



Life is wasted if we do not grasp the glory of the cross, cherish it for the treasure that it is, and cleave to it as the highest price of every pleasure and the deepest comfort in every pain. What was once foolishness to us—a crucified God—must become our wisdom and our power and our only boast in this world.

— John Piper

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

**Remembering our faith, questions and answers from the
Westminster Shorter Catechism:**

Q. 1. What is the chief end of man?

A: Man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever.

Q. 2. What rule hath God given to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy him?

A: The Word of God, which is contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, is the only rule to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy him.

Q. 3. What do the Scriptures principally teach?

A. The Scriptures principally teach what man is to believe concerning God, and what duty God requires of man.

Q. 4. What is God?

A: God is a spirit, infinite, eternal, and unchangeable, in his being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness and truth.

WELCOME TO ABBOTT CHURCH

CALL TO WORSHIP (read responsively)

Colossians 2:2-3

Come, that your hearts may be encouraged, having been knit together in love,

and attain to all the wealth that comes from the full assurance of understanding,

and result in true knowledge of God's mystery, that is, Christ Himself,

3 in Him are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

PREPARE OUR HEARTS FOR WORSHIP

Abba, Father! We approach Thee
In our Savior's precious name;
We, Thy children, here assembled,
Now Thy promised blessing claim;
From our sins His blood hath washed us,
'Tis through Him our souls draw nigh,
And Thy Spirit, too, hath taught us,
Abba, Father, thus to cry.

Once as prodigals we wandered
In our folly far from Thee,
But Thy grace, o'er sin abounding,
Rescued us from misery;
Thou Thy prodigals hast pardoned,
Kissed us with a Father's love,
Spread the festive board, and called us,
E'er to dwell with Thee above.

Clothed in garments of salvation,
At Thy table is our place,
We rejoice, and Thou rejoicest,
In the riches of Thy grace;
It is meet, we hear Thee saying,
We should merry and be glad,
I have found My once lost children,
Now they live who once were dead.

Abba, Father! all adore Thee,
All rejoice in Heav'n above,
While in us they learn the wonders
Of Thy wisdom, grace, and love;
Soon before Thy throne assembled,
All Thy children shall proclaim,
Glory, everlasting glory,
Be to God and to the Lamb!

CONFESSION OF SIN (in unison)

Creator and King, you have given to us the treasure of your promises, yet we do not reflect on them. You have blessed us with the treasure of your fulfillment, but we seek fulfillment in our lives from things and relationships that are neither lasting nor fulfilling. You have offered us the treasure of your presence, yet we so often fail to seek you and instead turn away our faces and our hearts. Forgive us Almighty God and flood us with a renewed joy in the treasures you have given.

(Please confess your sins silently to the Lord.)

WORDS OF COMFORT AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON Ezekiel 36:25-28

"I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. **26** I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. **27** And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws. **28** You will be my people and I will be your God."

All: **Amen**

SONG OF PRAISE

O God of Mercy God of Might

O God of mercy, God of might,
In love and pity infinite,
Teach us, as ever in Thy sight,
To live our life to Thee.
And Thou who came on earth to die,
That fallen man might live thereby,
O hear us, for to Thee we cry
In hope, O Lord, to Thee.

Teach us the lesson Thou hast taught,
To feel for those Thy blood hath bought;
That ev'ry word and deed and thought
May work a work for Thee.
For they are brethren, far and wide,
Since Thou, O Lord, for them hast died;
Then teach us, whatsoe'er betide,
To love them all in Thee. *(continued)*

In sickness, sorrow, want, or care,
Whate'er it be, 'tis ours to share;
May we, when help is needed, there
Give help as unto Thee.
And Thou who came on earth to die,
That fallen man might live thereby,
O hear us, for to Thee we cry
In hope, O Lord, to Thee.

EXTENDING GOD'S WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS and GREETING

Minister: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All: **And also with you.**

PASTORAL PRAYER

Now, 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 5:1-19

Now there arose a great outcry of the people and of their wives against their Jewish brothers. 2 For there were those who said, "With our sons and our daughters, we are many. So let us get grain, that we may eat and keep alive." 3 There were also those who said, "We are mortgaging our fields, our vineyards, and our houses to get grain because of the famine." 4 And there were those who said, "We have borrowed money for the king's tax on our fields and our vineyards. 5 Now our flesh is as the flesh of our brothers, our children are as their children. Yet we are forcing our sons and our daughters to be slaves, and some of our daughters have already been enslaved, but it is not in our power to help

it, for other men have our fields and our vineyards." 6 I was very angry when I heard their outcry and these words. 7 I took counsel with myself, and I brought charges against the nobles and the officials. I said to them, "You are exacting interest, each from his brother." And I held a great assembly against them 8 and said to them, "We, as far as we are able, have bought back our Jewish brothers who have been sold to the nations, but you even sell your brothers that they may be sold to us!" They were silent and could not find a word to say. 9 So I said, "The thing that you are doing is not good. Ought you not to walk in the fear of our God to prevent the taunts of the nations our enemies? 10 Moreover, I and my brothers and my servants are lending them money and grain. Let us abandon this exacting of interest. 11 Return to them this very day their fields, their vineyards, their olive orchards, and their houses, and the percentage of money, grain, wine, and oil that you have been exacting from them." 12 Then they said, "We will restore these and require nothing from them. We will do as you say." And I called the priests and made them swear to do as they had promised. 13 I also shook out the fold[a] of my garment and said, "So may God shake out every man from his house and from his labor who does not keep this promise. So may he be shaken out and emptied." And all the assembly said "Amen" and praised the Lord. And the people did as they had promised. 14 Moreover, from the time that I was appointed to be their governor in the land of Judah, from the twentieth year to the thirty-second year of Artaxerxes the king, twelve years, neither I nor my brothers ate the food allowance of the governor. 15 The former governors who were before me laid heavy burdens on the people and took from them for their daily ration[b] forty shekels[c] of silver. Even their servants lorded it over the people. But I did not do so, because of the fear of God. 16 I also persevered in the work on this wall, and we acquired no land, and all my servants were gathered there for the work. 17 Moreover, there were at my table 150 men, Jews and officials, besides those who came to us from the nations that were around us. 18 Now what was prepared at my expense[d] for each day was one ox and six choice sheep and birds, and every ten days all kinds of wine in abundance. Yet for all this I did not demand the food allowance of the governor, because the service was too heavy on this people. 19 Remember for my good, O my God, all that I have done for this people.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

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

PREPARATION FOR COMMUNION

Behold the Lamb

**Behold the Lamb who bears our sins away,
Slain for us: and we remember:
The promise made that all who come in faith
Find forgiveness at the cross.
So we share in this Bread of life,
And we drink of His sacrifice,
As a sign of our bonds of peace
Around the table of the King.**

**The body of our Savior, Jesus Christ,
Torn for you: eat and remember
The wounds that heal, the death that brings us life,
Paid the price to make us one.
So we share in this Bread of Life,
And we drink of His sacrifice
As a sign of our bonds of love
Around the table of the King. *(continued)***

The blood that cleanses every stain of sin,
Shed for you: drink and remember
He drained death's cup that all may enter in
To receive the life of God.
So we share in this Bread of Life,
And we drink of His sacrifice,
As a sign of our bonds of grace
Around the table of the King.

And so with thankfulness and faith
We rise to respond: and to remember
Our call to follow in the steps of Christ
As His body here on earth.
As we share in His suffering,
We proclaim: Christ will come again!
And we'll join in the feast of heaven
Around the table of the King.

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

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.

CHORUS

Christ we proclaim,
The Name above every name:
For all creation, every 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.

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.

"For the Cause" Words and Music
by Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty &
Stuart Townend
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Townend songs CCLI# 1442252

"Behold the Lamb" Words & Music
by Keith & Kristyn Getty &
Stuart Townend
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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.

What was commonly called the Senior Study was resumed this past week on Thursday mornings at 11:00 a.m. We began with a 6-week study of the book of Habakkuk. You do not have to be a senior to attend. The study closes with a time of prayer, concluding around noon each week.

**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 19

	Budget	Giving
Last week	\$5,180	\$4,655
YTD	\$88,060	\$68,663

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)

Welcome to Abbott.

We're glad we worshiped
with you today!

May 9, 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:

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443-722-2525

julejr88@gmail.com

TREASURER:

Al Rode Jr.

SEXTON:

Clint Neuder

Elders:

George Lenning

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