



"Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels,
numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten
thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the
throne and the living creatures
and the elders. In a loud voice they sang:
"Worthy is the Lamb who was slain,
to receive power and wealth and wisdom
and strength and honor and glory
and praise!"

— Revelation 5:11,12

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

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

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

Isaiah 9

Leader: Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress.

People: **The people walking in darkness have seen a great light.**

Leader: You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy.

People: **For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders.**

Leader: And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

People: **Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end.**

Leader: He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever.

All: **The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.**

OPENING HYMN

Angels From the Realms of Glory

Angels, from the realms of glory,
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Ye who sang creation's story,
Now proclaim Messiah's birth.

Refrain: Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King.

Shepherds in the fields abiding,
Watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with man is now residing,
Yonder shines the infant light.

Sages, leave your contemplations,
Brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great Desire of nations;
Ye have seen his natal star.

Saints before the altar bending,
Watching long in hope and fear,
Suddenly the Lord, descending,
In his temple shall appear.

All creation, join in praising
God the Father, Spirit, Son;
Evermore your voices raising
To th'eternal Three in One.

SONG OF PRAISE

His Name is Wonderful

Come see the baby, crib for a bed
His mother Mary lay down His sweet head
The starlight was shining, the wise men were led
Come see the baby and worship Him

Chorus: His name is Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God,
Prince of Peace
Everlasting Father Em-man-u-el, Holy One, Son of
God Savior of the world

Come and adore Him on bended knee
He came to ransom someone like me
What could I offer? What could I bring?
Come and adore Him King of Kings.

[Chorus]

Bridge: And the greatness of
His reign will never end
Let there be peace on earth
And all goodwill to men
Come let us worship Him

[Chorus]

CONFESSION OF SIN

Psalm 98

Holy Lord, our light and salvation, we celebrate your faithful love. Yet we confess our hearts are often cold to you. We do good deeds, speak right words, attend religious services, but we do not seek You. We do not dwell in Your presence. We do not delight in Your words. We do not long for Your beauty. We give our affections to lesser things. Forgive us through Your Son. Holy Spirit, ignite our hearts, captivate our minds, compel our wills, renew our love. In Christ's Name we pray. Amen. *(Silent reflection for personal confession)*

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

I John 1:9

If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

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

We Three Kings

We three kings of Orient are
Bearing gifts we traverse afar
Field and fountain, moor and mountain
Following yonder star

Refrain: Oh, star of wonder, star of night
Star with royal beauty bright
Westward leading, still proceeding
Guide us to thy perfect light

Born a king on Bethlehem's plain
Gold I bring to crown Him again
King forever, ceasing never
Over us all to reign

Frankincense to offer have I
Incense owns a Deity nigh
Prayer and praising, all men raising
Worship Him, God on high

(continued)

Myrrh is mine, it's bitter perfume
Breaths a life of gathering gloom
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying
Sealed in the stone-cold tomb

Glorious now behold Him arise
King and God and Sacrifice;
Alleluia, Alleluia!
Earth to heaven replies.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SCRIPTURE FOR THE SERMON

Matthew 2:1-12

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, **2** saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." **3** When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; **4** and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. **5** They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

6 "'And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.'"

7 Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. **8** And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." **9** After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. **10** When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. **11** And going into the house,

(continued)

they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. **12** And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Rev. Craig Garriott

The Joyful Pursuit of Worship

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 ADORATION

Go Tell It (This Is Amazing Grace)

**Who breaks the power of sin and darkness?
Whose love is mighty and so much stronger?
The King of glory, the King above all kings**

**Who shakes the whole earth with holy thunder
And leaves us breathless in awe and wonder?
The King of glory, the King above all kings**

**Go tell it on the mountain
Over the hills and ev'rywhere
Go, tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born**

(continued)

Who brings our chaos back into order?
Who makes the orphan a son and daughter?
The King of glory, the King of glory

Who rules the nations with truth and justice?
Shines like the sun in all of its brilliance
The King of glory, the King above all kings

Go tell it on the mountain
Over the hills and ev'rywhere
Go, tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born

Bridge: Go tell it, go, go tell it
Go tell it, go, go tell it

Go tell it, go, go tell it
Go tell it, go, go tell it

Go tell it, go, go tell it
Go tell it, go, go tell it

Go tell it, go, go tell it
Go tell it, go, go tell it

Go tell it on the mountain
Over the hills and ev'rywhere
Go, tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born

Go tell it on the mountain
Over the hills and ev'rywhere
Go, tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born

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

Go Tell It (This is Amazing Grace)
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His Name is Wonderful
Words & Music by Chris Tomlin
and Ed Cash ©2019 Capital
CMG Paragon, S. D. G.
Publishing, We the Kingdom
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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
- Al Rode, recovering from rotator cuff surgery
- Lawrence Choate's wife Joann who is battling cancer.
- Rose Shrader (Angela Fischer's sister), recovery from 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:

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.

Fellowship Luncheon — January 2, 2022, in Room 8, following the worship service.

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.

**CONGREGATION AND
COMMUNITY CARE:**

Julius Fischer Jr. - Elder
MINISTER OF MUSIC

George Lenning - Elder
CLERK OF SESSION

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

MERCY MINISTRY - WE CARE

Kaitlin Rankin
SOCIAL MEDIA COORDINATOR

Online Offering
abbottchurch.org/giving

OFFERING — WEEK 52

	Budget	Giving
Last week	\$5,180	\$1,882
YTD	\$264,180	\$201,448

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)

Welcome to Abbott.

We're glad we worshiped
with you today!

December 26, 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

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