



For me to live is Christ, to die is gain.

— Apostle Paul

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 95:6-7

Leader: Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!

People: **For He is our God, and we are the people of His pasture, and the sheep of His hand.**

OPENING HYMN

To God be the Glory

**To God be the glory, great things he hath done!
So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,
Who yielded his life an atonement for sin,
And opened the life gate that we may go in.**

**Chorus: Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
Let the earth hear his voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
Let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father through Jesus the Son,
And give him the glory, great things he hath done!**

**O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood!
To ev'ry believer the promise of God;
The vilest offender who truly believes,
That moment from Jesus forgiveness receives.**

[Chorus]

**Great things he hath taught us, great things he hath done,
And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;
But purer, and higher, and greater will be
Our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see.**

[Chorus]

SONG OF WORSHIP

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 labor 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.

(Continued)

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]

Yet not I but through Christ in me.

RESPONSIVE CONFESSION OF SIN

Psalm 32:1-7

LEADER: Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

ALL: For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.

LEADER: I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.

ALL: Therefore, let everyone who is godly offer prayer to you at a time when you may be found; surely in the rush of great waters, they shall not reach him. You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE AND PARDON

Psalm 103:12

As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us.

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 PRAISE

Love Incarnate

With a prayer You fed the hungry,
With a cry You stilled the storm;
With a look You had compassion
On the desperate and forlorn.
With a touch You healed the leper,
With a shout You raised the dead;
With a word expelled the demons,
With a blessing broke the bread.

Chorus: Love Incarnate, Love Divine,
Captivate this heart of mine,
Till all I do
Speaks of You.

As a sheep before the shearer
You were silent in Your pain;
You endured humiliation
At the hands of those You'd made.
And as hell unleashed its fury
You were lifted on a tree,
Crying 'Father God, forgive them,
Place their punishment on me.'

(continued)

[Chorus]

I will feed the poor and hungry,
I will stand up for the truth;
I will take my cross and follow
To the corners of the earth.
And I ask that You so fill me
With Your peace, Your power, Your breath,
That I never love my life so much
To shrink from facing death.

[Chorus]

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SCRIPTURE FOR THE SERMON

Acts 7:54-60

⁵⁴ Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth at him. ⁵⁵ But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶ And he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God." ⁵⁷ But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together at him. ⁵⁸ Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹ And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." ⁶⁰ And falling to his knees he cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Rev. Dr. Benton W. Taylor

GLORY, DEATH, AND KINGDOM ADVANCEMENT

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 ELEMENT

SONG OF COMMITMENT

For the Cause

**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, Ev'ry 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.

[Chorus]

**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.**

[Chorus]

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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<p><i>Love Incarnate Love Divine;</i> words & music Stuart Townend ©2002 Thankyou Music CCLI#1442252</p>	<p><i>For the Cause; words and music by Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty & Stuart Townend © 2016 Getty Music Publishing and Townend songs CCLI# 1442252</i></p>

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:

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 renewal
- The future pastor of Abbott church; our Lord knows who he is
- Family members and friends who are not walking with Christ
- Angela Jones (Angela Fischer's mother), diabetes, other health concerns
- Rose Shrader (Angela Fischer's sister) cancer, chemotherapy
- Lorraine Sapp, recovery from Covid-19, and for family to stay well
- 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) taking chemotherapy
- Karen Nines, hernia; surgery scheduled for September has been postponed
- 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

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

TODAY following the service — Fellowship luncheon on the 3rd floor.

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

Abbott Discovery Class — **Saturday, October 16th from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.** for anyone who wants to learn more about the church or is considering church membership.

Adult Sunday School — Classes meet at 9:45 a.m.

Bible study — Thursdays at 11:00 a.m. in Room 8. All are welcome! We are studying the book of Joshua and close with a time of prayer, concluding around noon.

Community Group — Thursday evenings, weather permitting, we gather informally in Abbott Park on Highland Ave and Bank St. Come enjoy the company! Some bring snacks or food from home; others enjoy nearby carry-out. We start gathering around 6:30 p.m.

Leadership Meetings — The first Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in Room 8. All are welcome to attend and share your ideas.

Ordained deacons, non-ordained deacons assistants, & deaconesses are needed at Abbott. This is a mercy ministry that calls men and women of God to manage and disburse the deacons fund to those in need, oversee the Building-Maintenance Committee, and assist in serving communion. If you feel God's call to this ministry, let George or Julius know. If you are asked to serve in this capacity, please give it prayerful consideration.

BALM Update — Moving forward, 50 individuals completed the congregational survey and BALM has raised the \$10,000 from interested donors to cover the Flourish coaching cost to process Abbott's Church Health Assessment and Envisioning work. The next step is for Flourish to interview selected individuals, which is scheduled to happen this week.

Welcome to Abbott.

We're glad we worshiped
with you today!

October 10, 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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