



My flesh and my heart may fail,
but God is the strength of my heart
and my portion forever.

— Psalm 73:26

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)

Matthew 14:27-29 (ESV)

Leader: Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid."

People: "Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water."

All: "Come," he said.

SILENT PREPARATION

OPENING HYMN

Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah

Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah,
Pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but Thou art mighty;
Hold me with Thy pow'rful hand;
Bread of Heaven, Bread of Heaven,
Feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain,
Whence the healing stream doth flow;
Let the fire and cloudy pillar
Lead me all my journey through;
Strong Deliverer, Strong Deliverer,
Be Thou still my Strength and Shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan,
Bid my anxious fears subside;
Death of death, and hell's destruction,
Land me safe on Canaan's side;
Songs of praises, songs of praises
I will ever give to Thee.

CONFESSION OF SIN (in unison)

Father, we confess that our walk with you is raging with dissension. We find it easier to disagree and disengage than to seek unity. We know our words and acts often discourage others and even ourselves, yet we do not listen to your encouragement. We accept our distance from you and from others in your body. Forgive us and help us to look to Christ, to listen to you, Father, and to lean upon the presence of the Holy Spirit. *(Please confess your sins silently to the Lord.)*

³² Jesus said to them, "Very truly I tell you, it is not Moses who has given you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. ³³ For the bread of God is the bread that comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."

All: **Amen**

SONG OF PRAISE*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.**

Christ the sure and steady anchor,
In the fury of the storm;
When the winds of doubt blow through me,
And my sails have all been torn.
In the suffering, in the sorrow,
When my sinking hopes are few;
I will hold fast to the anchor,
It shall never be removed.

Christ the sure and steady anchor,
While the tempest rages on;
When temptation claims the battle,
And it seems the night has won.
Deeper still then goes the anchor,
Though I justly stand accused;
I will hold fast to the anchor,
It shall never be removed.

Christ the sure and steady anchor,
Through the floods of unbelief;
Hopeless somehow, O my soul, now,
Lift your eyes to Calvary.
This my ballast of assurance,
See His love forever proved.
I will hold fast to the anchor,
It shall never be removed.

Christ the sure and steady anchor,
As we face the wave of death;
When these trials give way to glory,
As we draw our final breath.
We will cross that great horizon,
Clouds behind and life secure;
And the calm will be the better,
For the storms that we endured. *(Continued)*

**Christ the shore of our salvation,
Ever faithful, ever true!
We will hold fast to the anchor,
It shall never be removed.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Heavenly Father, we live in a world where many people walk around us, but you walk with us. In our rush to accomplish things and take the next step of our journey you often slow us down so that we might see you more clearly. Thank you for the discomfort and the unplanned things that help us lift our eyes to see your presence and our hearts to yearn again for your closeness. For this, O Lord, we pray.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Lord Jesus, you walked with people in your earthly ministry who were sinful, bitter, and complaining, and often very discouraged. You came over the water to calm their fears and set them free from the prisons that bound them. We, too, need your presence to encourage us and to be close to us, so that we might lean on you. We pray that you would set us free from our fears and our self-focus and make us able to speak words of encouragement and release to others in our congregation and community. For this, O Lord, we pray.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Holy Spirit, you moved in the minds and hearts of people from many places in the Book of Acts. You drew different peoples and nations to worship at your feet. Help us today to remember your presence and power and draw us near to your mercy and grace so that we might help others also experience that grace and newness of life. For this, O Lord, we pray.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Almighty God, Your redemption has always come to the world at the worst and most difficult of times. Come into our hearts and renew a right spirit in us. Give us joy in our salvation and help us to show that joy to each other and to others in our working and living communities. You

draw all men to yourself. Help us to be your people who draw others to worship and serve you. 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.**

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SCRIPTURE FOR THE SERMON

Nehemiah 4:6-21

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. **10** In Judah it was said, "The strength of those who bear the burdens is failing. There is too much rubble. By ourselves we will not be able to rebuild the wall." **11** And our enemies said, "They will not know or see till we come among them and kill them and stop the work." **12** At that time the Jews who lived near them came from all directions and said to us ten times, "You must return to us." **13** So in the lowest parts of the space behind the wall, in open places, I stationed the people by their clans, with their swords, their spears, and their bows. **14** And I looked and arose and said to the nobles and to the officials and to the rest of the people, "Do not be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and fight for your brothers, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your homes." **15** When our enemies heard that it was known to us and that God had frustrated their plan, we all returned to the wall, each to his work. **16** From that day on, half

of my servants worked on construction, and half held the spears, shields, bows, and coats of mail. And the leaders stood behind the whole house of Judah, **17** who were building on the wall. Those who carried burdens were loaded in such a way that each labored on the work with one hand and held his weapon with the other. **18** And each of the builders had his sword strapped at his side while he built. The man who sounded the trumpet was beside me. **19** And I said to the nobles and to the officials and to the rest of the people, "The work is great and widely spread, and we are separated on the wall, far from one another. **20** In the place where you hear the sound of the trumpet, rally to us there. Our God will fight for us." **21** So we labored at the work, and half of them held the spears from the break of dawn until the stars came out.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Rev. Karl Dortzbach

Turning From the Rubble of Failure to Faith

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

My Hope is Built on Nothing Less

My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
But wholly lean on Jesus' name.

On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand.
All other ground is sinking sand.

When darkness veils his lovely face,
I rest upon unchanging grace;
In ev'ry rough and stormy gale
My anchor holds within the veil.

His oath, his covenant, his blood
Support me in the whelming flood;
When all around my soul gives way,
He then is all my hope and stay.

When I shall launch in worlds unseen,
O may I then be found in him;
Dressed in his righteousness alone,
Faultless to stand before the throne.

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.

Christ the Sure and Steady Anchor
words & music Matt Papa and Matt
Boswel
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Messenger Hymns and Songs/
Love Your Enemies Publishing CCLI
1442252

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.

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

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.

**CONGREGATION AND
COMMUNITY CARE:**

Julius Fischer Jr. - Elder
MUSIC AND WORSHIP

George Lenning - Elder
CLERK OF SESSION

Dustin Pfeifer
CAMP DIRECTOR

Jared Pfeifer
MERCY MINISTRY - WE CARE

Ann Pfeifer
CHILDREN'S MINISTRY - ABBOTT
TUTORING CENTER DIRECTOR

Kaitlin Rankin
SOCIAL MEDIA COORDINATOR

Online Offering

abbottchurch.org/giving

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OFFERING — WEEK 87

	Budget	Giving
Last week	\$5,180	\$3,233
YTD	\$82,880	\$64,008

If you would like to give online, you may do so at www.abbottchurch.org/giving

**Use This Space for Prayer
Requests, Ideas and Concerns**

(Please tear off and place in the offering plate)

What do you think about the BALM proposal? (tick one preferred response)

I think that the proposal is a good way for Abbott to proceed

I think that the proposal has a number of elements that can benefit Abbott

I think that the proposal is ok, but other things might be ok also.

I am not sure that the proposal is something Abbott should do

I do not think the proposal is something Abbott needs to do

2. Please share any reasons or other thoughts about your response...

Welcome to Abbott.

We're glad we worshiped
with you today!

May 2, 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

410-276-6207

MINISTER OF MUSIC:

Julius Fischer Jr.

443-722-2525

julejr88@gmail.com

TREASURER:

Al Rode Jr.

SEXTON:

Clint Neuder

Elders:

George Lenning

Julius Fischer Jr.

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