



When we think we're waiting for God, He is usually waiting for us, waiting for us to get ready to receive what we need.

- Lois LeBar, Education That Is Christian

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

Lent

From the church's earliest days, Lent was a time of preparation for Easter. The Resurrection of Christ was celebrated not only each week on Sunday, the Lord's Day, but also in a special festival of the Resurrection. As we look forward to the Resurrection, Lent is traditionally focused on repentance. Speaking biblically, to repent means to make a change in our attitudes, words, and lifestyles. The Christian life in its totality is a life of repentance. Beginning when we first commit our lives to Christ, and continuing throughout our lives, we are more and more turning away from sin and self-centeredness and more and more turning to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ to experience true freedom and rest.

WELCOME TO ABBOTT CHURCH

CALL TO WORSHIP (read responsively)

Psalm 133

How good and pleasant it is
when God's people live together in unity!

It is like precious oil poured on the head,
running down on the beard,

running down on Aaron's beard,
down on the collar of his robe.

It is as if the dew of Hermon
were falling on Mount Zion.

For there the Lord bestows his blessing,
even life forevermore.

SILENT PREPARATION

OPENING HYMN

May the Peoples Praise You

**You have called us out of darkest night into Your glorious light
That we may sing the wonders of the risen Christ
May our every breath retell the grace that broke into our strife
With boundless love and deepest joy with endless life**

***May the peoples praise You, Let the nations be glad
All Your blessing comes That we may praise,
May praise the Name of Jesus***

**All the earth is Yours and all within each harvest is Your own
And from Your hand we give to You to make Christ known
May the seeds of mercy grow in us for those who have not heard
May songs of praise build lives of grace to spread Your Word.**

**This our holy privilege to declare Your praises and Your name
To every nation, tribe and tongue, Your church proclaims.**

***Holy, holy is the Lord Almighty
Worthy, worthy is the Lamb Who was slain
Holy, holy is the Lord Almighty
All creation praise Your glorious Name***

May the Peoples Praise You words and music Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty, David Zimmer, Stuart Townend, Ed Cash. Copyright © 2016 Getty Music Publishing (BMI) , Alletrop Music (BMI) and Townend Songs (PRS) CCLI#1442252

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

Church of God, Elect and Glorious

**Church of God, elect and glorious, holy nation, chosen race,
Called as God's own special people, royal priests and heirs of grace:
Know the purpose of your calling, show to all his mighty deeds;
Tell of love that knows no limits, grace that meets all human needs.**

**God has called you out of darkness into his most marvelous light,
Brought his truth to life within you, turned your blindness into sight.
Let your light so shine around you that God's name is glorified,
And all find fresh hope and purpose in Christ Jesus crucified.**

**Once you were an alien people, strangers to God's heart of love,
But he brought you home in mercy, citizens of heaven above.
Let his love flow out to others, let them feel the Father's care,
That they too may know his welcome and his countless blessings
share.**

**Church of God, elect and holy, be the people he intends,
Strong in faith and swift to answer each command your Master sends;
Royal priests, fulfill your calling through your sacrifice and prayer,
Give your lives in joyful service, sing his praise, his love declare.**

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

Liturgy of the Hours

**With ev'ry morning I will kneel to pray,
To be a blessing in this coming day
In ev'rything I say and ev'rything I do, to wholly honor you.**

**At noon remind me through this day to give
My full attention to the ones I'm with,
Be mindful of those things around and those within,
and fully enter in.**

**Teach me the wisdom of remembering,
And give me the wisdom to forget.
Lead me, Oh, teach me to live each day for you.**

**And in the evening as my thoughts retell
This passing day let me remember well;
So that no bitterness takes root within my soul,
help me to let them go.**

**And in the night-time may my mind be free
To truly rest and be refreshed in sleep;
And by releasing every worry, every strain, be free to start again.**

**Christ be with me, Christ within me, Christ behind me and before;
Christ beside me, Christ to win me, Christ to comfort and restore.
Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ in peace and Christ in storm;
Christ in hearts of all who know me,
Christ in friend and stranger all.**

Mark Edwards & Stuart Townend

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I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth: I believe in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead; the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Members of the congregation lead us in prayer.

God the Father, our Creator, from whom are all things: create in us a clean heart, and grant us life in your presence.

For this, O Lord, we pray:

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

God the Son, our Redeemer, through whom are all things: bring justice to all nations, and make us bearers of your peace.

For this, O Lord, we pray:

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

God the Spirit, our Comforter, in whom are all things: renew the face of the earth, and help us in all our afflictions.

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.** *(continued)*

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.

May God be gracious to us and bless us
and make his face to shine upon us, Selah

2 that your way may be known on earth,
your saving power among all nations.

3 Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you!

4 Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,
for you judge the peoples with equity
and guide the nations upon earth. Selah

5 Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you!

6 The earth has yielded its increase;
God, our God, shall bless us.

7 God shall bless us;
let all the ends of the earth fear him!

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Rev. Karl Dortzbach

"The Object of Blessing"

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

CLOSING HYMN

For the Cause of Christ the King

**For the cause of Christ the King we give our lives, an offering
'Til all the earth resounds with ceaseless praise to the Son**

**For the cause of Christ we go with joy to reap, with faith to sow
As many see and many put their trust in the Son**

**Christ we proclaim, The Name above every name:
For all creation, ev'ry nation, God's salvation through the Son!**

**For the King once lifted high to cries of rage, of 'crucify!'
Endured the cross as every sin was laid on the Son**

**To the King who conquered death
To free the poor and the oppressed
For lasting peace for life and liberty in the Son**

**Let it be my life's refrain: to live is Christ, to die is gain;
Deny myself, take up my cross and follow the Son**

— WORDS AND MUSIC BY KEITH GETTY, KRISTYN GETTY, AND STUART TOWNEND
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Townend & Simon Brading

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 28, 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:
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TREASURER:
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