



The gospel shows us that our spiritual problem lies not only in failing to obey God, but also in relying on our obedience to make us fully acceptable to God, ourselves and others. Every kind of character flaw comes from this natural impulse to be our own saviour through our own performance and achievement. On the one hand, proud and disdainful personalities come from basing your identity on your performance and thinking you are succeeding. But on the other hand, discouraged and self loathing personalities also come from basing your identity on your performance and thinking you are failing.

— Timothy Keller

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

WELCOME TO ABBOTT CHURCH

CALL TO WORSHIP (read responsively)

Ephesians 1:3-7

Leader: Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.

People: *⁴ For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight.*

Leader: In love ⁵he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will—

People: *⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves.*

All: *⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace.*

PREPARE OUR HEARTS FOR WORSHIP

OPENING HYMN

A Mighty Fortress

A mighty fortress is our God,
A bulwark never failing;
Our helper he amid the flood
Of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe
Doth seek to work us woe;
His craft and power are great;
And armed with cruel hate,
On earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own strength confide,
Our striving would be losing;
Were not the right Man on our side,
The Man of God's own choosing.
Dost ask who that may be?
Christ Jesus, it is he,
The Lord of Hosts his name,
From age to age the same,
And he must win the battle. *(continued)*

And though this world, with devils filled,
Should threaten to undo us,
We will not fear, for God hath willed
His truth to triumph through us.
The prince of darkness grim,
We tremble not for him;
His rage we can endure,
For lo! his doom is sure;
One little word shall fell him.

A mighty fortress is our God! (repeat)

Did we in our own strength confide,
Our striving would be losing.

CONFESSION OF SIN (in unison)

Forgive us, Heavenly Father, for often acting like others should treat us in a special way. You have called us to be your people, but we often are more aware of our race or our origin or our gender. We fail to remember your calling us to be a royal priesthood and your holy nation. Forgive us, Christ Jesus, for often walking in the darkness of despair and fear, rather than in your light and joy.

(Please confess your sins silently to the Lord.)

WORDS OF COMFORT AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

1 Samuel 12:22

For the Lord will not forsake his people, for his great name's sake, because it has pleased the Lord to make you a people for himself.

All: Amen

SONG OF PRAISE

We Are God's People

We are God's people, the chosen of the Lord,
Born of His Spirit, established by His Word;
Our cornerstone is Christ alone,
And strong in Him we stand:
O let us live transparently
And walk heart to heart and hand in hand. *(continued)*

We are God's loved ones, the Bride of Christ our Lord,
For we have known it, the love of God outpoured;
Now let us learn how to return
The gift of love once given:
O let us share each joy and care,
And live with a zeal that pleases Heaven.

We are the Body of which the Lord is Head,
Called to obey Him, now risen from the dead;
He wills us be a family,
Diverse yet truly one:
O let us give our gifts to God,
And so shall his work on earth be done.

We are a temple, the Spirit's dwelling place,
Formed in great weakness, a cup to hold God's grace;
We die alone, for on its own
Each ember loses fire:
Yet joined in one the flame burns on
To give warmth and light, and to inspire.

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.**

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

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SCRIPTURE FOR THE SERMON

Nehemiah 7

Now when the wall had been built and I had set up the doors, and the gatekeepers, the singers, and the Levites had been appointed, **2** I gave my brother Hanani and Hananiah the governor of the castle charge over Jerusalem, for he was a more faithful and God-fearing man than many. **3** And I said to them, "Let not the gates of Jerusalem be opened until the sun is hot. And while they are still standing guard, let them shut and bar the doors. Appoint guards from among the inhabitants of Jerusalem, some at their guard posts and some in front of their own homes." **4** The city was wide and large, but the people within it were few, and no houses had been rebuilt. **5** Then my God put it into my heart to assemble the nobles and the officials and the people to be enrolled by genealogy. And I found the book of the genealogy of those who came up at the first, and I found written in it: **6** These were the people of the province who came up out of the captivity of those exiles whom Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had carried into exile. They returned to Jerusalem and Judah, each to his town. **7** They came with Zerubbabel, Jeshua, Nehemiah, Azariah, Raamiah, Nahamani, Mordecai, Bilshan, Mispereth, Bigvai, Nehum, Baanah. The number of the men of the people of Israel: **8** the sons of Parosh, 2,172. **9** The sons of Shephathiah, 372. **10** The sons of Arah, 652. **11** The sons of Pahath-moab, namely the sons of Jeshua and Joab, 2,818. **12** The sons of Elam, 1,254. **13** The sons of Zattu, 845. **14** The sons of Zaccai, 760. **15** The sons of Binnui, 648. **16** The sons of Bebai, 628. **17** The sons of Azgad, 2,322. **18** The sons of Adonikam, 667. **19** The sons of Bigvai, 2,067. **20** The sons of Adin, 655. **21** The sons of Ater, namely of Hezekiah, 98. **22** The sons of Hashum, 328. **23** The sons of Bezai, 324. **24** The sons of Hariph, 112. **25** The sons of Gibeon, 95. **26** The men of Bethlehem and Netophah, 188. **27** The men of Anathoth, 128. **28** The men of Beth-azmaveth, 42. **29** The men of Kiriath-jearim,

Chephirah, and Beeroth, 743. **30** The men of Ramah and Geba, 621. **31** The men of Michmas, 122. **32** The men of Bethel and Ai, 123. **33** The men of the other Nebo, 52. **34** The sons of the other Elam, 1,254. **35** The sons of Harim, 320. **36** The sons of Jericho, 345. **37** The sons of Lod, Hadid, and Ono, 721. **38** The sons of Senaah, 3,930. **39** The priests: the sons of Jedaiah, namely the house of Jeshua, 973. **40** The sons of Immer, 1,052. **41** The sons of Pashhur, 1,247. **42** The sons of Harim, 1,017. **43** The Levites: the sons of Jeshua, namely of Kadmiel of the sons of Hodevah, 74. **44** The singers: the sons of Asaph, 148. **45** The gatekeepers: the sons of Shallum, the sons of Ater, the sons of Talmon, the sons of Akkub, the sons of Hatita, the sons of Shobai, 138. **46** The temple servants: the sons of Ziha, the sons of Hasupha, the sons of Tabbaoth, **47** the sons of Keros, the sons of Sia, the sons of Padon, **48** the sons of Lebana, the sons of Hagaba, the sons of Shalmal, **49** the sons of Hanan, the sons of Giddel, the sons of Gahar, **50** the sons of Reaiah, the sons of Rezin, the sons of Nekoda, **51** the sons of Gazzam, the sons of Uzza, the sons of Paseah, **52** the sons of Besai, the sons of Meunim, the sons of Nephushesim, **53** the sons of Bakbuk, the sons of Hakupha, the sons of Harhur, **54** the sons of Bazlith, the sons of Mehida, the sons of Harsha, **55** the sons of Barkos, the sons of Sisera, the sons of Temah, **56** the sons of Neziah, the sons of Hatipha. **57** The sons of Solomon's servants: the sons of Sotai, the sons of Sophereth, the sons of Perida, **58** the sons of Jaala, the sons of Darkon, the sons of Giddel, **59** the sons of Shephatiah, the sons of Hattil, the sons of Pochereth-hazzebaim, the sons of Amon. **60** All the temple servants and the sons of Solomon's servants were 392. **61** The following were those who came up from Tel-melah, Tel-harsha, Cherub, Addon, and Immer, but they could not prove their fathers' houses nor their descent, whether they belonged to Israel: **62** the sons of Delaiah, the sons of Tobiah, the sons of Nekoda, 642. **63** Also, of the priests: the sons of Hobaiah, the sons of Hakkoz, the sons of Barzillai (who had taken a wife of the daughters of Barzillai the Gileadite and was called by their name). **64** These sought their registration among those enrolled in the genealogies, but it was not found there, so they were excluded from the priesthood as unclean. **65** The governor told them that they were not to partake of the most holy food until a priest with Urim and Thummim should arise. **66** The whole assembly together was 42,360, **67** besides their male and female servants, of whom there were 7,337. And they had

245 singers, male and female. 68 Their horses were 736, their mules 245, 69 their camels 435, and their donkeys 6,720. 70 Now some of the heads of fathers' houses gave to the work. The governor gave to the treasury 1,000 darics of gold, 50 basins, 30 priests' garments and 500 minas of silver. 71 And some of the heads of fathers' houses gave into the treasury of the work 20,000 darics of gold and 2,200 minas of silver. 72 And what the rest of the people gave was 20,000 darics of gold, 2,000 minas of silver, and 67 priests' garments. 73 So the priests, the Levites, the gatekeepers, the singers, some of the people, the temple servants, and all Israel, lived in their towns. And when the seventh month had come, the people of Israel were in their towns.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Rev. Karl Dortzbach

The Great Gathering: Who Am I? Who Are You?

PREPARATION FOR COMMUNION

Before the Throne of God Above

Before Before the throne of God above I have a strong, a perfect plea

A great High Priest whose name is love Who ever lives and pleads for me.

My name is graven on His hands My name is written on His heart.

I know that while in heaven He stands No tongue can bid me thence depart

No tongue can bid me thence depart.

When Satan tempts me to despair And tells me of the guilt within

Upward I look and see Him there Who made an end of all my sin

Because the sinless Savior died My sinful soul is counted free For God the just is satisfied To look on Him and pardon me

To look on Him and pardon me. (continued)

**Behold Him there the Risen Lamb My perfect spotless
Righteousness**

**The Great Unchangeable I Am The King of Glory and of Grace
One with Himself I cannot die My soul is purchased by His
blood**

**My life is hid with Christ on high With Christ my Savior and my
God**

With Christ my Savior and my God.

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

Streets of the City

***Lord, we stand in the shallows of all you have given,
Grateful for mercy yet hungry for more,
for the power of grace to go out from this place
to the ends of the earth.***

***We have praised You with passion and worshipped in wonder,
thrilled by Your Spirit and fed by Your word;
now to fully delight in the riches of Christ
we must go to the world.***

***For You live in the streets of the city,
You stand with the weak and the needy,
You walk with the homeless and hungry and poor.
And Your hands are the hands I am lifting,
Your voice is the life I am living;
Your love longs to meet them, but how will they know,
unless I am willing to go? (continued)***

Lord, where are You hungry and where are You thirsty,
naked, imprisoned, with no one to care?
To give of our best to the poor and oppressed
is to give back to You.
So cause us to see with the eyes of the Savior.
Give us a heart that will love as You love;
courageous compassion in words and in action
brings hope to the world.

For You live in the streets of the city,
You stand with the weak and the needy,
You walk with the homeless and hungry and poor.
And Your hands are the hands I am lifting,
Your voice is the life I am living;
Your love longs to meet them, but how will they know?

That you live in the streets of the city,
You stand with the weak and the needy
You walk with homeless and hungry and poor.
And your hands are the hands I am lifting,
Your voice is the life I am living,
Without us there's no other way they will know,
So send me, I'm ready to go.

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.

Before the Throne of God
Above
Words by Charitie Less Bancroft
Music by Vikki Cook

We Are God's People words by
Bryan Jeffrey Leach
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14442252

"Streets of the City" Words &
Music by 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, David Files
- Raj Mohan, caring for his wife with dementia; granddaughter, mental health
- Lydia Frasca, chemotherapy and radiation treatment
- Tom Lubin, caring for his wife
- Mike Brooks, son of Earl and Betty Brooks, fighting a rare cancer
- Dawn Brewer, shoulder pain, surgery May 24th
- George Lenning's daughter, Hannah, neurological issues, testing
- Anora Gousse, pneumonia, and children; recovering from coronavirus

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 the future of the church.

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.

Beginning in June, the Baltimore Antioch Leadership Movement (BALM) will be assisting in laying the groundwork, vision casting, and developing the criteria we will use to call a pastor for this next chapter in our church's life.

Welcome to Abbott.

We're glad we worshiped with you today!

May 23, 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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