



*We are called not simply to communicate the gospel to nonbelievers; we must also intentionally **celebrate** the gospel before them.*

— 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

QUOTES TO REFLECT ON

A church in the land without the Spirit is rather a curse than a blessing. If you have not the Spirit of God, Christian worker, remember that you stand in somebody else's way; you are a fruitless tree standing where a fruitful tree might grow.

– C. H. Spurgeon

The depth of a revival will be determined exactly by the depth of the spirit of repentance. — Frank Bartleman

An unholy church! it is useless to the world, and of no esteem among men. It is an abomination, hell's laughter, heaven's abhorrence. The worst evils which have ever come upon the world have been brought upon her by an unholy church.

— C.H. Spurgeon

WELCOME TO ABBOTT CHURCH

CALL TO WORSHIP (read responsively)

Psalm 95:1-7

Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.

2 Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song.

3 For the Lord is the great God, the great King above all gods.

4 In his hand are the depths of the earth, and the mountain peaks belong to him.

5 The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land.

6 Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker;

7 for he is our God and we are the people of his pasture, the flock under his care.

PREPARE OUR HEARTS FOR WORSHIP

OPENING HYMN

O For A Thousand Tongues to Sing

**O for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer's praise,
The glories of my God and King, the triumphs of his grace.**

**My gracious master and my God, assist me to proclaim,
To spread through all the earth abroad, the honors of thy
name.**

**Jesus, the name that charms our fears, that bids our sorrows
cease;**

'Tis music in the sinner's ears, 'tis life, and health, and peace.

**He breaks the power of reigning sin, He sets the pris'ner free;
His blood can make the foulest clean, His blood availed for
me.**

**He speaks and, listening to his voice, new life the dead
receive;**

The mournful, broken hearts rejoice; the humble poor believe

CONFESSION OF SIN (in unison)

**Lord God, we confess that sometimes the sadness in our hearts
keeps us from seeing your love. We have focused so often on the
things that have gone wrong around us rather than see the
opportunities you put in front of us. Lord Jesus Christ, take in your
hands the burdens we carry and put us on your shoulders.**

(Please confess your sins silently to the Lord.)

WORDS OF COMFORT AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

May Almighty God, who in Jesus Christ has given you a kingdom that cannot be destroyed, forgive you your sins, open your eyes to God's love, strengthen you to do God's will, and give you the joy of his kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen**

SONG OF PRAISE

Yet Not I but Through Christ in Me

What gift of grace is Jesus my Redeemer.
There is no more for heaven now to give.
He is my joy, my righteousness and freedom,
My steadfast love, my deep and boundless peace.

To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus;
For my life is wholly bound to His.
Oh how strange and divine, I can sing all is mine
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

The night is dark, but I am not forsaken,
For by my side, the Savior He will stay.
I labour on in weakness and rejoicing
For in my need, His power is displayed.

To this I hold, my shepherd will defend me
Through the deepest valley He will lead.
Oh the night has been won, and I shall overcome
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

No fate I dread, I know I am forgiven;
The future sure, the price it has been paid.
For Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon,
And He was raised, to overthrow the grave.

To this I hold, my sin has been defeated.
Jesus now and ever is my plea.
Oh the chains are released, I can sing,
I am free, yet not I, but through Christ in me.

With every breath, I long to follow Jesus
For He has said that He will bring me home.
And day by day, I know He will renew me
Until I stand, with joy before the throne.

To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus.
All the glory evermore to Him.
When the race is complete, still my lips shall repeat
Yet not I but through Christ in me.

(Repeat)

EXTENDING GOD'S WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS and GREETING

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

All: **And also with you.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Almighty God our hearts lift up praise to you today because you and the King who reigns forever. You hold in your hands the things we do not understand like the erupting mountains, the spreading virus and even our hearts of fear. For this, O Lord, we pray.

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

Lord Jesus Christ we rejoice in your gift of the resurrection. Like Mary of old we often wander in the garden of our pain and loss. Help us to hear you call our name. Your voice ends all our shame. For this, O Lord, we pray.

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

Holy Spirit we celebrate your continued presence with us. You do not leave us alone in our sorrow, our failures, our doubts, our fears or even our silence. You live with us, help us to live for you. For this, O Lord, we pray.

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

Now, let us pray boldly as our Savior has taught us:

**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.**

SONG OF PRAISE

Speak O Lord

Speak, O Lord, as we come to You
To receive the food of Your Holy Word.
Take Your truth, plant it deep in us;
Shape and fashion us in Your likeness,
That the light of Christ might be seen today
In our acts of love and our deeds of faith.
Speak, O Lord, and fulfill in us
All Your purposes for Your glory.

Teach us, Lord, full obedience,
Holy reverence, true humility;
Test our thoughts and our attitudes
In the radiance of Your purity.
Cause our faith to rise; cause our eyes to see
Your majestic love and authority.
Words of pow'r that can never fail—
Let their truth prevail over unbelief.

Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds;
Help us grasp the heights of Your plans for us—
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time
That will echo down through eternity.
And by grace we'll stand on Your promises,
And by faith we'll walk as You walk with us.
Speak, O Lord, till Your church is built
And the earth is filled with Your glory.

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

And all the people gathered as one man into the square before the Water Gate. And they told Ezra the scribe to bring the Book of the Law of Moses that the Lord had commanded Israel. 2 So Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could understand what they heard, on the first day of the seventh month. 3 And he read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand. And the ears of all the people were attentive to the Book of the Law. 4 And Ezra the scribe stood on a wooden platform that they had made for the purpose. And beside him stood Mattithiah, Shema, Anaiah, Uriah, Hilkiah, and Maaseiah on his right hand, and Pedaiah, Mishael, Malchijah, Hashum, Hashbaddanah, Zechariah, and Meshullam on his left hand. 5 And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was above all the people, and as he opened it all the people stood. 6 And Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands. And they bowed their heads and worshiped the Lord with their faces to the ground. 7 Also Jeshua, Bani, Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodiah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan, Pelaiah, the Levites, helped the people to understand the Law, while the people remained in their places. 8 They read from the book, from the Law of God, clearly, and they gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading. 9 And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn or weep." For all the people wept as they heard the words of the Law. 10 Then he said to them, "Go your way. Eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions to anyone who has nothing ready, for this day is holy to our Lord. And do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength." 11 So the Levites calmed all the people, saying, "Be quiet, for this day is holy; do not be grieved." 12 And all the people went their way to eat and drink and to send portions and to make great rejoicing, because they had understood the words that were declared to them. 13 On the second day the heads of fathers' houses of all the people, with the priests and the Levites, came together to Ezra the scribe in order to study the words of the Law. 14 And they found it written in the Law that the Lord had commanded by Moses that the people of Israel should dwell in booths during the feast of

the seventh month, 15 and that they should proclaim it and publish it in all their towns and in Jerusalem, "Go out to the hills and bring branches of olive, wild olive, myrtle, palm, and other leafy trees to make booths, as it is written." 16 So the people went out and brought them and made booths for themselves, each on his roof, and in their courts and in the courts of the house of God, and in the square at the Water Gate and in the square at the Gate of Ephraim. 17 And all the assembly of those who had returned from the captivity made booths and lived in the booths, for from the days of Jeshua the son of Nun to that day the people of Israel had not done so. And there was very great rejoicing. 18 And day by day, from the first day to the last day, he read from the Book of the Law of God. They kept the feast seven days, and on the eighth day there was a solemn assembly, according to the rule.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Rev. Karl Dortzbach

God's Celebration

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

Church of God Elect and Glorious

**Church of God, elect and glorious, holy nation, chosen race,
Called as God's own special people, royal priests and heirs of
grace:**

**Know the purpose of your calling, show to all his mighty deeds;
Tell of love that knows no limits, grace that meets all human
needs.**

**God has called you out of darkness into his most marvelous light,
Brought his truth to life within you, turned your blindness into
sight.**

**Let your light so shine around you that God's name is glorified,
And all find fresh hope and purpose in Christ Jesus crucified.**

**Once you were an alien people, strangers to God's heart of love,
But he brought you home in mercy, citizens of heaven above.
Let his love flow out to others, let them feel the Father's care,
That they too may know his welcome and his countless blessings
share.**

**Church of God, elect and holy, be the people he intends,
Strong in faith and swift to answer each command your Master
sends;
Royal priests, fulfill your calling through your sacrifice and prayer,
Give your lives in joyful service, sing his praise, his love declare.**

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.

Yet Not I But Through Christ in Me
words and music Michael Farren,
Jonny Robinson, Rich Thompson
©2018 Farren Love And War
Publishing, Integrity's Alleluia!
Music, CityAlight Music CCLI
1442252

Speak O Lord

Words and Music by Keith Getty
and Stuart Townend,
2005

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.

Following worship today, there will be a reception to honor some dear friends. This is the last week Karl Dortzbach will be in our pulpit. Karl and his wife Debbie have truly embraced us as we have dealt with a lot of difficulties over the last year. This is also the last week that Abby Fahnstock will be worshipping with us, as she leaves to begin her residency in pediatrics at Vanderbilt University in Nashville. Please take a moment to come to Room 8 to have a piece of cake and share a kind word with each of these dear ones.

The children's sermon will be the only focused worship time ministry for children during the service until fall. Continue to pray for this important ministry. Parents, come prepared for your children to remain with you throughout the worship service.

All are invited to attend a Bible study on Thursday. Mornings at 11:00 a.m. in Room 8. The study closes with a time of prayer, concluding around noon each week.

On June 13th, there will be a luncheon immediately following the service with the pastoral team of BALM; Craig Garriott, Stan Long, and Ben Taylor. This day will mark the beginning of laying the groundwork, vision casting, and developing criteria that will be used to call a pastor for the next chapter in the life of our church. Please take this opportunity to meet and fellowship with Craig, Stan, and Ben, and to ask them any questions you may have.

Welcome to Abbott.

We're glad we worshiped
with you today!

May 30, 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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