

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

Matthew 15:1-8

Traditions and Commandments

¹Then Pharisees and scribes came to Jesus from Jerusalem and said, ²“Why do your disciples break the tradition of the elders? For they do not wash their hands when they eat.” ³He answered them, “And why do you break the commandment of God for the sake of your tradition? ⁴For God commanded, ‘Honor your father and your mother,’ and, ‘Whoever reviles father or mother must surely die.’ ⁵But you say, ‘If anyone tells his father or his mother, “What you would have gained from me is given to God,”’ he need not honor his father.’ So for the sake of your tradition you have made void the word of God. ⁷You hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy of you, when he said:

⁸“This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me.”

■ prayer of adoration

■ song of praise

Creed

Our Father everlasting—the never-changing One—God Almighty
Through Your Holy Spirit—conceiving Christ the Son—Jesus our Savior

*I believe in God our Father—I believe in Christ the Son
I believe in the Holy Spirit—our God is three in One
I believe in the resurrection—that we will rise again—for I believe in the name of Jesus*

Our judge and our defender—suffered and crucified—forgiveness is in You
Descended into darkness—You rose in glorious life—forever seated high

I believe in You—I believe You rose again—I believe that Jesus Christ is Lord

I believe in life eternal—I believe in the virgin birth
I believe in the saints' communion—and in Your holy Church
I believe in the resurrection—when Jesus comes again—for I believe in the name of Jesus

We believe in God our Father—we believe in Christ the Son
We believe in the Holy Spirit—our God is three in One
We believe in the resurrection—that we will rise again
For we believe in the name of Jesus

*Recorded by Emily Kinch, John Kinch, Serenity Novak, 2020.
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■ scripture reading | Cammy Kinder

Matthew 3:1-12

John the Baptist Prepares the Way

¹In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, ²“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” ³For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said,

“The voice of one crying in the wilderness:
‘Prepare the way of the Lord;
make his paths straight.’”

⁴Now John wore a garment of camel's hair and a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him, ⁶and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. ⁹And do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. ¹⁰Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹“I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹²His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

■ confession of sin

Please read in unison. Based on 1 John 1:5-10.

Holy Father, we confess that we have not lived as children of the light. It is easy to deceive ourselves, pretending that the darkness of our sin does not grieve You. We come to Your loving arms, asking You to forgive us for all that is unholy and harmful to our souls. Cleanse our hearts, and release us from the sins that hold us in bondage. Thank You that the blood of Christ is powerful enough to forgive even a sinner like me. Usher us into Your light, that we may experience the sweetness of fellowship with You and with others. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

■ congregational prayer

■ offertory prayer | Adam LeRoy, Director of Youth Ministries

■ presentation of tithes and offerings

■ sermon scripture reading

James 2:14-26

Faith Without Works Is Dead

¹⁴What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? ¹⁵If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, ¹⁶and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and filled,” without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? ¹⁷So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

¹⁸But someone will say, “You have faith and I have works.” Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. ¹⁹You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder! ²⁰Do you want to be shown, you foolish person, that faith apart from works is useless? ²¹Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up his son Isaac on the altar? ²²You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by his works; ²³and the Scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness”—and he was called a friend of God. ²⁴You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone. ²⁵And in the same way was not also Rahab the prostitute justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way? ²⁶For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead.

■ sermon | Tom Holliday, Senior Pastor

“A Living Faith”

Sermon series: The Book of James

■ song of response

A Christian's Daily Prayer

As morning dawns and day awakes, to You I bring my need.
O gracious God, my source of strength, in You I live and breathe.
Each hour is Yours by wisdom planned, each deed empowered by sovereign hands.
Renew my spirit, help me stand; be glorified today.

As day unfolds, I seek Your will in all of life's demands.
And though the tempter tries me still, I cling to Your commands.
Let every effort of my life display the matchless worth of Christ.
Make me a living sacrifice; be glorified today.

As sun gives way to darkest night Your Spirit still is here.
And though my strength fades like the light new mercies will appear.
I rest in You; abide with me until our trials and suffering.
Give way to final victory. Be glorified, today; be glorified, I pray.

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■ benediction

■ announcements