



Optimism is a wish without warrant; Christian hope is a certainty, guaranteed by God himself. Optimism reflects ignorance as to whether good things will ever actually come. Christian hope expresses knowledge that every day of his life, and every moment beyond it, the believer can say with truth, on the basis of God's own commitment, that the best is yet to come.

-J. I. Packer

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.

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

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 66 (selected verses)

Shout for joy to God, all the earth;

**sing the glory of his name;
give to him glorious praise!**

All the earth worships you

**and sings praises to you;
they sing praises to your name."**

Come and see what God has done:

he is awesome in his deeds toward the children of man.

He turned the sea into dry land:

**They passed through the river on foot-
Come, let us rejoice in him.**

Bless our God, O peoples;

**let the sound of his praise be heard,
who has kept our soul among the living
and has not let our feet slip.**

You brought us into prison

and laid burdens on our backs. (continued)

You let people ride over our heads;
**we went through fire and water,
but you brought us to a place of abundance.**
Come and hear, all you who fear God,
and I will tell what he has done for my soul.
I cried to him with my mouth,
and high praise was on my tongue.
Blessed be God,
**because he has not rejected my prayer
or removed his steadfast love from me!**

SILENT PREPARATION

OPENING HYMN

TH#105 Hallelujah Praise Jehovah

**Hallelujah, praise Jehovah, from the heavens praise his Name;
Praise Jehovah in the highest, all his angels, praise proclaim.
All his hosts, together praise him, sun and moon and stars on high;
Praise him, O ye heav'ns of heavens, and ye floods above the sky.**

*Let them praises give Jehovah, for his name alone is high,
And his glory is exalted, and his glory is exalted,
And his glory is exalted, far above the earth and sky.*

**Let them praises give Jehovah, they were made at his command;
Them for ever he established, His decree shall ever stand.
From the earth, O praise Jehovah, all ye seas, ye monsters all,
Fire and hail and snow and vapors, stormy winds that hear his call.**

**All ye fruitful trees and cedars, all ye hills and mountains high;
Creeping things and beasts and cattle, birds that in the heavens fly,
Kings of earth, and all ye people, princes great, earth's judges all;
Praise his Name, young men and maidens,
Aged men, and children small.**

CONFESSION OF SIN (in unison)

Merciful God, you invite us into the joy of your presence, but we resist you and prefer to be left alone. You long to hear our prayers, yet we direct our praise and pleadings elsewhere. You desire our whole-hearted love and devotion, but we divide our affections and withhold ourselves from you. Lord, have mercy on us. Heal us and help us.

(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

TH#80 How Firm a Foundation

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith in his excellent Word!
What more can he say than to you he hath said,
To you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

"Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed;
For I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;
I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
Upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.

"When through the deep waters I call thee to go,
The rivers of woe shall not thee overflow;
For I will be with thee thy troubles to bless,
And sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.

"When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,
My grace, all sufficient, shall be thy supply;
The flame shall not hurt thee; I only design
Thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.

"The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to his foes;
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no, never, no, never forsake."

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

In Christ Alone

In Christ alone my hope is found
He is my light, my strength, my song
This Cornerstone, this solid ground
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm
What heights of love, what depths of peace
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease
My Comforter, my All in All
Here in the love of Christ I stand

In Christ alone, who took on flesh
Fullness of God in helpless babe
This gift of love and righteousness
Scorned by the ones He came to save
'Til on that cross as Jesus died
The wrath of God was satisfied
For every sin on Him was laid
Here in the death of Christ I live

There in the ground His body lay
Light of the world by darkness slain
Then bursting forth in glorious Day
Up from the grave He rose again
And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me
For I am His and He is mine
Bought with the precious blood of Christ

(continued)

No guilt in life, no fear in death
This is the power of Christ in me
From life's first cry to final breath
Jesus commands my destiny
No power of hell, no scheme of man
Can ever pluck me from His hand
Till He returns or calls me home
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Members of the congregation lead us in prayer.

Our Father in heaven, help us to love what you love and to trust you more deeply with our lives. Grant us grace to turn from our hypocrisy. For this, O Lord, we pray:

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Lord Jesus Christ, bring your kingdom to bear upon our lives, this city, and your world. May we all know your justice, peace, and daily provision. For this, O Lord, we pray:

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Spirit of God, help us in our weakness, and move us to pray and fast as we ought. Renew us daily in the likeness of Christ.

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 now and forever. Amen.**

Shout for joy to God, all the earth;

2 sing the glory of his name;
 give to him glorious praise!

3 Say to God, "How awesome are your deeds!

 So great is your power that your enemies come cringing to you.

4 All the earth worships you
 and sings praises to you;
 they sing praises to your name." Selah

5 Come and see what God has done:

 he is awesome in his deeds toward the children of man.

6 He turned the sea into dry land;
 they passed through the river on foot.

There did we rejoice in him,

7 who rules by his might forever,
 whose eyes keep watch on the nations—
 let not the rebellious exalt themselves. Selah

8 Bless our God, O peoples;
 let the sound of his praise be heard,

9 who has kept our soul among the living
 and has not let our feet slip.

10 For you, O God, have tested us;
 you have tried us as silver is tried.

11 You brought us into the net;
 you laid a crushing burden on our backs;

12 you let men ride over our heads;
 we went through fire and through water;
 yet you have brought us out to a place of abundance.

13 I will come into your house with burnt offerings;
 I will perform my vows to you,

(continued)

14 that which my lips uttered
and my mouth promised when I was in trouble.
15 I will offer to you burnt offerings of fattened animals,
with the smoke of the sacrifice of rams;
I will make an offering of bulls and goats. Selah
16 Come and hear, all you who fear God,
and I will tell what he has done for my soul.
17 I cried to him with my mouth,
and high praise was on my tongue.
18 If I had cherished iniquity in my heart,
the Lord would not have listened.
19 But truly God has listened;
he has attended to the voice of my prayer.
20 Blessed be God,
because he has not rejected my prayer
or removed his steadfast love from me!

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Rev. Karl Dortzbach

"Keeping Hope"

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

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 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.

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 21, 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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