



During World War II, the enemy conducted experiments to find the most effective type of punishment for eliciting information from prisoners. They found that solitary confinement was the most effective. After a few days of solitary confinement, most men would tell all.

That is why we need fellowship—without it we, too, become easy prey for temptation and abandonment of our values.

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? 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.

You can access children's bulletins at the following address:
www.childrensbulletins.com/Covid19-childrens-activites-for-churches

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

Psalm 136:1-3

LEADER: Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good,

PEOPLE: **for His steadfast love endures forever.**

LEADER: Give thanks to the God of gods,

PEOPLE: **for His steadfast love endures forever.**

LEADER: Give thanks to the Lord of lords,

PEOPLE: **for His steadfast love endures forever.**

OPENING HYMN

Across the Lands

You're the Word of God the Father
From before the world began.
Ev'ry star and ev'ry planet
Has been fashioned by Your hand.
All creation holds together
By the power of Your voice.
Let the skies declare Your glory;
Let the land and seas rejoice!

Chorus:

You're the Author of creation;
You're the Lord of ev'ry man;
And Your cry of love rings out across the lands.

Yet You left the gaze of angels,
Came to seek and save the lost,
And exchanged the joy of heaven
For the anguish of a cross.
With a prayer You fed the hungry;
With a word You calmed the sea;
Yet how silently You suffered
That the guilty may go free!

[Chorus]

With a shout You rose victorious,
Wresting vict'ry from the grave,
And ascended into heaven,
Leading captives in Your way.
Now You stand before the Father,
Interceding for Your own;
From each tribe and tongue and nation,
You are leading sinners home!

[Chorus]

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.

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.

CONFESSION OF SIN (in unison)

Merciful God,

our maker and our judge,

we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed:

we have not loved you with our whole heart,

we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves:

we repent, and are sorry for all our sins.

Father, forgive us.

Strengthen us to love and obey you in newness of life;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Silent reflection for personal confession.)

WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

1 John 1:9

If we confession our sin, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sin, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

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

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

SONG OF WORSHIP

Community of Christ

**Community of Christ, who make the cross your own,
live out your creed and risk your life for God alone:
the God who wears your face, to whom all worlds belong,
whose children are of every race and every song.**

**Community of Christ, look past the Church's door
and see the refugee, the hungry, and the poor.
Take hands with the oppressed, the jobless in your street,
take towel and water, that you wash your neighbor's feet.**

**Community of Christ, through whom the word must sound
cry out for justice and for peace the whole world round:
disarm the powers that war and all that can destroy,
turn bombs to bread, and tears of anguish into joy.**

**When menace melts away, so shall God's will be done,
the climate of the world be peace and Christ its sun;
our currency be love and kindness our law,
our food and faith be shared as one forever more.**

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SCRIPTURE FOR THE SERMON

Acts 2:42-47

And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. 43 And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. 44 And all who believed were together and had all things in common. 45 And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. 46 And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Rev. Dr. Benton W. Taylor, Jr.

The New Community

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 COMMITMENT

Oh How Good It Is

Oh how good it is when the family of God
Dwell together in spirit, in love and unity;
Where the bonds of peace, of acceptance and love
Are the fruits of his presence here among us.

So with one voice we'll sing to the Lord,
And with one heart we'll live out his word.
Til the whole world sees the Redeemer has come,
For he dwells in the presence of his people.

Oh how good it is on this journey we share
To rejoice with the happy and weep with those who mourn.
For the weak find strength, the afflicted find grace,
When we offer the blessing of belonging.

Oh how good it is to embrace his command
To prefer one another, forgive as he forgives.
When we live as one we all share in the love
Of the Son with the Father and the Spirit.

BENEDICTION

NOTES:

What is one thought from the sermon today that you can take with you and ask the Lord to help you apply it to your life?

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

Across the Lands Words & Music
Keith Getty, Stuart Townend ©2002
Thank You Music CCLI#1442252

We Are God's People
words: Bryan Jeffrey Leech
music: Johannes Brahms;
arranged by Fred Bock
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Community of Christ words
by Shirley Erena Murray
©1992 Hope Publishing
Company

O How Good It Is by Keith
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Holmes & Stuart Townend
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Boots Music & Townend
Songs

HE HEARS

"This is the assurance we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us." — I 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:

- Julius and George, for strength, stamina and rest as they give extra time and support to our congregation
- Craig, Stan, and Ben as they minister to us through this season of change
- Full participation in the BALM congregational church assessment survey
- The future pastor of Abbott church; our Lord knows who he is
- Our Music Together program as we open 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
- Raj Mohan caring for his wife with dementia; granddaughter, mental health
- 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
- Rob Armel (Tracey Brown's husband) beginning chemotherapy
- Karen Nines, hernia; surgery scheduled for September has been postponed
- Rose Shrader (Angela Fischer's sister), cancer, chemotherapy
- Patty Mifsud (friend of George Lenning) cancer, intense chemotherapy
- 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
- Those in our military, police, and fire departments
- Leaders of our City, State, and Nation

Congregational Survey — If you did not receive an email for the survey, email the church at abbottchurchoffice@gmail.com. If you need a paper copy, call George (804) 931-6323, Julius (443) 722-2525 or Debbie (443) 992-1658. These are individual surveys; each person should complete a separate survey as soon as possible to stay on schedule with the planning process. This is an important phase of our church's progress in moving forward and finding a new pastor.

Mission Mid-Week Prayer Meeting — Wednesdays on Zoom from 12:00 - 12:30 p.m. You can find the link on the Abbott FaceBook Group or email abbottchurchoffice@gmail.com for the link to be emailed to you to submit a prayer request. You can sign on and off any time during the half-hour.

Discovery Class — **Saturday, October 16th from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.** This is open to anyone who wants to learn more about the church and for those who are interested in or considering church membership.

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

Bible study — **Thursdays 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, weather permitting, in Abbott Park on Highland Ave and Bank St. You don't have to live in the neighborhood to come 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 Meetings — The 1st Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. in Room 8. The next meeting will be on October 6th. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Save the Date - Saturday, October 2nd! Our second "Party in the Park" will be from 3:30-6:30 p.m. on Highland Avenue and Bank Street. Please pray as we plan this event with food, music, games for kids, and mingling with each other and our neighbors. Hansoo Jin's church will loan us their "bouncy house" again, which was a big hit with the children!

**CONGREGATION AND
COMMUNITY CARE:**

Julius Fischer Jr. - Elder
MUSIC AND WORSHIP

George Lenning - Elder
CLERK OF SESSION

Craig Garriott, Stan Long, and
Ben Taylor
BALM PASTORAL STAFF

Jared Pfeifer
MERCY MINISTRY - WE CARE

Kaitlin Rankin
SOCIAL MEDIA COORDINATOR

OFFERING — WEEK 38

	Budget	Giving
Last week	\$5,180	\$4,192
YTD	\$191,660	\$141,004

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)

Online Offering
abbottchurch.org/giving

Welcome to Abbott.

We're glad we worshiped
with you today!

September 19, 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

Abbott Memorial Presbyterian Church

A congregation of the Presbyterian
Church in America (PCA)

3426 Bank Street
Baltimore, MD 21224
410-276-6207
abbottchurch.org