



We please Him most, not by frantically  
trying to make ourselves good, but  
by throwing ourselves into His arms  
with all our imperfections and believing  
that He understands everything  
-- and still loves us.

-- A. W. Tozer


**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 worshipping 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?** 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 (443) 722-2525 and/or George (804) 931-6323.

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## REFLECT ON GOD'S WORD

"Teach me your way, O LORD, and I will walk in your truth; give me an undivided heart, that I may fear your name. I will praise you, O Lord my God, with all my heart; I will glorify your name forever." Psalm 86:11,12

"Just as the living Father sent me and I live because of the Father, so the one who feeds on me will live because of me." John 6:57

### Responsive Call to Worship

Revelation 4:8,11

LEADER: Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty,  
who was and is and is to come!

PEOPLE: **Worthy are you, our Lord and God,  
to receive glory and honor and power,  
for you created all things,  
and by your will they existed and were created.**

### OPENING HYMN

*God So Loved*

**Come all you weary, come all you thirsty  
Come to the well that never runs dry  
Drink of the water, come and thirst no more**

**Come all you sinners, come find His mercy  
Come to the table, He will satisfy  
Taste of His goodness, find what you're looking for**

**For God so loved the world that He gave us  
His one and only Son to save us  
Whoever believes in Him will live forever**

**Bring all your failures, bring your addictions  
Come lay them down at the foot of the cross  
Jesus is waiting there with open arms,  
See his open arms**

**For God so loved the world that He gave us  
His one and only Son to save us  
Whoever believes in Him will live forever.**

*(Continued)*

The pow'r of hell forever defeated  
Now it is well, I'm walking in freedom  
For God so loved, God so loved the world.

*Praise God, praise God from whom all blessings flow  
Praise Him, praise Him for the wonders of His love  
(Repeat)*

For God so loved the world that He gave us  
His one and only Son to save

For God so loved the world that He gave us  
His one and only Son to save us  
Whoever believes in Him will live forever

The pow'r of hell forever defeated  
Now it is well, I'm walking in freedom  
For God so loved, God so loved the world

Bring all your failures, bring your addictions  
Come lay them down at the foot of the cross  
Jesus is waiting, God so loved the world

## SONG OF INVITATION

*Come, Ye Sinners*

Come, ye sinners, poor and needy  
Weak and wounded, sick and sore  
Jesus ready, stands to save you  
Full of pity, love and power

Chorus: I will arise and go to Jesus  
He will embrace me in His arms  
In the arms of my dear Savior  
Oh, there are ten thousand charms.

*(Continued)*

Come, ye thirsty, come and welcome  
God's free bounty glorify  
True belief and true repentance  
Every grace that brings you nigh

Chorus

Come, ye weary, heavy-laden  
Lost and ruined by the fall  
If you tarry 'til you're better  
You will never come at all

Chorus

Feel Him prostrate in the garden  
On the ground your Maker lies  
On the bloody tree, behold him  
Sinner, will this not suffice?

Chorus

Lo, the incarnate God ascended  
Pleads the merit of his blood  
Venture on him, venture wholly  
Let no other trust intrude

Chorus

**CONFESSION OF SIN (in unison).**

Most merciful God, we humbly admit that we need your help. We confess that we have wandered from your way: we have done wrong, and we have failed to do what is right. You alone can save us. Have mercy on us: wipe out our sins and teach us to forgive others. Bring forth in us the fruit of the Spirit that we may live as disciples of Christ.

**This we ask in the name of Jesus our Savior. Amen.**

*(Silent reflection for personal confession.)*

**WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT**

*Romans 8:1*

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. All: **AMEN**

## **GREETING & GOD'S WELCOME AND WORKINGS AT ABBOTT**

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

People: **And also with you.**

### **PASTORAL 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.**

### **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](http://www.abbottchurch.org/giving).*

### **SONG OF PRAISE**

*Marvelous Grace of Our Loving Lord*

**Marvelous grace of our loving Lord,  
Grace that exceeds our sin and our guilt,  
Yonder on Calvary's mount outpoured,  
There where the blood of the Lamb was spilt.**

**Chorus: Grace, grace, God's grace,  
Grace that will pardon and cleanse within;  
Grace, grace, God's grace,  
Grace that is greater than all my sin.**

**Sin and despair like the sea waves cold,  
Threaten the soul with infinite loss;  
Grace that is greater, yes, grace untold,  
Points to the refuge, the mighty cross.**

**Chorus**

*(Continued)*

**Dark is the stain that we cannot hide,  
What can avail to wash it away?  
Look! there is flowing a crimson tide;  
Whiter than snow you may be today.**

**Chorus**

## **CHILDREN'S SERMON**

### **SCRIPTURE FOR THE SERMON**

*Luke 15:11-32*

And he said, "There was a man who had two sons. 12 And the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.' And he divided his property between them. 13 Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living. 14 And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. 15 So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. 16 And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything.

17 "But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! 18 I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. 19 I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants." ' 20 And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. 21 And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' 22 But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. 23 And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. 24 For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to celebrate. (Continued)

25 "Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. 26 And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. 27 And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.' 28 But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, 29 but he answered his father, 'Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. 30 But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!' 31 And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. 32 It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.'

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

## **SERMON**

Rev. Dr. Benton W. Taylor, Jr.

God Loves His Wayward Children

## **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**



## SONG OF TESTIMONY

*Who You Say I Am*

Who am I that the highest King would welcome me?

I was lost, but He brought me in

Oh His love for me

Oh His love for me

Who the Son sets free

Oh, is free indeed

I'm a child of God, yes, I am

Free at last, He has ransomed me

His grace runs deep

While I was a slave to sin, Jesus died for me

Yes, He died for me

Who the Son sets free

Oh, is free indeed

I'm a child of God, yes, I am

In my Father's house

There's a place for me

I'm a child of God, yes, I am

I am chosen, not forsaken,

I am who You say I am

You are for me, not against me

I am who You say I am

*(Repeat)*

I am who You say I am

Who the Son sets free

Oh is free indeed,

I'm a child of God, yes, I am

In my Father's house

There's a place for me

I'm a child of God, yes, I am

*(Repeat)*

## 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.*

**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
- Abbott Center for the Arts
- We Care Ministry
- Mountain View Bible Camp

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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:**

- Church officers and leaders: for strength, stamina and rest for Julius and George as they continue to give extra time and effort for more than a year and a half
- Craig Garriott, Stan Long, and Ben Taylor: for wisdom as they stand with us through this season of change and growth
- Unity for our congregation as we begin the BALM congregational surveys, an important part of moving forward, seeking God's plan and finding a pastor.
- Pray as we open registration for our Music Together program in the fall; it has been a year and a half since we have been able to offer this program.
- Family members and friends who are not walking with Christ
- Ongoing health concerns for the following members and friends:  
*Larry Halterman, Milly Flynn, Gene & Diane Shaw, Jackie Lubin, Phyllis Brown, Dawn Brewer, Brent Schepleng, Clint Neuder, Brenda Neuder, Robin & Toni (Billie Mitchell's granddaughters), Narouz family (especially Vicky), Don & Lorraine Sapp, David Files*
- Raj Mohan, caring for his wife with dementia; granddaughter, mental health
- Raj Mohan's daughter, Sumatra; still undergoing tests for gall bladder
- Lydia Frasca, chemotherapy and radiation treatment
- Tom Lubin, caring for his wife Jackie
- Mike Brooks, son of Earl and Betty Brooks, fighting a rare cancer
- Dawn Brewer, recuperating from shoulder surgery with rehab
- Phyllis Brown, home from hospital, still recovering from a fall
- Erin Kelly (Joe & Beth's daughter), relapse of kidney disease that was in remission
- Timm Muth (George Lenning's cousin), rehab from motorbike accident
- Alberta Goeller grieving the loss of her husband
- Tracey Brown's husband, Rob, recovering from surgery for colon cancer
- Karen Nines, scheduled for colostomy reversal surgery on August 25th
- The Beaudry family; Caleb and Jeanette with COVID-19 and for Steve as he cares for the children during Jeanette's self-quarantine

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:**

**Adult Sunday School** — Classes are meeting at 9:45 a.m. to pray for the church body and the future of the church.

**Bible study** — Every Thursday at 11:00 a.m. in Room 8. All are welcome! We are studying the book of Joshua, which will take us to the beginning of October. We close with a time of prayer, concluding around noon.

**Community Group** — Thursday evenings in Abbott Park (church lawn), weather permitting. You don't have to live in the neighborhood to come. You can play with the kids (or watch the kids play), talk, and enjoy each other's company. Bring a lawn chair or blanket, snacks, food from home or carry-out to enjoy. We start gathering around 6:30 and leave when we feel like it.

**Leadership Meeting** — The first Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. in Room 8. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, September 1st. Everyone is welcome to attend.

**Children** — The children's sermon is the only focused worship time ministry for children until fall. Continue to pray for this important ministry. Parents, come prepared for your children to remain with you throughout the worship service. Children's bulletins and crayons are available in the narthex.

**Saturday, October 2nd** — Save the date! We will be hosting our second community event in Abbott Park on Highland Avenue and Bank Street. More details will be coming!



## Welcome to Abbott.

We're glad we worshiped with you today!

August 8, 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

**CLERK OF THE SESSION:**  
George Lenning  
804-931-6323

**TREASURER:**  
Al Rode Jr.

**OFFICE ADMIN:**  
Debbie Halterman  
abbottchurchoffice@gmail.com

**SEXTON:**  
Clint Neuder

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## Abbott Memorial Presbyterian Church

A congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA)

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