her ramparts,  
go through her citadels, that you may tell the next generation  
14 that this is God, our God forever and ever.  
He will guide us forever.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

## SERMON

Rev. Karl Dortzbach

*"The Fortress of Praise"*

## 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)*



Je - sus shall reign where - 'er the sun  
 Peo - ple and realms of ev - 'ry tongue  
 Let ev - 'ry crea - ture rise and bring

5



Does his suc - ces - sive jour - ney run;  
 Dwell on his love with sweet - est song;  
 pe - cu - liar hon - ors to our King;

9



His king - dom stretch from shore to shore,  
 And in - fant voic - es shall pro - claim  
 An - gels de - scend with songs a - gain,

13



Till moons shall wax and wane no more.  
 Their ear - ly bless - ings on his name.  
 And earth re - peat a loud A - men.

17



He shall reign in glo - ry crowned with grace and might.



Bless His name and praise the sov - 'reign king.



He shall reign for - ev - er with His chos - en bride.



All the earth shall sing that Je - sus is the king.

## 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!

February 7, 2021

**NAME(S)**

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**ADDRESS**

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**CITY/STATE/ZIP**

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**PHONE**

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**EMAIL**

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## 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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## Abbott Memorial Presbyterian Church

A congregation of the Presbyterian  
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