



The believer who seeks to live the Christian life through self-effort is like the man who, in attempting to sail across the Atlantic Ocean, found his boat becalmed for days. Finally, frustrated by his lack of progress, he tried to make his stalled boat move by pushing against the mast. Through strenuous efforts, he succeeded in making the boat rock and so created a few small waves on the otherwise smooth sea. Seeing the waves and feeling the rocking of the boat, he assumed that he was making progress and so continued his efforts. Of course, although he exerted himself a great deal, he actually got nowhere.

So it is in the Christian life. The source of the Christian's strength lies in God's grace, not in exertions of will-power, or in efforts of discipline, or any other self-effort.

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

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

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 98

Leader: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises!

People: **The Lord has made known His salvation; He has revealed His righteousness in the sight of the nations. He remembers His steadfast love and faithfulness.**

All: **His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for Him. For the Lord has made known His salvation.**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE - Litany of Love

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 love.**

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

All: **The fourth lighted candle is the candle of love. It draws attention to God's great love for us in sending the Messiah to rescue and redeem us.**

Leader: What do the gospels say about this love?

All: **John writes, "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.** *(Continued)*

Leader: How did Jesus show us God's love?

All: John writes in his first letter, "This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us."

Leader: How should we then respond to that love?

All: John continues, "Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth."

OPENING HYMN

Angels We Have Heard on High

Angels we have heard on high,
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply
echoing their joyous strains.

Gloria in excelsis Deo,
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
which inspire your heav'nly song?

Gloria in excelsis Deo,
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.

Gloria in excelsis Deo,
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

See within a manger laid
Jesus, Lord of heav'n and earth!
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,
With us sing our Savior's birth.

Gloria in excelsis Deo,
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Joyful joyful, we adore Thee
God of glory, Lord of love
Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee
Op'ning to the sun above
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness
Drive the dark of doubt away
Giver of immortal gladness
Fill us with the light of day

Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel
Your love has come here to dwell

All Thy works with joy surround Thee
Earth and heaven reflect Thy rays
Stars and angels sing around Thee
Center of unbroken praise
Field and forest, vale and mountain
Flowery meadow, flashing sea
Singing bird and flowing fountain
Call us to rejoice in Thee

Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel
Your love has come here to dwell

Mortals join the happy chorus
Which the morning stars began
Father love is reigning o'er us
Brother love binds man to man
Ever singing, march we onward
Victors in the midst of strife
Joyful music leads us sunward
In the triumph song of life.

Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel
Your love has come here to dwell

CONFESSION OF SIN

Psalm 98

Leader: Blessed Jesus, you offered us all your blessings when you announced Blessed are the poor in spirit

People: **but we have been rich in pride.**

Leader: Blessed are those who mourn

People: **but we have not known much sorrow for our sin.**

Leader: Blessed are the meek

People: **but we are a stiff-necked people.**

Leader: Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness

People: **but we are filled to the full with other things.**

Leader: Blessed are the merciful

People: **but we are harsh and impatient.**

Leader: Blessed are the pure in heart

People: **but we have impure hearts.**

Leader: Blessed are the peacemakers

People: **but we have not sought reconciliation.**

Leader: Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness

People: **but our lives do not challenge the world.**

Leader: Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me

People: **but we have hardly made it known that we are yours.**

Leader: Your law is holy and your blessings are perfect, but they are both too great for us. You alone are blessed.

People: **We plead with you to forgive our sins and give us the blessing of your righteousness.**

(Silent reflection for personal confession)

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

Romans 8:1-2

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.

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

Arise Shine for Your Light Has Come

**Arise shine for your light has come and the glory of God is on
you**

**Arise see when the earth grows dark that the Lord will arise
upon you**

The Lord will arise upon you

Nations will come to your light lift up your eyes and see

We'll gather together and come to you

And your love will be all that we know

Your love will be all that we know

**The sun will not shine cause you'll be all the light that we need
and violence will end all the wars that we wage will cease**

We will glorify your name

We will glorify your name.

(Continued)

Arise come to the open gates for the Father is welcoming you
Fear not for the Lord brings peace and redemption to all who
believe
Redemption to all who believe

Nations will come to your light lift up your eyes and see
We'll gather together and come to you
And your love will be all that we know
Your love will be all that we know

The sun will not shine cause you'll be all the light that we need
and violence will end all the wars that we wage will cease

We will glorify your name
We will glorify your name.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SCRIPTURE FOR THE SERMON

Galatians 4:1-7

I mean that the heir, as long as he is a child, is no different from a slave, though he is the owner of everything, **2** but he is under guardians and managers until the date set by his father. **3** In the same way we also, when we were children, were enslaved to the elementary principles of the world. **4** But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, **5** to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. **6** And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" **7** So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Rev. Dr. Benton W. Taylor, Jr.

"Redeemed, Adopted, and Heirs"

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 PRAISE

Joy to the World

**Joy to the world! the Lord is come:
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare him room,
And heaven and nature sing.**

**Joy to the earth! the Savior reigns:
Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy.**

**No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow
Far as the curse is found.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness,
And wonders of his love.**

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

Hymn Of Joy by Beethoven,
Henry van Dyke, Chris Tomlin &
Ed Cash
© 2015 S. D. G. Publishing,
Sixsteps Songs, Worship
Together Music, and Alletrop
Music CCLI# 1442252

*Arise Shine for Your Light Has
Come (Isaiah 60:1-19)* by Jered
McKenna ©2013 © 2012 Phil
Wickham Music, Seems Like
Music, Sing My Songs WB Music
Corp. Bethel Music Publishing.
CCLI No. 1442252

Joy to the World text:
Isaac Watts music:
George Frederick Handel

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:

Christmas Eve Service — This Friday at 7:00 p.m.

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.

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.

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!

December 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 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

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