

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

VBS volunteer informational meeting today right after the service in Room 124 (the Children’s Church room). If you are interested in hearing more about how you can volunteer for this summer’s Wilderness Escape, please come for this short meeting! The VBS dates are June 28-July 2.

Men’s Breakfast on Saturday, May 22 from 8-9:30am in the Fellowship Hall at RRC. Men of APC—join us for fellowship over breakfast and a discussion on the topic of spiritual renewal. The discussion will focus on the challenges and obstacles, as well as the blessings and privileges, of the Spirit’s work of renewal. Our speakers will be APCers Rev. Mike Powell and Tom Tarrants. Masks will be required except for while eating, and social distancing will be observed. Please RSVP on the APC website by May 20.

Refresh Community – Saturday, May 22 from 9-10am at Stomping Ground in Del Ray. Join other APC moms for a “coffee date” the fourth Saturday morning of the month April – June! We’ll gather outside Stomping Ground in Del Ray at 9am. A playground is a short walk away, and we can make our way there if our babies/children join us (they’re welcome!). Look for an orange stroller and red camp chair to find us! Questions? Email Jackie McCauley at jmccauley184@gmail.com.

Praise and Testimony Service: Sunday, May 23rd from 5-6:30 in the Sanctuary at RRC. Please join us for this service of praise and testimony! We will hear more firsthand from Didier Balagizi about how the Lord miraculously provided for his safe visit to the Congo. We will also praise God in song during our time together.

Save the Date for a Congregational Meeting: Sunday June 27 at 5pm

Children’s Church meets the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month during worship for children ages 5 through 2nd grade. Pre-registration is required. You can find the link to register in the weekly Wednesday emails.

Nursery Volunteers Needed! If you received an email from Erin about volunteering in the nursery, please sign up! If you are interested in volunteering or have any questions, please contact Erin Furgerson, Director of Children’s Ministries, for more information at erin.furgerson@alexandriapres.org.

Nursery registration is required and offered up to age 4. We have a limited capacity and can only accommodate a certain number of children based on how many volunteers we have. Please review the Children’s Ministry COVID-19 Protocols before you register at the link found in the APC email. Registration is open Wednesday through Friday each week.

The Children’s Ministry is looking for volunteers. To find out what opportunities are available, contact Erin Furgerson at erin.furgerson@alexandriapres.org.

Giving at a Glance	YTD Giving (7/1/20-4/30/21)	\$1,696,591
	YTD Budget (7/1/20-4/30/21)	\$1,615,000
	Difference	+\$81,591 (105%)

CORPORATE PRAYER IN 2021

Every Sunday, 8am—Chapel (RRC) or via Zoom. Praying for our Worship Service.
Second Saturday of the month, 9am—Zoom. Praying with our Elders for our church.
Third Saturday of the month, 11am—Zoom. Praying with the Prayer Committee.
Fourth Sunday of the month, 5pm—Zoom. Praying with our church community.
Intercessory Prayer Team. Contact Pastor Tom Holliday for details.

Scan to give to APC



Find us on social media!



YouTube

Scan to register for today’s service



CHILDREN AND TEENS

Children’s Ministry. Sunday evenings we welcome children in grades K-5 to experience gospel living and discipleship as they build relationships with one another and with the leaders of their small groups. Explorers is currently meeting the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month from 5-6pm on Zoom. Contact Erin Furgerson, Director of Children’s Ministries, at erin.furgerson@alexandriapres.org for more information.

PROTAS Teen Ministry. PROTAS is currently rotating between Zoom and in-person youth group for all students grades 6-12 on Sunday evenings from 6-7:30pm. When the weather is nice outside, in-person youth group will be held outdoors at Russell Road. When the weather does not cooperate, we will still meet in-person in the Fellowship Hall at Russell Road. Please do not feel pressured to join in-person (or indoor) youth group unless you are comfortable. Discipleship groups are also meeting during the week. Contact Adam LeRoy, Director of Youth Ministries, at adam.leroy@alexandriapres.org for the schedule and more details.

ADULT EDUCATION

Sunday school | 11am over Zoom (check APC email for Zoom link)

Parables of Jesus. Join us today from 11am-12pm via Zoom for a class looking at the parables of Jesus led by Elder Gary McGee. Jesus was a metaphorical theologian. His primary method of creating meaning was through metaphor, simile, parable and dramatic action rather than through logic and reasonings. He created meaning like a dramatist and a poet rather than like a philosopher. In Western tradition, serious theology has almost always been constructed from ideas held together by logic. In such a world the more intelligent the theologian, the more abstract he usually becomes, and the more difficult it is for the average person to understand what is being said. In contrast, when examined with care, the parables of Jesus are simple but serious theology, and He emerges as an astute theologian. To unlock the secrets of these metaphors, we must realize that when taken in the context of the culture in which they were delivered, the parables exhibit new meanings that otherwise would be missed. We must realize further that this is not just the Word of God, but the Word of God spoken to men in history. And finally, we must distinguish what meaning or meanings can be attributable legitimately to the parables.*

*paraphrased from “Jesus Through Middle Eastern Eyes” by Kenneth E. Bailey

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Email Distribution List. Weekly e-announcements keep the APC family informed of ministries, events, and prayer requests. To subscribe, please contact the church office at admin@alexandriapres.org.

Covenant Fellowship Groups (CFG). APC offers a variety of CFGs which meet for study, prayer, fellowship, accountability and growth. A list of locations, times and contact info can be found online or by contacting Josh Diack, Pastor of Congregational Life, at josh.diack@alexandriapres.org.

UNCHANGING TRUTH—CHANGING LIVES

APC is a church of sinners. It’s that simple. But we are bound together by the Gospel that saves us and transforms us. The transformation is, however, a process. God isn’t through with us yet. Everyone in this church is struggling with something. If you are currently struggling with greed, gossip, drugs, alcohol, sexual brokenness, eating disorders, anger, pride, etc—you are not alone. More importantly, God does not intend for you to struggle alone. That’s why He made the Church. If you would like to learn how your brothers and sisters at APC might be able to encourage you, pray with you and struggle alongside you, contact Tom Holliday at the church office.

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.

Please, no food or drink in sanctuary. Silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.
Please see a greeter or usher for assistance.

Holy Worship Service

GOD INVITES HIS PEOPLE TO WORSHIP

■ **prelude** | *Serenity Novak, Worship Assistant*

■ **call to worship** | *Tom Holliday, Senior Pastor*

Please stand and read responsively from Psalm 113:1-6.

Leader: ¹Praise the Lord!
Praise, O servants of the Lord,
praise the name of the Lord!

All: ²**Blessed be the name of the Lord
from this time forth and forevermore!**
³**From the rising of the sun to its setting,
the name of the Lord is to be praised!**

Leader: ⁴The Lord is high above all nations,
and his glory above the heavens!

All: ⁵**Who is like the Lord our God,
who is seated on high,
who looks far down
on the heavens and the earth?**

■ **songs of praise**

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Praise to the Lord the Almighty—The King of creation
O my soul praise Him for He is thy health and salvation
All ye who hear—Now to His temple draw near
Join me in glad adoration

Praise to the Lord who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth
Shelters thee under His wings—Yea—so gently sustaineth
Hast thou not seen how thy desires e'er have been
Granted in what He ordaineth

Praise to the Lord who doth prosper thy work and defend thee
Surely His goodness and mercy here daily attend thee
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do
If with His love He befriend thee

Praise to the Lord—O let all that is in me adore Him
All that hath life and breath come now with praises before Him
Let the amen sound from His people again
Gladly fore'er we adore Him

Joachim Neander (1680), trans. Catherine Winkworth (1863); Straisund Gesangbuch (1665); Public Domain; CCLI Song # 43073

Indescribable

From the highest of heights to the depths of the sea
Creation's revealing Your majesty
From the colors of Fall to the fragrance of Spring
Ev'ry creature unique in the song that it sings
All exclaiming

*Indescribable uncontainable
You placed the stars in the sky
And You know them by name
You are amazing God
All powerful untamable
Awestruck we fall to our knees
As we humbly proclaim
You are amazing God*

Who has told ev'ry lightning bolt where it should go
Or seen heavenly storehouses laden with snow
Who imagined the sun and gives source to its light
Yet conceals it to bring us the coolness of night
None can fathom

*Indescribable uncontainable
You placed the stars in the sky
And You know them by name
You are amazing God
Incomparable unchangeable
You see the depths of my heart
And You love me the same
You are amazing God*

*Jesse Reeves, Laura Story; © 2004 Laura Stories (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) sixsteps
Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG
Publishing); CCLI Song # 4403076*

■ **prayer of adoration**

GOD'S PEOPLE RESPOND

■ **scripture reading** | *Jessica and Collin White*

John 15:1-17

I Am the True Vine

¹"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. ²Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. ³Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. ⁹As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

¹²"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. ¹⁷These things I command you, so that you will love one another."

■ **congregational prayer**

■ **offertory prayer** | *Bob Morrison*

■ **induction of new members**

GOD FEEDS HIS PEOPLE THROUGH HIS WORD

■ **sermon scripture reading**

Matthew 7:15-20

A Tree and Its Fruit

¹⁵"Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. ¹⁶You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? ¹⁷So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. ¹⁸A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit. ¹⁹Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ²⁰Thus you will recognize them by their fruits."

■ **prayer for illumination**

■ **sermon** | *Tom Holliday, Senior Pastor*
"By Their Fruits"

GOD'S PEOPLE RESPOND

■ **hymn of response**

May the Mind of Christ My Savior

May the mind of Christ my Savior
Live in me from day to day
By His love and power controlling
All I do and say

May the Word of God dwell richly
In my heart from hour to hour
So that all may see I triumph
Only through his pow'r

May the peace of God my Father
Rule my life in everything
That I may be calm to comfort
Sick and sorrowing

May the love of Jesus fill me
As the waters fill the sea
Him exalting—self-abasing
This is victory

May His beauty rest upon me
As I seek the lost to win
And may they forget the channel
Seeing only Him

Arthur Cyril Barham-Gould, Kate Barclay Wilkinson; Public Domain; CCLI Song # 4845012

■ **benediction**

■ **announcements**