



"My people, hear my teaching;  
listen to the words of my mouth.  
I will open my mouth with a parable;  
I will utter hidden things, things from of old—  
things we have heard and known,  
things our ancestors have told us.  
We will not hide them from their descendants;  
we will tell the next generation  
the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord,  
his power, and the wonders he has done."

Psalm 78:1-4

**To those joining us in person and online today...THANK YOU!**

To all who are spiritually weary and seek rest; to all who mourn and long for comfort; to all who struggle and desire victory; to all who sin and need a Savior; to all who are strangers and want fellowship; to all who hunger and thirst after righteousness; and to all who will come, Abbott Church opens wide her doors and offers welcome in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

*(NOTE: Masks are required in the church in accordance with a health ordinance effective August 9, 2021 that reintroduced an indoor mask requirement for all Baltimore City residents and guests, regardless of vaccination status.)*

While we are made to worship together, sometimes that is not possible for everyone. The good news is that we do not need to be in a particular place to meet with God. Those those of you who are not able to attend in person can join us on our YouTube channel. The worship service is streamed live every Sunday at 10:45 a.m. 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.

View or subscribe to our YouTube channel:

[https://youtube.com/channel/UC-1TC7\\_CBWDdZi8gGPNsqXw](https://youtube.com/channel/UC-1TC7_CBWDdZi8gGPNsqXw)

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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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## ADVENT

Advent is a season of hopeful expectation and preparation, as the Church anticipates the coming of Christ – both at his birth in Bethlehem many years ago, and at his future, final coming to judge the world at the end of time. During Advent, we prepare our hearts for the Lord, so that when he comes, he may find us watching and waiting.

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

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

People: **And also with you.**

### **Responsive Call to Worship**

**Psalm 86**

Leader: Praise be to the Lord, to God our Savior, who daily bears our burdens.

People: **Our God is a God who saves; from the Sovereign LORD comes escape from death.**

Leader: Your procession has come into view, O God, the procession of my God and King into the sanctuary.

People: **In front are the singers, after them the musicians; with them are the maidens playing tambourines.**

Leader: Praise God in the great congregation; praise the LORD in the assembly of Israel.

People: **Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth, sing praise to the Lord, <Selah>**

Leader: to him who rides the ancient skies above, who thunders with mighty voice.

People: **Proclaim the power of God, whose majesty is over Israel, whose power is in the skies.**

All: **You are awesome, O God, in your sanctuary; the God of Israel gives power and strength to his people. Praise be to God!**

### **LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE - Litany of Peace**

Leader: Why do we light the Advent candles?

All: **The light reminds us that Jesus is the light of the world who comes into the darkness of our lives to bring newness, life and hope.**

*(Continued)*

Leader: What is the meaning of the second lighted candle?

All: **The second lighted candle is the candle of Peace. It draws attention to the longing of God's people for a Messiah to come and lead them to victory over their enemies and to bring them peace.**

Leader: What is "peace"?

All: **Peace is much more than just the absence of conflict or warfare. The Bible calls it "shalom" which means universal flourishing, health, wholeness, soundness, harmony and delight, in other words, "the way things ought to be".**

Leader: Isaiah prophesied that the Messiah would be the Prince of Peace. How is Jesus our Prince of Peace?

All: **The New Testament proclaims that Jesus is our peace, having reconciled us to God by his death on the cross. He came and preached peace to those who were far away and peace to those who were near, and through him we have access to God the father.**

Leader: Since Jesus has come and brought us peace with God, what are we still waiting for?

All: **Our world is not yet fully redeemed. We await Jesus' second advent when Isaiah's prophetic vision will be completely fulfilled and the crooked will be made straight, the rough places will be made smooth, flowers will bloom in the desert, the wolf will lie down with the lamb, weeping will cease, the foolish will be made wise, the wise will be made humble, humans will beat their swords into ploughshares and death will be ended. Things will finally be they way they ought to be.**

## OPENING HYMN

*Hark the Herald Angels Sing #168*

**Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King:  
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled!"  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,  
Join the triumph of the skies;  
With th'angelic host proclaim,  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"**

*(continued)*

Chorus: Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King."

Christ, by highest heav'n adored,  
Christ, the everlasting Lord!  
Late in time behold him come,  
Offspring of the Virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;  
Hail th'incarnate Deity,  
Pleased as man with men to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel. [Chorus]

Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings,  
Ris'n with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by,  
Born that man no more may die,  
Born to raise the sons of earth,  
Born to give them second birth. [Chorus]

## SONG OF HOPE

*Glory (Let There Be Peace)*

One star burns in the darkness  
Shines with a promise, Emmanuel  
One child born in the stillness  
Living within us, Emmanuel

Chorus: We're singing glory, glory  
Let there be peace, let there be peace  
We're singing glory, glory  
Let there be peace, let it start in me

One voice speaks for the voiceless  
Hope for the hopeless, Emmanuel  
One love brings us together  
Now and forever, Emmanuel

[Chorus]

*(continued)*

**Bridge: Do not be afraid, His love is strong  
Enough to save us  
Nothing stands in the way  
His love is strong enough to lead us  
[Repeat Bridge]**

**[Chorus]**

### **CONFESSION OF SIN**

**Most merciful Father, we have sinned against you. Forgive us for the sins of our tongues— For deceptions, indifference, impatience, and tempers out of control. Forgive us for the sins of our eyes— For impurity in our glances. For lusting after more beauty, comfort, and wealth than you have given us. Forgive us for the sins of our hearts— For hard-heartedness, pride, and self-pity; Forgive us above all for rebelling against your Lordship and doubting your love. Now, Holy Father, kill our envy, remove our pride, and melt our hearts. Give us grace to be transformed into your likeness and live wholly for your glory. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

*(Silent reflection for personal confession)*

### **WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT**

Philippians 1:6

And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

### **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

*It Came Upon a Midnight Clear #157*

**It came upon the midnight clear,  
That glorious song of old,  
From angels bending near the earth  
To touch their harps of gold;  
"Peace on the earth, good will to men,  
From heaven's all-gracious King:"  
The world in solemn stillness lay,  
To hear the angels sing.**

**Still through the cloven skies they come,  
With peaceful wings unfurled,  
And still their heav'nly music floats  
O'er all the weary world:  
Above its sad and lowly plains  
They bend on hov'ring wing,  
And ever o'er its Babel sounds  
The blessed angels sing.**

**And ye, beneath life's crushing load,  
Whose forms are bending low,  
Who toil along the climbing way  
With painful steps and slow,  
Look now! for glad and golden hours  
Come swiftly on the wing:  
O rest beside the weary road,  
And hear the angels sing.**

*(continued)*

For lo, the days are hastening on,  
By prophet bards foretold,  
When with the ever-circling years  
Comes round the age of gold;  
When peace shall over all the earth  
Its ancient splendors fling,  
And the whole world give back the song  
Which now the angels sing.

## CHILDREN'S SERMON

### SCRIPTURE FOR THE SERMON

*Acts 20:17-38*

**17** Now from Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called the elders of the church to come to him. **18** And when they came to him, he said to them:

“You yourselves know how I lived among you the whole time from the first day that I set foot in Asia, **19** serving the Lord with all humility and with tears and with trials that happened to me through the plots of the Jews; **20** how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you in public and from house to house, **21** testifying both to Jews and to Greeks of repentance toward God and of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. **22** And now, behold, I am going to Jerusalem, constrained by the Spirit, not knowing what will happen to me there, **23** except that the Holy Spirit testifies to me in every city that imprisonment and afflictions await me. **24** But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God. **25** And now, behold, I know that none of you among whom I have gone about proclaiming the kingdom will see my face again. **26** Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all, **27** for I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God. **28** Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood. **29** I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; **30** and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them. **31** Therefore be



alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish every one with tears. **32** And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. **33** I coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel. **34** You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my necessities and to those who were with me. **35** In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

**36** And when he had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all. **37** And there was much weeping on the part of all; they embraced Paul and kissed him, **38** being sorrowful most of all because of the word he had spoken, that they would not see his face again. And they accompanied him to the ship.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

## **SERMON**

Rev. Craig Garriott

### Last Words of a Disciple-Maker

## **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 PRAYER

*Father Let Your Kingdom Come*

**Chorus: Hallelu, hallelujah; Father, let Your kingdom come  
Hallelu, hallelujah; Father, let Your kingdom come  
Hallelu, hallelujah; Father, let Your kingdom come  
Hallelu, hallelujah; Father, let Your kingdom come**

**May the works of my hands bring You joy  
May the works of my hands bring You joy  
May the works of my hands bring You joy  
May the works of my hands bring You joy  
And so we sing...**

**[Chorus]**

**May the words from my mouth speak Your peace  
May the words from my mouth speak Your peace  
May the words from my mouth speak Your peace  
May the words from my mouth speak Your peace**

**[Chorus]**

**You make all things new,  
You make all things new  
In places we don't choose,  
You make all things new**

**[Chorus]**

**You make all things new,  
You make all things new  
In places we don't choose,  
You make all things new**

**[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

Glory (Let There Be Peace) by Rachel Popadic, Chris Stevens, and Matt Maher  
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Father Let Your Kingdom Come words & music Ben Cooper, Latifah Phillips, Elizabeth Vice, Orlando Palmer, Paul Zach, Isaac Wardell, and Madison Cunningham  
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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:**

- 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*
- Lawrence Choate's wife Joann who is battling cancer.
- 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:**

**Fellowship Luncheon** — Our next luncheon will follow the worship service on December 12th. Come eat, fellowship, and learn about our Flourish Church Assessment and our next step in moving forward.

**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** — We will resume gathering informally inside the church in January.

**Leadership Meeting** — The next meeting will be on Wednesday, December 8th at 7:00 p.m. in Room 8. Included in the discussion will be the findings of the Flourish Church Assessment from the congregational surveys that were submitted. All are welcome to attend.

**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 first two Saturdays of each month from 10:00 a.m. until noon to give food to the needy. Non-perishable food donations can be placed in the box in the vestibule.



## Welcome to Abbott.

We're glad we worshiped  
with you today!

November 28, 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 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

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