

September 26 & 27, 2020



unchanging truth. changing lives

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.

■ call to worship | Tom Holliday, Senior Pastor

Ephesians 1:3-10

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love ⁵he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. ⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, ⁸which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight ⁹making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ ¹⁰as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

■ prayer of adoration

■ song of praise

How Firm a Foundation

How firm a foundation—You saints of the Lord
Is laid for your faith in His excellent Word
What more can He say than to you he has said
To you who for refuge to Jesus have fled

Fear not I am with you—O be not dismayed
For I am your God and will still give you aid
I'll strengthen you help you and cause you to stand
Upheld by my righteous omnipotent hand

When through the deep waters I call you to go
The rivers of sorrow shall not overflow
For I will be with you—Your troubles to bless
And sanctify to you your deepest distress

When through fiery trials your pathway shall lie
My grace all sufficient shall be your supply
The flame shall not hurt you—I only design
Your dross to consume and your gold to refine

The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose
I will not I will not desert to His foes
That soul though all hell should endeavor to shake
I'll never no never—No never forsake

Saturday: Original words by "K" in Rippon's Hymns (1787). Music: traditional American Melody. Public Domain.

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■ **scripture reading** | *Mike Powell, Pastoral Associate*

1 Peter 2:1-12

A Living Stone and a Holy People

¹So put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander. ²Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation— ³if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

⁴As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, ⁵you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶For it stands in Scripture:

“Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone,
a cornerstone chosen and precious,
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

⁷So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe,

“The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone,”

⁸and

“A stone of stumbling,
and a rock of offense.”

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

⁹But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. ¹⁰Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

¹¹Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. ¹²Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.

■ **congregational prayer**

■ **offertory prayer** (*Sunday only*)

■ **presentation of tithes and offerings** (*Sunday only*)

■ **children's message**

■ sermon scripture reading

Isaiah 28:14-22

A Cornerstone in Zion

¹⁴Therefore hear the word of the Lord, you scoffers,
who rule this people in Jerusalem!

¹⁵Because you have said, “We have made a covenant with death,
and with Sheol we have an agreement,
when the overwhelming whip passes through
it will not come to us,
for we have made lies our refuge,
and in falsehood we have taken shelter”;

¹⁶therefore thus says the Lord God,
“Behold, I am the one who has laid as a foundation in Zion,
a stone, a tested stone,
a precious cornerstone, of a sure foundation:
‘Whoever believes will not be in haste.’

¹⁷And I will make justice the line,
and righteousness the plumb line;
and hail will sweep away the refuge of lies,
and waters will overwhelm the shelter.”

¹⁸Then your covenant with death will be annulled,
and your agreement with Sheol will not stand;
when the overwhelming scourge passes through,
you will be beaten down by it.

¹⁹As often as it passes through it will take you;
for morning by morning it will pass through,
by day and by night;
and it will be sheer terror to understand the message.

²⁰For the bed is too short to stretch oneself on,
and the covering too narrow to wrap oneself in.

²¹For the Lord will rise up as on Mount Perazim;
as in the Valley of Gibeon he will be roused;
to do his deed—strange is his deed!
and to work his work—alien is his work!

²²Now therefore do not scoff,
lest your bonds be made strong;
for I have heard a decree of destruction
from the Lord God of hosts against the whole land.

■ **sermon** | *Tom Holliday, Senior Pastor*

“The Precious Cornerstone” *Sermon series: Christ the Cornerstone*

■ song of response

Cornerstone

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

Christ alone—Cornerstone

*Weak made strong in the Savior's love
Through the storm—He is Lord
Lord of all*

When darkness seems to hide His face
I rest on His unchanging grace
In every high and stormy gale
My anchor holds within the veil
My anchor holds within the veil

When He shall come with trumpet sound
Oh may I then in Him be found
Dressed in His righteousness alone
Faultless to stand before the throne

Saturay: Edward Mote | Eric Liljero | Jonas Myrin | Reuben Morgan | William Batchelder Bradbury © 2011 Hillsong Music Publishing Australia (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) CCLI # 6158927.

Sunday: Recorded by Ed and Susan Culbreath, Serenity Novak, 2020.

■ 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