

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 | *Chris Sicks, Pastor of Mercy*

Please read responsively from Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Deuteronomy 32:46-47.

Leader: Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.

ALL: You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.

Leader: And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.

ALL: You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

Leader: Take to heart all the words by which I am warning you today, that you may command them to your children, that they may be careful to do all the words of this law.

ALL: For it is no empty word for you, but your very life, and by this word you shall live long in the land.

■ prayer of adoration

■ song of preparation

Speak O Lord

Speak, O Lord, as we come to You to receive the food of Your Holy Word.
Take Your truth, plant it deep in us; shape and fashion us in Your likeness,
That the light of Christ might be seen today in our acts of love and our deeds of faith.
Speak, O Lord, and fulfill in us all Your purposes for Your glory.

Teach us, Lord, full obedience, holy reverence, true humility;
Test our thoughts and our attitudes in the radiance of Your purity.
Cause our faith to rise; cause our eyes to see Your majestic love and authority.
Words of pow'r that can never fail; let their truth prevail over unbelief.

Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds; help us grasp the heights of Your plans for us.
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time that will echo down through eternity.
And by grace we'll stand on Your promises, and by faith we'll walk as You walk with us.
Speak, O Lord, till Your church is built and the earth is filled with Your glory.

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■ the apostles' creed | *Stuart Yikona*

Please read in unison.

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

■ scripture reading

Zechariah 7:4-14

⁴Then the word of the Lord of hosts came to me: ⁵"Say to all the people of the land and the priests, 'When you fasted and mourned in the fifth month and in the seventh, for these seventy years, was it for me that you fasted?' ⁶And when you eat and when you drink, do you not eat for yourselves and drink for yourselves? ⁷Were not these the words that the Lord proclaimed by the former prophets, when Jerusalem was inhabited and prosperous, with her cities around her, and the South and the lowland were inhabited?"

⁸And the word of the Lord came to Zechariah, saying, ⁹"Thus says the Lord of hosts, Render true judgments, show kindness and mercy to one another, ¹⁰do not oppress the widow, the fatherless, the sojourner, or the poor, and let none of you devise evil against another in your heart." ¹¹But they refused to pay attention and turned a stubborn shoulder and stopped their ears that they might not hear. ¹²They made their hearts diamond-hard lest they should hear the law and the words that the Lord of hosts had sent by his Spirit through the former prophets. Therefore great anger came from the Lord of hosts. ¹³"As I called, and they would not hear, so they called, and I would not hear," says the Lord of hosts, ¹⁴"and I scattered them with a whirlwind among all the nations that they had not known. Thus the land they left was desolate, so that no one went to and fro, and the pleasant land was made desolate."

■ congregational prayer

■ offertory prayer | *Eleanor Nagy*

■ presentation of tithes and offerings

■ sermon scripture reading

James 1:19-27

Hearing and Doing the Word

¹⁹Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; ²⁰for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God. ²¹Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

²²But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. ²³For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. ²⁴For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. ²⁵But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.

²⁶If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this person's religion is worthless. ²⁷Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.

■ sermon | *Chris Sicks, Pastor of Mercy*

"Receive and Respond"

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