



In trial and weakness and trouble, He seeks to bring us low, until we learn that His grace is all, and to take pleasure in the very thing that brings us and keeps us low. His strength is made perfect in our weakness. His presence filling and satisfying our emptiness, becomes the secret of humility that need never fail. The humble man has learned the secret of abiding gladness. The weaker he feels, the lower he sinks, and the greater his humiliations appear, the more power and the presence of Christ are his portion.

— Andrew Murray

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

The Christian Year

The Christian year calendar encourages us to think about Jubilation this Sunday. “Jubilation is a shout of joy, it indicates that the heart is bringing forth what defies speech. To whom, then, is this jubilation more fittingly offered than to God who surpasses all utterance? You cannot speak of him because he transcends our speech; and if you cannot speak of him, yet may not remain silent, what else can you do but cry out in jubilation, so that your heart may tell its joy without words, and the unbounded rush of gladness not be cramped by syllables? sing skillfully to him in jubilation!”

— Augustine

WELCOME TO ABBOTT CHURCH

CALL TO WORSHIP (read responsively)
(ESV)

Psalm 68:3-4

Leader: But the righteous shall be glad;

People: they shall exult before God; they shall be jubilant with joy!

Leader: Sing to God, sing praises to his name;

**All: lift up a song to him who rides through the deserts; his
name is the Lord; exult before him!**

SILENT PREPARATION

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise him for he is thy health and salvation!
All ye who hear, now to his temple draw near,
Join me in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,
Shelters thee under his wings, yea, so gently sustaineth!
Hast thou not seen how thy desires e'er have been
Granted in what he ordaineth?

Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend
thee!
Surely His goodness and mercy here daily attend thee;
Ponder anew what the Almighty will do,
If with His love He befriend thee!

Praise to the Lord, who with marvelous wisdom hath made
thee,
Decked thee with health, and with loving hand guided and
stayed thee.
How oft in grief hat no He brought thee relief,
Spreading His wings to o'er shade thee!

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before
him.
Let the Amen sound from his people again;
Gladly for aye we adore him.

Lord God, we have too often focused on the actions and words of others that break our spirit and heart rather than see how our actions and heart has been the reason for which Christ died. We have more often tried to understand the wrong of others rather than seek to understand what actions you call us to take to overcome those wrongs. Forgive us for not preparing our lives so that we would be ready to do your will. Help us to rise and to build your Kingdom and be reflections of your glory. *(Please confess your sins silently to the Lord)*

WORDS OF COMFORT AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON - Colossians 1:13-14

He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.

All: **Amen**

SONG OF PRAISE
You

May the Peoples Praise

**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**

**CHORUS: 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 *(continued)*
To spread Your Word**

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

CHORUS

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
CHORUS

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

Power to Redeem

You take what is
And you make it beautiful.
When love floods in,
We're restored forever more.

With breath that brings the dead to life
With words that pierce the dark with light
Only by the blood are we set free.
With mercy strong to carry shame
And nail it to a tree
You alone hold the power to redeem.

No guilt competes
With innocence crucified.
No grave can hold what your grace has justified.

Rejoice oh child of God
Lift your eyes to see.
With every morning light
Again we are redeemed.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Almighty God, we still stand in the amazement of Easter morning. Our fears of the unknown and the difficulty of yesterday are still fresh in our minds. But today we are reminded that you turn our mourning into gladness, and give us the opportunity to give that gladness to the world around us; to our neighbors who we hardly have known and to our friends who have seen our sorrow. For this, O Lord, we pray:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Lord Jesus Christ because you have given to us the hope of renewed life, we are able to give you the broken pieces of our lives and hear your voice calling us to arise and rebuild. Help us not to fear but to believe that you have overcome the world. For this, O Lord, we pray:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Ever-present Spirit of God, you hold us when we are weak, and hear us when our voices are muffled and faint. Renew our spirit, fill our voices with praise, tune our ears to hear your voice, and direct our choices that we would engage with your kingdom on earth and build your church. For this, O Lord, we pray:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Faithful Father, we are shuffling along our own roads of life, we talk about the sadness in our hearts even while you walk among us. Sorrow and the darkness of unbelief keep us from seeing you. Open our eyes, let us speak so that the eyes of others might be opened and help us see your glory anew today. 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.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE SERMON

Nehemiah

1 In the month of Nisan, in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, when wine was before him, I took up the wine and gave it to the king. Now I had not been sad in his presence. **2** And the king said to me, "Why is your face sad, seeing you are not sick? This is nothing but sadness of the heart." Then I was very much afraid. **3** I said to the king, "Let the king live forever! Why should not my face be sad, when the city, the place of my fathers' graves, lies in ruins, and its gates have been destroyed by fire?" **4** Then the king said to me, "What are you requesting?" So I prayed to the God of heaven. **5** And I said to the king, "If it pleases the king, and if your servant has found favor in your sight, that you send me to Judah, to the city of my fathers' graves, that I may rebuild it." **6** And the king said to me (the queen sitting beside him), "How long will you be gone, and when will you return?" So it pleased the king to send me when I had given him a time. **7** And I said to the king, "If it pleases the king, let letters be given me to the governors of the province Beyond the River, that they may let me pass through until I come to Judah, **8** and a letter to Asaph, the keeper of the king's forest, that he may give me timber to make beams for the gates of the fortress of the temple, and for the wall of the city, and for the house that I shall occupy." And the king granted me what I asked, for the good hand of my God was upon me. **9** Then I came to the governors of the province Beyond the River and gave them the king's letters. Now the king had sent with me officers of the army and horsemen. **10** But when Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite servant heard this, it displeased them greatly that someone had come to seek the welfare of the people of Israel. **11** So I went to Jerusalem and was there three days. **12** Then I arose in the night, I and a few men with me. And I told no one what my God had put into my heart to do for Jerusalem. There was no animal with me but the one on which I rode. **13** I went out by night by the Valley Gate to the Dragon Spring and to the Dung Gate, and I inspected the walls of Jerusalem that were broken down and its gates that had been destroyed by fire. **14** Then I went on to the Fountain Gate and to the King's Pool, but there was no room for the animal that was under me to pass. **15** Then I went up in the night by the valley and inspected the wall, and I turned back and entered by the Valley Gate, and so returned. **16** And the officials did not know where I had gone or what I was doing, and I had not yet told the Jews, the priests, the nobles, the officials, and the rest who were to do the work. **17** Then I said to them, "You see the

trouble we are in, how Jerusalem lies in ruins with its gates burned. Come, let us build the wall of Jerusalem, that we may no longer suffer derision." **18** And I told them of the hand of my God that had been upon me for good, and also of the words that the king had spoken to me. And they said, "Let us rise up and build." So they strengthened their hands for the good work. **19** But when Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite servant and Geshem the Arab heard of it, they jeered at us and despised us and said, "What is this thing that you are doing? Are you rebelling against the king?" **20** Then I replied to them, "The God of heaven will make us prosper, and we his servants will arise and build, but you have no portion or right or claim[a] in Jerusalem."

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Rev. Karl Dortzbach

A People Who Arise and Build

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

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Communion, also called the Lord's Supper, is the family meal of Christians. We invite all baptized followers of Jesus Christ to participate. If you are not a follower of Jesus or are not prepared to share in the meal, we encourage you to spend this time in prayer. We hope this time is helpful to you as you consider your relationship with Jesus Christ and with his people, the church.

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS

CLOSING HYMN

Build Your Kingdom Here

Come, set Your rule and reign
In our hearts again
Increase in us we pray
Unveil why we're made
Come, set our hearts ablaze with hope
Like wildfire in our very souls
Holy Spirit come invade us now
We are Your church
We need Your power in us

We seek Your kingdom first
We hunger and we thirst
Refuse to waste our lives
For You're our joy and prize
To see the captive hearts released
The hurt, the sick, the poor at peace
We lay down our lives for Heaven's cause
We are Your church.
We pray: revive this earth

Build Your kingdom here
Let the darkness fear
Show Your mighty hand
Heal our streets and land
Set Your church on fire
Win this people back
Change the atmosphere
Build Your kingdom here
We pray

Unleash Your kingdoms power
Reaching the near and far
No force of Hell can stop
Your beauty changing hearts
You made us for much more than this
Awake the kingdom seed in us
Fill us with the strength and love of Christ
We are Your church.
We are the hope on earth.

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.

The songs used in today's worship are:

May the Peoples Praise You Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty, David Zimmer, Stuart Townend, Ed Cash.
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Power to Redeem words & music Justin Ebach, Lauren Daigle, and Paul Mabury © 2014 Sony/ATV Timber Publishing , Flychild Publishing CCLI #1442252

Build Your Kingdom Here, Words and music by Rend Collective, © 2012 ccli #14442252

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 "We Care", 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 about them and let us know so that we can follow up as well.

Adult Sunday school classes are meeting together for prayer for the church body and future.

Following the service today, there will be a brief video presentation by Craig Garriott of a new church ministry structure and a proposal from BALM for an interim plan while Abbott seeks a full time senior minister.

The children's sermon may be the only focused worship time ministry for children as the summer comes near. It will depend upon the number of children needing worship time ministry as well as those who may be available to care for that need. Continue to pray for this important ministry, and parents come prepared in the event there are too few children or no one to assist. This will be assessed weekly, For this week we will have both the children's sermon as well as children's church.

If you would like to nominate someone that you feel would make a good elder or deacon, write those names on the perforated portion of the bulletin and put it in the collection plate today or next Sunday.

UPCOMING: There will be a short meeting for the congregation immediately following the service on April 25th.

Welcome to Abbott.

We're glad we worshiped
with you today!

April 18, 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

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abbottchurchoffice@gmail.com

410-276-6207

MINISTER OF MUSIC:

Julius Fischer Jr.

443-722-2525

julejr88@gmail.com

TREASURER:

Al Rode Jr.

SEXTON:

Clint Neuder

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