



Behold, how good and pleasant it is  
when brothers dwell in unity!  
It is like the precious oil on the head,  
running down on the beard,  
on the beard of Aaron,  
running down on the collar of his robes!  
It is like the dew of Hermon,  
which falls on the mountains of Zion!  
For there the LORD has commanded the blessing,  
Life forevermore.

— Psalm 133

## 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.

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

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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

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (read responsively)

*Psalm 122*

Leader: I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD!"

**People: Our feet have been standing within your gates, O Jerusalem!**

Leader: Jerusalem—built as a city that is bound firmly together,

**People: to which the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD, as was decreed for Israel, to give thanks to the name of the LORD.**

Leader: There thrones for judgment were set, the thrones of the house of David.

**People: Pray for the peace of Jerusalem! "May they be secure who love you!**

Leader: Peace be within your walls and security within your towers!"

**People: For my brothers and companions' sake I will say, "Peace be within you!"**

**All: For the sake of the house of the LORD our God, I will seek your good.**

**OPENING HYMN**

*Come Thou Fount*

**Come, thou Fount of ev'ry blessing,  
Tune my heart to sing thy grace;  
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,  
Call for songs of loudest praise,  
Teach me some melodious sonnet,  
Sung by flaming tongues above;  
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,  
Mount of God's unchanging love.**

*(continued)*

Here I raise my Ebenezer;  
Hither by thy help I'm come;  
And I hope, by thy good pleasure,  
Safely to arrive at home.  
Jesus sought me when a stranger,  
Wand'ring from the fold of God:  
He, to rescue me from danger,  
Interposed his precious blood.

Oh, to grace how great a debtor  
Daily I'm constrained to be;  
Let that grace now, like a fetter,  
Bind my wand'ring heart to thee.  
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,  
Prone to leave the God I love;  
Here's my heart, O take and seal it,  
Seal it for thy courts above.

## SONG OF PRAISE

*Marvelous Grace*

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]

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]

**CONFESSION OF SIN (in unison):** Heavenly Father, loving King, our thoughts and motives cannot be hidden from your sight. Our self-pity and pride, our cowardice and sloth, our anger and envy are laid bare before your eyes and ours. We open ourselves to you and ask that you cover us in Christ. Jesus, let us hear your voice saying: My blood is your peace, My death is your freedom, My Spirit is your power. And let our hearts know that serving you is perfect freedom. **Amen.**

*(Silent reflection for personal confession.)*

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

*Acts 15:11*

"But we believe that we will be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they will."

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

## SONG OF WORSHIP

*O 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.**

**Chorus: 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.**

**[Chorus]**

**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.**

**[Chorus]**

## CHILDREN'S SERMON

## SCRIPTURE FOR THE SERMON

Acts 15:1-22

But some men came down from Judea and were teaching the brothers, "Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved." **2** And after Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and debate with them, Paul and Barnabas and some of the others were appointed to go up to Jerusalem to the apostles and the elders about this question. **3** So, being sent on their way by the church, they passed through both Phoenicia and Samaria, describing in detail the conversion of the Gentiles, and brought great joy to all the brothers. **4** When they came to Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church and the apostles and the elders, and they declared all that God had done with them. **5** But some believers who belonged to the party of the Pharisees rose up and said, "It is necessary to circumcise them and to order them to keep the law of Moses."

**6** The apostles and the elders were gathered together to consider this matter. **7** And after there had been much debate, Peter stood up and said to them, "Brothers, you know that in the early days God made a choice among you, that by my mouth the Gentiles should hear the word of the gospel and believe. **8** And God, who knows the heart, bore witness to them, by giving them the Holy Spirit just as he did to us, **9** and he made no distinction between us and them, having cleansed their hearts by faith. **10** Now, therefore, why are you putting God to the test by placing a yoke on the neck of the disciples that neither our fathers nor we have been able to bear? **11** But we believe that we will be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they will."

**12** And all the assembly fell silent, and they listened to Barnabas and Paul as they related what signs and wonders God had done through them among the Gentiles. **13** After they finished speaking, James replied, "Brothers, listen to me. **14** Simeon has related how God first visited the Gentiles, to take from them a people for his name. **15** And with this the words of the prophets agree, just as it is written,

*(continued)*

16 “After this I will return,  
and I will rebuild the tent of David that has fallen;  
I will rebuild its ruins,  
and I will restore it,  
17 that the remnant of mankind may seek the Lord,  
and all the Gentiles who are called by my name,  
says the Lord, who makes these things 18 known from of old.’  
19 Therefore my judgment is that we should not trouble those of the  
Gentiles who turn to God, 20 but should write to them to abstain from  
the things polluted by idols, and from sexual immorality, and from what  
has been strangled, and from blood. 21 For from ancient generations  
Moses has had in every city those who proclaim him, for he is read every  
Sabbath in the synagogues.”  
22 Then it seemed good to the apostles and the elders, with the whole  
church, to choose men from among them and send them to Antioch with  
Paul and Barnabas. They sent Judas called Barsabbas, and Silas, leading  
men among the brothers,

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

## **SERMON**

Rev. Craig Garriott

Guarding Grace

## **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

*My Hope is Built on Nothing Less*

My hope is built on nothing less  
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness;  
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,  
But wholly lean on Jesus' Name.

Chorus: On Christ the solid Rock, I stand;  
All other ground is sinking sand.  
All other ground is sinking sand.

When darkness veils his lovely face,  
I rest upon unchanging grace;  
In ev'ry rough and stormy gale  
My anchor holds within the veil.

[Chorus]

His oath, his covenant, his blood  
Support me in the whelming flood;  
When all around my soul gives way,  
He then is all my Hope and Stay.

[Chorus]

When I shall launch in worlds unseen  
O may I then be found in him;  
Dressed in his righteousness alone,  
Faultless to stand before the throne.

[Chorus]

## BENEDICTION

**NOTES:**

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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?

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## 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

*O How Good It Is by Keith Getty,  
Kristyn Getty, Russ Holmes & Stuart  
Townend  
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Publishing Parakeet 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 renewal
- The future pastor of Abbott church; our Lord knows who he is
- 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*
- Bereavement for the family of Bill Garrison
- Angela Jones (Angela Fischer's mother), diabetes, other health concerns
- Rose Shrader (Angela Fischer's sister) cancer, chemotherapy
- 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
- Those in our military, police, and fire departments
- Leaders of our City, State, and Nation

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:**

Our dear friend Bill Garrison passed away on Thursday, October 28, 2021. When we have more information about a memorial service for Bill, we will let you know.

**Thanksgiving volunteers** — Our Community Thanksgiving feast is only 18 days away! Volunteers and monetary donations are needed in order for it to be a success. **Please consider how you can be part of this great tradition of serving our neighbors.** A few folks are needed on Wednesday, Nov. 24th, to help with food preparation. On Thanksgiving Day, we need volunteers to help with set up (10:00 a.m. - noon), serving (noon - 2:00 p.m.) and clean up (2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.). If you would like to help or have any questions, call Ann Pfeifer at 443-527-0124.

**Leadership Meeting**— This Wednesday, November 10th at 7:00 p.m., in Room 8. All are welcome!

**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](mailto: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.

**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 close with a time of prayer, concluding around noon.

**Community Group** — Thursday evenings, we gather informally either in Abbott Park on Highland Ave and Bank St. or inside the building as the weather is changing. We start gathering around 6:00 p.m.

**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.

**We Care Center** — Open the 1st two Saturdays of each month from 10:00 a.m. to noon to give food to the needy. Non-perishable food donations can be placed in the box in the vestibule.

**CONGREGATION AND  
COMMUNITY CARE:**

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Julius Fischer Jr. - Elder  
MINISTER OF MUSIC

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

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**OFFERING — WEEK 45**

	Budget	Giving
Last week	\$5,180	\$2,486
YTD	\$227,920	\$172,278

If you would like to give online, you may do so at [www.abbottchurch.org/giving](http://www.abbottchurch.org/giving)

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**Use This Space for Prayer  
Requests, Ideas and Concerns**

(Please tear off and place in the offering plate)

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**Online Offering**  
[abbottchurch.org/giving](http://abbottchurch.org/giving)

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## Welcome to Abbott.

We're glad we worshiped  
with you today!

November 7, 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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