

# 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

Please read responsively from Jeremiah 10:12-16, 23-24.

Leader: <sup>12</sup>It is he who made the earth by his power,  
who established the world by his wisdom,  
and by his understanding stretched out the heavens.

All: <sup>13</sup>**When he utters his voice, there is a tumult of waters in the heavens,  
and he makes the mist rise from the ends of the earth.  
He makes lightning for the rain,  
and he brings forth the wind from his storehouses.**

Leader: <sup>14</sup>Every man is stupid and without knowledge;  
every goldsmith is put to shame by his idols,  
for his images are false,  
and there is no breath in them.

All: <sup>15</sup>**They are worthless, a work of delusion;  
at the time of their punishment they shall perish.**

Leader: <sup>16</sup>Not like these is he who is the portion of Jacob,  
for he is the one who formed all things,  
and Israel is the tribe of his inheritance;  
the Lord of hosts is his name.

All: <sup>23</sup>**I know, O Lord, that the way of man is not in himself,  
that it is not in man who walks to direct his steps.  
<sup>24</sup>Correct me, O Lord, but in justice;  
not in your anger, lest you bring me to nothing.**

## ■ prayer of adoration

### ■ song of praise

#### Behold Our God

Who has held the oceans in His hands—Who has numbered every grain of sand  
Kings and nations tremble at His voice—All creation rises to rejoice

*Behold our God seated on His throne—Come let us adore Him  
Behold our King—Nothing can compare—Come let us adore Him*

Who has given counsel to the Lord—Who can question any of His words  
Who can teach the One Who knows all things—Who can fathom all His wondrous deeds

Who has felt the nails upon His hands—Bearing all the guilt of sinful man  
God eternal humbled to the grave—Jesus Savior risen now to reign

You will reign forever—Let Your glory fill the earth

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## ■ scripture reading | Jeanette and Keri Hough

Proverbs 1:1-23

### The Beginning of Knowledge

<sup>1</sup>The proverbs of Solomon, son of David, king of Israel:

<sup>2</sup>To know wisdom and instruction,  
to understand words of insight,

<sup>3</sup>to receive instruction in wise dealing,  
in righteousness, justice, and equity;

<sup>4</sup>to give prudence to the simple,  
knowledge and discretion to the youth—

<sup>5</sup>Let the wise hear and increase in learning,  
and the one who understands obtain guidance,

<sup>6</sup>to understand a proverb and a saying,  
the words of the wise and their riddles.

<sup>7</sup>The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge;  
fools despise wisdom and instruction.

### The Enticement of Sinners

<sup>8</sup>Hear, my son, your father's instruction,  
and forsake not your mother's teaching,

<sup>9</sup>for they are a graceful garland for your head  
and pendants for your neck.

<sup>10</sup>My son, if sinners entice you,  
do not consent.

<sup>11</sup>If they say, "Come with us, let us lie in wait for blood;  
let us ambush the innocent without reason;

<sup>12</sup>like Sheol let us swallow them alive,  
and whole, like those who go down to the pit;

<sup>13</sup>we shall find all precious goods,

we shall fill our houses with plunder;

<sup>14</sup>throw in your lot among us;  
we will all have one purse"—

<sup>15</sup>my son, do not walk in the way with them;  
hold back your foot from their paths,

<sup>16</sup>for their feet run to evil,  
and they make haste to shed blood.

<sup>17</sup>For in vain is a net spread  
in the sight of any bird,

<sup>18</sup>but these men lie in wait for their own blood;  
they set an ambush for their own lives.

<sup>19</sup>Such are the ways of everyone who is greedy for unjust gain;  
it takes away the life of its possessors.

## The Call of Wisdom

<sup>20</sup>Wisdom cries aloud in the street,  
in the markets she raises her voice;

<sup>21</sup>at the head of the noisy streets she cries out;  
at the entrance of the city gates she speaks:

<sup>22</sup>"How long, O simple ones, will you love being simple?  
How long will scoffers delight in their scoffing  
and fools hate knowledge?"

<sup>23</sup>If you turn at my reproof,  
behold, I will pour out my spirit to you;  
I will make my words known to you.

## ■ congregational prayer

## ■ offertory prayer | Vicki Wolfe, Operations Manager

## ■ presentation of tithes and offerings

## ■ children's message

## ■ sermon scripture reading

James 3:13-18

### Wisdom from Above

<sup>13</sup>Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom. <sup>14</sup>But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. <sup>15</sup>This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. <sup>16</sup>For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice. <sup>17</sup>But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. <sup>18</sup>And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

## ■ sermon | Tom Holliday, Senior Pastor

### "A Life of Wisdom"

Sermon series: The Book of James

## ■ song of response

### Holy Spirit Living Breath of God

Holy Spirit living Breath of God—Breathe new life into my willing soul  
Bring the presence of the risen Lord to renew my heart and make me whole  
Cause Your Word to come alive in me—Give me faith for what I cannot see  
Give me passion for Your purity—Holy Spirit breathe new life in me

Holy Spirit come abide within—May Your joy be seen in all I do  
Love enough to cover ev'ry sin in each thought and deed and attitude  
Kindness to the greatest and the least—Gentleness that sows the path of peace  
Turn my striving into works of grace—Breath of God show Christ in all I do

Holy Spirit—from creation's birth—Giving life to all that God has made  
Show Your power once again on earth—Cause Your church to hunger for Your ways  
Let the fragrance of our prayers arise—Lead us on the road of sacrifice  
That in unity the face of Christ will be clear for all the world to see

*Recorded by Ed Culbreath, Susan Culbreath, Serenity Novak, 2020.  
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## ■ benediction