

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

For events, please sign up through the QR codes or on the APC website!

Immediately after today’s 9am service, a time of Q&A regarding the topic of deaconesses at APC will be held in Room 201. If you would like to learn more or have questions, we invite you to join us upstairs! As announced in Sunday’s worship service, the elders have approved a new opportunity for women to serve as non-ordained deaconesses at APC. Deaconesses will be godly women of the congregation that will assist the ordained diaconate with the full breadth of diaconal ministry and responsibility.

One worship service will be held on May 7 at 11am (no 9am service) for anyone not attending the church retreat. Our normal time of Key Community with snacks and beverages will not be held before or after worship, and Key Equipping will not be held Sunday evening.

Come hear our own APC member talk about her earlier days as an author. Lisa Fleischaker wrote the memoir “Craving Grace” in her 20’s. She will be our featured author, and her book will be our discussion topic on May 1 at 7:45pm at Lina Gentry’s house at 8313 Greeley Blvd. Please RSVP to carolinesgentry@gmail.com.

VBS Volunteers wanted for Babylon: Daniel’s Courage in Captivity. Come join us June 19th - June 23rd from 9:15 -11:30am. Volunteer for a fun packed week of learning how to trust and rely on our amazing God! Adults and teens are needed for a variety of positions. Contact Erin for more information: erin.furgerson@alexandriapres.org.

Sisters in Stitches—Saturday, May 20 at 9am at APC. Join us for this monthly meeting as we learn new sewing techniques and have a wonderful time of fellowship. Friends are welcome! Contact Sue Edwards at sue.quilts6@gmail.com with any questions.

Newcomer Fellowship Dinner on Saturday, May 20, 6-8pm at APC. If you’ve been attending APC for one week or several months, please join us for food and fellowship. You’ll have a chance to meet church officers and staff, ask questions and learn more about the ministry God is building here.

The next Inquirers Class is June 2 and 3. If you are interested in membership or in gaining a deeper understanding of APC, we invite you to attend this class. You will receive an introduction to Christianity, the PCA, and the specific vision/mission and philosophy of ministry at APC. It’s also a great opportunity to meet other newcomers to the church, as well as pastors and staff! Membership is open to all who profess faith in Christ and believe the basic teachings of the Christian faith. Attending the class does not obligate you to join the church.

Next Baptism is Sunday, June 18. If you would like to have your child or children baptized, please send an email to Bailey Rolland at bailey.rolland@alexandriapres.org.

Volunteer at Lincolnian! Did you know that between 15 and 20 Lincolnian Assisted Living residents attend a weekly devotional time with APC volunteers? Every Saturday at 10:30am we meet in the lobby for about an hour. Though only a few residents are able to attend our services in person, there are others who have participated with us at the Lincolnian for years. Many of you were able to join us this past Christmas. If you would like to visit again, or for the first time, please sign up through the QR code or email Phyllis Sergeant at phyllis.sergeant@gmail.com. A regular commitment is not required.



Fairfax Young Life Capernaum Mother’s Day Card Sale. Buy a Mother’s Day card and send a Capernaum friend to camp! Order through the QR code:



CORPORATE PRAYER IN 2023

Every Sunday, 8:15am—Main Level Adult Education Room
Second Saturday of the month, 9am— Main Level Adult Education Room
Third Saturday of the month, 11am—Main Level Adult Education Room

SIMULCAST OPPORTUNITIES

We love families and are so glad you are here! If you need to leave the Sanctuary for any reason, a simulcast is available in Room 112 on the Main Level. We also have speakers in the Lobby, so you will be able to see and hear the service from there. The Nursing Mothers Room is downstairs in Room 009, and also has a simulcast. To find Room 009, please go down the stairs by the elevator and turn left at the bottom of the stairs. Room 009 is off the downstairs Lobby.

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SUNDAY MORNING MINISTRY WORKERS

Hospitality	<i>This Week’s Coffee Set Up:</i> Mary Lou Chesser, Rodney Veenstra <i>Next Week’s Coffee Set Up:</i> Juan and Consuelo Rosas, Rebecca Maylum
Nursery	<i>This Week’s 9am Service:</i> Shannon Allen, Amanda Leamer, Carmen Rives, Andrea Romy, Emmett Stephens, Angel Tinev, Bryan and Stacy Wittmeyer <i>This Week’s 11am Service:</i> Matt Brown, Sarah Field, Jackie McCauley, Chris Nelms, Lynn Streett <i>Next Week’s 11am Service:</i> Megan Barr, Jamie Connelly, Deborah Lockett, Jennifer McGahey, Amy Murr, Janice Nichols, Tommy and Emily Ribaric, Margaret Veenstra, Traci Youngquist
Children’s Church A/V Team	<i>This Week:</i> No Children’s Church due to the 5th Sunday of the month
Ushers	<i>This Week’s Service:</i> Ben and Liz Crowley, Mike Mazek, Joshua Youngquist 9am Service: Mark Adams, Sue Edwards, Brian Field, Alex and Heidi Gesch, Katty and Daniel Hoyle, Jon Osborne 11am Service: Christian and Connor Brittle, Mike Mazek, Rick Eppright, Vynn Huh
Deacons on Duty	Adam Barr, Stephen Sylvia, Angel Tinev

KEY EQUIPPING

During our Key Equipping time on Sunday evenings from 5-7pm, ministries are designed to equip all ages, from toddlers to seniors, to be disciples. A disciple is a follower and worshiper of Jesus. This is a life-long process of learning how to become more like our Lord.

Covenant Kids Ministry: Children 2 years old - 5th grade, Lower Level (Nursery for 1 & under) We welcome children to learn foundational truths about God and the Gospel story. We experience what it looks like to love God and love others in community with our worship, small groups, teaching, games, fellowship, and dinner! Contact: Erin Furgerson at erin.furgerson@alexandriapres.org.

PROTAS Youth Ministry: Teens 6th-12th grade, Upper Level Connect each week in community with your peers — the schedule includes games, worship, small group discussions, a short devotion at a teen level, and dinner. Contact: Adam LeRoy at adam.leroy@alexandriapres.org.

Adult Classes
Topical—“God’s Glory in Missions”, Led by Elder Rob Fisher, Room 114. “Missions is not the ultimate goal of the church. Worship is. Missions exist because worship doesn’t.”—John Piper. Many of us have heard this quoted before. In this study of missions using Piper’s book, *Let the Nations be Glad! The Supremacy of God in Missions*, we will explore and seek to be transformed by God’s zeal for His own Glory as it is expressed in bringing people from every tribe, nation and tongue to extol His greatness. Copies of the book are available at no cost on a first come first served basis.

Foundational—“How to Read the Bible”, Led by Pastor Josh Diack, Room 112. The task of reading and understanding the Bible has and continues to be met with strong headwinds. The headwinds, rather than discouraging us, show us the value of the task—to know and study the Bible faithfully and dependently, and in so doing to “taste and see” Christ clothed in its pages.

Book of the Bible—“Ezra—Rebuilding the Temple and Recognizing God’s Voice in the Midst of Hardship, Opposition, and Disappointment”, Led by Elder Bryant Street, Room 201. This class will look at the return of the Jewish exiles from Babylon in its historical context and in the context of prophesy by Daniel, Haggai, and Zechariah.

APC Visitor Form	Give to APC	Inquirers Class	Newcomer Dinner

Alexandria Presbyterian Church is a welcoming community of believers, rejoicing in the gospel, transformed by its power, and responding with grateful hearts in service to our God and world. We long to taste the glory of God in such an astonishing way that the city of Alexandria will be drawn to the majesty and mercy of our great God. It is our desire that our worship will serve as an authentic model to our city of the possibilities for transformation of individuals, families and a city encountering the glory and grace of God.

Holy Worship Service

GOD INVITES HIS PEOPLE TO WORSHIP

■ prelude

■ call to worship

Ben Elliott, Director of Music Ministries

Please read responsively from Psalm 119:171-174.

Leader: ¹⁷¹My lips will pour forth praise,
for you teach me your statutes.

All: ¹⁷²**My tongue will sing of your word,
for all your commandments are right.**

Leader: ¹⁷³Let your hand be ready to help me,
for I have chosen your precepts.

All: ¹⁷⁴**I long for your salvation, O Lord,
and your law is my delight.**

GOD’S PEOPLE RESPOND

■ song of praise

Reformation Song

Your Word alone is solid ground, the mighty rock on which we build;
in every line the truth is found, and every page with glory filled.

Through faith alone we come to You; we have no merit we can claim.
Sure that Your promises are true, we place our hope in Jesus’ name.

Gloria, gloria, glory to God alone; Gloria, gloria, glory to God alone.

In Christ alone we’re justified; His righteousness is all our plea;
Your law’s demands are satisfied; His perfect work has set us free.

By grace alone we have been saved; all that we are has come from You.
Hearts that were once by sin enslaved now by Your pow’r have been made new.

Words and music by Tim Chester and Bob Kauflin; © 2017 Sovereign Grace Praise (Admin. by Integrity Music); CCLI Song # 7088632

■ prayer of adoration | Josh Diack, Pastor of Congregational Life and Missions

GOD FEEDS HIS PEOPLE THROUGH HIS WORD

■ scripture reading | Elder Chris and Amy Weld (9am); Ben and Abigail Jessee (11am)

Isaiah 55

The Compassion of the Lord

¹“Come, everyone who thirsts,
come to the waters;
and he who has no money,
come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without price.

²Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?
Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good,
and delight yourselves in rich food.

³Incline your ear, and come to me;
hear, that your soul may live;
and I will make with you an everlasting covenant,
my steadfast, sure love for David.

⁴Behold, I made him a witness to the peoples,
a leader and commander for the peoples.

⁵Behold, you shall call a nation that you do not know,
and a nation that did not know you shall run to you,
because of the Lord your God, and of the Holy One of Israel,
for he has glorified you.

⁶“Seek the Lord while he may be found;
call upon him while he is near;

⁷let the wicked forsake his way,
and the unrighteous man his thoughts;
let him return to the Lord, that he may have compassion on him,
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

⁸For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord.

⁹For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

¹⁰“For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven
and do not return there but water the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout,
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,

¹¹so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,
and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

¹²“For you shall go out in joy
and be led forth in peace;
the mountains and the hills before you
shall break forth into singing,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

¹³Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle;
and it shall make a name for the Lord,
an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.”

GOD’S PEOPLE RESPOND

■ songs of praise

How Great Thou Art

Trinity Hymnal #44

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder consider all the worlds Thy hands have made;
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder, Thy pow’r throughout the universe displayed:

Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee, How great Thou art! How great Thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee, How great Thou art! How great Thou art!

And when I think that God, His Son not sparing, sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in;
that on the cross, my burden gladly bearing, He bled and died to take away my sin:

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation and take me home,
what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration, and there proclaim, my God, how great Thou art!

Swedish folk melody; Words and arr. by Stuart K Hine; © Copyright 1949 and 1953 Stuart Hine Trust CIO (Administrated by Capitol CMG Publishing, except USA print rights administered by Hope Publishing); CCLI Song # 14181

Come to Jesus (Rest in Him)

Are you weary, heavy laden? Come and lay your burdens down.
Jesus calls you, Jesus draws you; rest in Him.
He is gentle, He is lowly, He delights to bring us peace;
tender Shepherd, mighty Savior; rest in Him.

*How sure His compassion for us, O how deep is His love,
so come, come to Jesus and rest in Him.*

Are you hopeless, are you guilty, caught in shame for all your sin?
He pursues you to forgive you; rest in Him.
He has paid for every failure, mercy flows in endless streams;
come and follow, freedom calls you; rest in Him.

Are you waiting in your sorrows for this broken world to heal?
He is coming, soon returning; rest in Him.
We will see Him, we will know Him, O what heights of grace revealed:
from His kindness, every promise then fulfilled.
Trust in Jesus; He will keep us to the end.

Words and music by Jordan Kauflin and Matt Merker; © 2021 Getty Music Publishing, Jordan Kauflin Music, Matthew Merker Music (Admin. by Music Services, Inc.); CCLI Song # 7197940

■ congregational prayer | Tom Holliday, Senior Pastor

■ offertory prayer | Ruth Fisher (9am); Denise McMullen (11am)

■ presentation of tithes and offerings

■ offertory | Adult Choir (9am)

Break Forth, O Joyful Heart

Break forth, break forth, O joyful heart, and make His goodness known,
Who all thy life, though undeserved, such love to thee has shown.

*Break forth, break forth, O joyful heart, break forth, no longer silent be;
break forth, break forth in grateful praise to Him Who came to ransom thee.*

’Twas Jesus sought my wandering soul, and with a shepherd’s care
He brought me kindly to His fold, and still protects me there.

My soul shall magnify the Lord, my voice His love proclaim,
and every power within me join to bless and praise His Name.

Words by Fanny Crosby, 1881; Music by Dan Forrest; © 2002 Beckenhorst Press, Inc.

On a month that has a 5th Sunday, Children’s Church does not meet. Our curriculum allows for the children to put into practice what they are learning about the different aspects of worship by remaining in the service.

GOD FEEDS HIS PEOPLE THROUGH HIS WORD

■ children’s message

■ sermon scripture reading

Luke 8:4-15

The Parable of the Sower

⁴And when a great crowd was gathering and people from town after town came to him, he said in a parable, ⁵“A sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some fell along the path and was trampled underfoot, and the birds of the air devoured it. ⁶And some fell on the rock, and as it grew up, it withered away, because it had no moisture. ⁷And some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up with it and choked it. ⁸And some fell into good soil and grew and yielded a hundredfold.” As he said these things, he called out, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

The Purpose of the Parables

⁹And when his disciples asked him what this parable meant, ¹⁰he said, “To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of God, but for others they are in parables, so that ‘seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand.’” ¹¹Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. ¹²The ones along the path are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. ¹³And the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy. But these have no root; they believe for a while, and in time of testing fall away. ¹⁴And as for what fell among the thorns, they are those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature. ¹⁵As for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patience.

■ prayer for illumination

■ sermon | Josh Diack, Pastor of Congregational Life and Missions

“Securing the Word for Fruitfulness in a Distracted Age”

GOD’S PEOPLE RESPOND

■ song of response

Be Thou My Vision

Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart—naught be all else to me, save that Thou art;
Thou my best thought, by day or by night; waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Be Thou my wisdom, and Thou my true word; I ever with Thee, and Thou with me, Lord;
Thou my great Father, and I Thy true son; Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.

Riches I heed not, nor man’s empty praise: Thou mine inheritance, now and always,
Thou and Thou only first in my heart; High King of Heaven, my Treasure Thou art.

O God, be my everything, be my delight; be Jesus my glory, my soul satisfied.

High King of heaven, my victory won, may I reach heaven’s joys, O bright heav’n’s Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall, still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

Words from 8th cent. Irish poem, trans. by Mary E Byrne (1905), vers. by Eleanor H Hull (1912); Irish melody “Slane”; addtl. words and music by Joel Davis; © Public Domain; CCLI Song # 30639

■ dismissal

Leader: Let us go forth and serve our city and our world as those who love the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

All: We will go forth and serve our city and our world in the name of Christ.

■ benediction

■ announcements | Mike Powell, Pastoral Associate (9am);
Bailey Rolland, Administrator (11am)