



Compassion costs. It is easy enough to argue, criticize and condemn, but redemption is costly, and comfort draws from the deep. Brains can argue, but it takes heart to comfort.

— Samuel Chadwick

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)

2 Corinthians 2:14 (ESV)

Leader: Thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession

People: **and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of him everywhere.**

Leader: For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved

All: **and among those who are perishing.**

SILENT PREPARATION

We stand and lift up our hands
For the joy of the Lord is our strength
We bow down and worship Him now
How great, how awesome is He

And together we sing

[Chorus]

Holy is the Lord God Almighty
The earth is filled with His glory
Holy is the Lord God Almighty
The earth is filled with His glory
The earth is filled with His glory

We stand and lift up our hands
For the joy of the Lord is our strength
We bow down and worship Him now
How great, how awesome is He

And together we sing
Everyone sing

[Chorus]

It's rising up all around
It's the anthem of the Lord's renown
Repeat

And together we sing,
Everyone sing

CONFESSION OF SIN (in unison)

Almighty God, you have loved us in the unity you have with the Son and the Holy Spirit, but we fail to love those around us in a way that shows unity. We confess that we find it easier to love those who are like us rather than to love people who are different or have different ideas. Christ suffered and died that we might be one, but we confess that our difficulties and circumstances have separated us from each other and from you. Christ was willing to endure that suffering unto death, but we are often unwilling to endure even inconvenience for the sake of others. *(Please confess your sins silently to the Lord)*

WORDS OF COMFORT AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

I Cor. 15:20-22

But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.

All: **Amen**

SONG OF PRAISE

We Are All One in Mission

**We all are one in mission, We all are one in call,
Our varied gifts united By Christ, the Lord of all.
A single, great commission Compels us from above
To plan and work together That all may know Christ's love.**

**We all are called for service To witness in God's name;
Our ministries are different, Our purpose is the same:
To touch the lives of others With God's surpassing grace
So every folk and nation May feel God's warm embrace.**

**Now let us be united And let our song be heard.
Now let us be a vessel For God's redeeming word.
We all are one in mission, We all are one in call,
Our varied gifts united By Christ, the Lord of all.**

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

Holy Spirit Living Breath of God

Holy Spirit, living Breath of God, Breathe new life into my willing soul.

Bring the presence of the risen Lord To renew my heart and make me whole.

Cause Your Word to come alive in me; Give me faith for what I cannot see;

Give me passion for Your purity. Holy Spirit, breathe new life in me.

**Holy Spirit, come abide within; May Your joy be seen in all I do—
Love enough to cover ev'ry sin in each thought and deed and attitude,**

Kindness to the greatest and the least, gentleness that sows the path of peace.

Turn my striving into works of grace. Breath of God, show Christ in all I do.

Holy Spirit, from creation's birth, Giving life to all that God has made,

Show Your power once again on earth; Cause Your church to hunger for Your ways.

Let the fragrance of our prayers arise. Lead us on the road of sacrifice

That in unity the face of Christ will be clear for all the world to see.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Lord God, we yearn that we might be a reflection of your love and unity in the world around us. We see and feel the divisions in our nation, among your people, and even our friends. Move among us so that your love will grow in our hearts, and we might be willing to build your kingdom in a world that does not know you or want you. For this, O Lord, we pray:

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

Lord Jesus, You gave your life that we might live. All around us we see people whose lives are broken. There are those who think they have everything, but have lost the essence of life. There are those who are broken by drugs and alcohol. Teach us to comfort them and show them a love that is more than a temporary high or satisfaction for an hour. There are those who don't look like us and have different customs. Help us take the opportunity to befriend and include them in our lives. For this, O Lord, we pray:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Holy Spirit, we will ever be stuck in our fears and inactivity if you do not move deeply in us. Give us willing hearts, winsome ways, and wonder and joy as we see what you are doing in our midst as individuals, as a church, and in our community. Give us the will to join in your work and build. 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 3:1-15, 4:1-9

3:1 Then Eliashib the high priest rose up with his brothers the priests, and they built the Sheep Gate. They consecrated it and set its doors. They consecrated it as far as the Tower of the Hundred, as far as the Tower of Hananel. **2** And next to him the men of Jericho built. And next to them Zaccur the son of Imri built. **3** The sons of Hassenaah built the Fish Gate. They laid its beams and set its doors, its bolts, and its bars. **4** And next to them Meremoth the son of Uriah, son of Hakkoz repaired. And next to them Meshullam the son of Berechiah, son of Meshezabel repaired. And

next to them Zadok the son of Baana repaired. **5** And next to them the Tekoites repaired, but their nobles would not stoop to serve their Lord. **6** Joiada the son of Paseah and Meshullam the son of Besodeiah repaired the Gate of Yeshanah. They laid its beams and set its doors, its bolts, and its bars. **7** And next to them repaired Melatiah the Gibeonite and Jadon the Meronothite, the men of Gibeon and of Mizpah, the seat of the governor of the province Beyond the River. **8** Next to them Uzziel the son of Harhaiah, goldsmiths, repaired. Next to him Hananiah, one of the perfumers, repaired, and they restored Jerusalem as far as the Broad Wall. **9** Next to them Rephaiah the son of Hur, ruler of half the district of Jerusalem, repaired. **10** Next to them Jedaiah the son of Harumaph repaired opposite his house. And next to him Hattush the son of Hashabneiah repaired. **11** Malchijah the son of Harim and Hasshub the son of Pahath-moab repaired another section and the Tower of the Ovens. **12** Next to him Shallum the son of Hallohesh, ruler of half the district of Jerusalem, repaired, he and his daughters. **13** Hanun and the inhabitants of Zanoah repaired the Valley Gate. They rebuilt it and set its doors, its bolts, and its bars, and repaired a thousand cubits of the wall, as far as the Dung Gate. **14** Malchijah the son of Rechab, ruler of the district of Beth-haccherem, repaired the Dung Gate. He rebuilt it and set its doors, its bolts, and its bars. **15** And Shallum the son of Col-hozeh, ruler of the district of Mizpah, repaired the Fountain Gate. He rebuilt it and covered it and set its doors, its bolts, and its bars. And he built the wall of the Pool of Shelah of the king's garden, as far as the stairs that go down from the city of David. **4:1** Now when Sanballat heard that we were building the wall, he was angry and greatly enraged, and he jeered at the Jews. **2** And he said in the presence of his brothers and of the army of Samaria, "What are these feeble Jews doing? Will they restore it for themselves? Will they sacrifice? Will they finish up in a day? Will they revive the stones out of the heaps of rubbish, and burned ones at that?" **3** Tobiah the Ammonite was beside him, and he said, "Yes, what they are building—if a fox goes on it he will break down their stone wall!" **4** Hear, O our God, for we are despised. Turn back their taunt on their own heads and give them up to be plundered in a land where they are captives. **5** Do not cover their guilt, and let not their sin be blotted out from your sight, for they have provoked you to anger in the presence of the builders. **6** So we built the wall. And all the wall was joined together

to half its height, for the people had a mind to work. **7** But when Sanballat and Tobiah and the Arabs and the Ammonites and the Ashdodites heard that the repairing of the walls of Jerusalem was going forward and that the breaches were beginning to be closed, they were very angry. **8** And they all plotted together to come and fight against Jerusalem and to cause confusion in it. **9** And we prayed to our God and set a guard as a protection against them day and night.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Rev. Karl Dortzbach

A Mind to 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

God the Father of Your People

**God, the Father of your people, You have called us to be one;
Grant us grace to walk together In the joy of Christ, your Son.
Challenged by your Word and Spirit, Blest with gifts from
heav'n above;
As one body we will serve you, And bear witness to your love.**

**Jesus Christ, our Lord, most holy, Head o'er all the church, Thy
bride,
In us, each day, make more fully Thy name to be glorified.
In the heart of each believer May Thy love its power display.
Let not one among us ever From Thee, Lord, our Shepherd,
stray.**

**May the grace of Christ, our Savior, And the Father's
boundless love,
With the Holy Spirit's favor, Rest upon us from above.
May we now remain in union With each other and the Lord.**

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.

Holy is the Lord words & music
Louie Giglio and Chris Tomlin
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Holy Spirit, Living Breath of God,
Keith Getty & Stuart Townend
→© 2005 Thankyou Music
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, Lorraine Sapp
- 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 a rare cancer
- Dawn Brewer, shoulder pain and upcoming surgery in May
- George Lenning's daughter, Hannah, neurological issues
- Mary Files, passing of Mary's mother on April 19th
- Anora, Adam, and August Gousse and Anora's mother, positive Covid tests

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

Prayer requests will be removed from list after 4 weeks unless updated

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.

There will be a meeting for the congregation immediately following the service today to present information about the proposal made by the Baltimore Antioch Leadership Movement (BALM) to assist in laying the groundwork, vision casting, and developing the criteria we will use to all a pastor for this next chapter in our church's life. Craig Garriott and Stan Long of BALM will be on hand to answer questions. A Zoom connection will be available for those who are unable to attend in person at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w04cgS2pudA>.

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.

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

CHURCH OFFICE:

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410-276-6207

MINISTER OF MUSIC:

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443-722-2525

julejr88@gmail.com

TREASURER:

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