



When Christ entered into Jerusalem the people spread garments in the way: when He enters into our hearts, we pull off our own righteousness, and not only lay it under Christ's feet but even trample upon it ourselves.

- Augustus Toplady (author of the hymn Rock of Ages)

## 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

### 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)

*Isaiah 49*

Leader: Listen to me, O coastlands, and give attention, you peoples from afar. The LORD called me from the womb, from the body of my mother he named my name.

People: **I will make you as a light for the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth."**

Leader: Thus says the LORD: "In a time of favor I have answered you; in a day of salvation I have helped you;

People: **Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult, O earth; break forth, O mountains, into singing!**

Leader: for the LORD has comforted his people and will have compassion on his afflicted. (continued)

People: **But Zion said, "The LORD has forsaken me; my Lord has forgotten me."**

Leader: "Can a woman forget her nursing child, that she should have no compassion on the son of her womb?"

People: **Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you.**

Leader: Behold, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands; your walls are continually before me.

All: **Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult, O earth; break forth, O mountains, into singing!**

## SILENT PREPARATION

## OPENING HYMN

*All Glory, Laud, and Honor*

**All glory, laud, and honor to thee, Redeemer, King,  
To whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring!  
Thou art the King of Israel, Thou David's royal Son,  
Who in the Lord's name comest, the King and blessed One!**

**The people of the Hebrews with palms before thee went;  
Our praise and prayer and anthems before thee we present:  
To thee, before thy passion, they sang their hymns of praise;  
To thee, now high exalted, our melody we raise.**

**Thou didst accept their praises; accept the prayers we bring,  
Who in all good delightest, Thou good and gracious King!  
All glory, laud, and honor to thee, Redeemer, King,  
To whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring!**

## CONFESSION OF SIN (in unison)

Almighty and most merciful God, Your mercy is higher than the heavens, wider than our wanderings, deeper than all our sin. Forgive our impatience while we wait for your promises to be fulfilled, our accusations of others who struggle in different ways than we do, our lack of faith to believe you will lead and redeem us, and our inability to see that our pain leads us to your presence. Help us to change our ways so that we may desire what is good, love what you love, do what you command and wait in the hope of Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

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

## WORDS OF COMFORT AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Thus says the Lord: "In a time of favor I have answered you; in a day of salvation I have helped you; I will keep you and give you as a covenant to the people, to establish the land, to apportion the desolate heritages, And I will make all my mountains a road, and my highways shall be raised up. (Is. 49)

All: **Amen**

## SONG OF PRAISE

*How Long?*

How long? Will You turn Your face away?  
How long? Do You hear us when we pray?  
On and on, still we walk this pilgrim way - How long?

How long 'til Your children find their rest?  
How long 'til You draw them to Your breast?  
We go on holding to Your promises - How long?

*'Til You wipe away the tears from ev'ry eye  
'Til we see our home descending from the sky  
Do we wait in vain?  
Jesus, give us hope again!*

How long 'til Your word will still the storm?  
How long 'til You bare Your mighty arm?  
How we groan 'til You snatch us from the thorns - How long?

How long? Sweet the dawn that ends the race.  
How long? Weak our hearts but strong our legs.  
Looking on - great that cloud of witnesses! How long?

## 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

*There is Grace for Me*

There is Grace for Me  
When darkness surrounds me,  
When every hope and dream  
Lies broken in my hands,  
Your kindness reminds me  
That there is one who understands;  
One who walked this lonely road before,  
One who gives me strength to say:  
  
Every hour in my deepest need  
There is grace for me, there is grace for me.  
By Your power whenever I am weak,  
There is grace for me, there is grace enough for me.  
  
Stand by me, revive me  
When I am weary with the sorrow and the loss.  
Release me, and teach me  
To bring my burdens to the cross;  
Blood that cleanses every trace of sin,  
Love that mends the broken heart.  
  
Grace when the battle is long,  
Grace when temptation is strong,  
Grace when my courage is gone  
And doubts confound me.  
Grace for the faith to believe,  
Grace for the heart to receive,  
Grace for the power to leave  
The past behind me,  
Christ before me,  
All my hope in You!

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

Members of the congregation lead us in prayer.

Lord Jesus, Like Boaz of old we know you have promised to be our guide even in difficult times. Help us today to rejoice not just in a future glory, but in the living out of your presence in the hard choices we must make.

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

Abba, Father, long ago you brought respect to Ruth as she walked among the waiving grain fields. Help us today to lift our arms in praise and glory to you for your daily walk with us that delivers us from all our fears.

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

Holy Spirit of Christ, restorer and healer of even the bitterness of Naomi so long ago. Grant to us your restoration and healing as your family and in our individual hearts, so that the Redeemer will come to our community through our joy.

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 now and forever. Amen.**

Now Boaz had gone up to the gate and sat down there. And behold, the redeemer, of whom Boaz had spoken, came by. So Boaz said, "Turn aside, friend; sit down here." And he turned aside and sat down. 2 And he took ten men of the elders of the city and said, "Sit down here." So they sat down. 3 Then he said to the redeemer, "Naomi, who has come back from the country of Moab, is selling the parcel of land that belonged to our relative Elimelech. 4 So I thought I would tell you of it and say, 'Buy it in the presence of those sitting here and in the presence of the elders of my people.' If you will redeem it, redeem it. But if you will not, tell me, that I may know, for there is no one besides you to redeem it, and I come after you." And he said, "I will redeem it." 5 Then Boaz said, "The day you buy the field from the hand of Naomi, you also acquire Ruth the Moabite, the widow of the dead, in order to perpetuate the name of the dead in his inheritance." 6 Then the redeemer said, "I cannot redeem it for myself, lest I impair my own inheritance. Take my right of redemption yourself, for I cannot redeem it."

7 Now this was the custom in former times in Israel concerning redeeming and exchanging: to confirm a transaction, the one drew off his sandal and gave it to the other, and this was the manner of attesting in Israel. 8 So when the redeemer said to Boaz, "Buy it for yourself," he drew off his sandal. 9 Then Boaz said to the elders and all the people, "You are witnesses this day that I have bought from the hand of Naomi all that belonged to Elimelech and all that belonged to Chilion and to Mahlon. 10 Also Ruth the Moabite, the widow of Mahlon, I have bought to be my wife, to perpetuate the name of the dead in his inheritance, that the name of the dead may not be cut off from among his brothers and from the gate of his native place. You are witnesses this day."

11 Then all the people who were at the gate and the elders said, "We are witnesses. May the Lord make the woman, who is coming into your house, like Rachel and Leah, who together built up the house of Israel. May you act worthily in Ephrathah and be renowned in Bethlehem, 12 and may your house be like the house of Perez, whom Tamar bore to Judah, because of the offspring that the Lord will give you by this young woman."

13 So Boaz took Ruth, and she became his wife. And he went in to her, and the Lord gave her conception, and she bore a son. *(continued)*



14 Then the women said to Naomi, "Blessed be the Lord, who has not left you this day without a redeemer, and may his name be renowned in Israel! 15 He shall be to you a restorer of life and a nourisher of your old age, for your daughter-in-law who loves you, who is more to you than seven sons, has given birth to him." 16 Then Naomi took the child and laid him on her lap and became his nurse. 17 And the women of the neighborhood gave him a name, saying, "A son has been born to Naomi." They named him Obed. He was the father of Jesse, the father of David.

18 Now these are the generations of Perez: Perez fathered Hezron, 19 Hezron fathered Ram, Ram fathered Amminadab, 20 Amminadab fathered Nahshon, Nahshon fathered Salmon, 21 Salmon fathered Boaz, Boaz fathered Obed, 22 Obed fathered Jesse, and Jesse fathered David.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

## **SERMON**

**Rev. Craig Garriott**

*"Prevailing Joy"*

## **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)*

## CLOSING HYMN

*Yet Not I, But Christ Through Me*

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.

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. *(Repeat)*

## 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!

March 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:**  
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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