

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

C.S. Lewis Institute Applications—deadline May 15. APC highly recommends the CSLI Fellows Program. If you are interested in applying to be a Fellow, email Erin Furgerson, Director of Children’s Ministries, at erin.furgerson@alexandriapres.org. This year-long discipleship program is for believers who are already established in their faith, are highly motivated to grow deeper in their knowledge of and obedience to Jesus Christ, and who desire for God to use them more effectively in the work of His Kingdom. The Program focuses on the integration of heart and mind in a small group context, and is designed to dramatically alter the trajectory of spiritual growth. A combination of focused Bible study, dynamic teachers, classic writers, experienced mentors, effective small groups and active response to the Word and the Spirit helps believers mature in their ability to articulate, defend and joyfully live out their faith in public and personal life. Also, if you are interested in being a mentor, contact Erin to learn more. We hope to match up APC Fellows and Mentors in small groups to go through the program together.

VBS volunteer informational meeting on Sunday May 16, right after the service in the Fellowship Hall. 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.

Next Baptism is Sunday, May 23. If you would like to have your child or children baptized, please contact Sue Edwards, Office Manager.

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.

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.

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.

Scan to give to APC



Find us on social media!



YouTube

Scan to register for today’s service



*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** | *Praise Team*

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

John 7:37-39

³⁷On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. ³⁸Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’” ³⁹Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

■ **song of praise**

O Come to the Altar

Are you hurting and broken within
Overwhelmed by the weight of your sin
Jesus is calling
Have you come to the end of yourself
Do you thirst for a drink from the well
Jesus is calling

*O come to the altar
The Father’s arms are open wide
Forgiveness was bought with
The precious blood of Jesus Christ*

Leave behind your regrets and mistakes
Come today there’s no reason to wait
Jesus is calling
Bring your sorrows and trade them for joy
From the ashes a new life is born
Jesus is calling

Oh what a Savior
Isn’t he wonderful
Sing alleluia Christ is risen
Bow down before him
For he is Lord of all
Sing alleluia Christ is risen

Bear your cross as you wait for the crown
Tell the world of the treasure you’ve found

Chris Brown, Mack Brock, Steven Furtick, Wade Joye; © 2015 Music by Elevation Worship Publishing (Admin. by Essential Music Publishing LLC); CCLI Song # 7051511

■ **prayer of adoration**

GOD’S PEOPLE RESPOND

■ **scripture reading** | *Lynn Streett*

1 Samuel 2:1-11

Hannah’s Prayer

¹And Hannah prayed and said,

“My heart exults in the Lord;
my horn is exalted in the Lord.
My mouth derides my enemies,
because I rejoice in your salvation.

²⁴There is none holy like the Lord:
for there is none besides you;
there is no rock like our God.

³Talk no more so very proudly,
let not arrogance come from your mouth;
for the Lord is a God of knowledge,
and by him actions are weighed.

⁴The bows of the mighty are broken,
but the feeble bind on strength.

⁵Those who were full have hired themselves out for bread,
but those who were hungry have ceased to hunger.

The barren has borne seven,
but she who has many children is forlorn.

⁶The Lord kills and brings to life;
he brings down to Sheol and raises up.

⁷The Lord makes poor and makes rich;
he brings low and he exalts.

⁸He raises up the poor from the dust;
he lifts the needy from the ash heap
to make them sit with princes
and inherit a seat of honor.

For the pillars of the earth are the Lord’s,
and on them he has set the world.

⁹“He will guard the feet of his faithful ones,
but the wicked shall be cut off in darkness,
for not by might shall a man prevail.

¹⁰The adversaries of the Lord shall be broken to pieces;
against them he will thunder in heaven.

The Lord will judge the ends of the earth;
he will give strength to his king
and exalt the horn of his anointed.”

¹¹Then Elkanah went home to Ramah. And the boy was ministering to the Lord in the presence of Eli the priest.

■ **congregational prayer**

■ **offertory prayer** | *Eleanor Nagy*

■ **song of preparation**

Show Us Christ

Prepare our hearts O God
Help us to receive
Break the hard and stony ground
Help our unbelief
Plant Your Word down deep in us
'Cause it to bear fruit
Open up our ears to hear
Lead us in Your truth

*Show us Christ show us Christ
O God reveal Your glory
Through the preaching of Your Word
Until every heart confesses Christ is Lord*

Your Word is living light
Upon our darkened eyes
Guards us through temptations
Makes the simple wise
Your Word is food for famished ones
Freedom for the slave
Riches for the needy soul
Come speak to us today

Where else can we go Lord
Where else can we go
You have the words of eternal life

Bob Kauflin, Doug Plank; © 2011 Sovereign Grace Praise (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing (Integrity Music, David C Cook)) Sovereign Grace Worship (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing (Integrity Music, David C Cook)); CCLI Song # 6169253

At this time, pre-registered children in Kindergarten through 2nd grade are dismissed for Children's Church. Parents: at the end of the service please promptly pick up your child from the Fellowship Hall.

GOD FEEDS HIS PEOPLE THROUGH HIS WORD

■ **sermon scripture reading**

Matthew 7:12-14

The Golden Rule

¹²“So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.

¹³“Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. ¹⁴For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.

■ **prayer for illumination**

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

“Two Gates, Two Destinies”

GOD’S PEOPLE RESPOND

■ **song of response**

Just As I Am

Just as I am without one plea
But that Thy blood was shed for me
And that Thou bidd’st me come to Thee
O Lamb of God I come I come

*Jesus I come—Jesus I come
O Lamb of God I come
Jesus I come—Jesus I come
O Lamb of God I come*

Just as I am and waiting not
To rid my soul of one dark blot
To Thee Whose blood can cleanse each spot
O Lamb of God I come I come

GOD FEEDS HIS PEOPLE THROUGH HIS TABLE

■ **sacrament of the lord’s supper**

Explanation, Invitation, Participation

All baptized Christians who are members in good standing of a church that proclaims the Gospel of Jesus Christ are invited to participate. Children who have been admitted into the church as communicant members are invited to participate as well. If you have any questions, please ask one of our pastors or elders.

GOD’S PEOPLE RESPOND

■ **song of response**

Just As I Am

Just as I am though tossed about
With many a conflict many a doubt
Fightings and fears within without
O Lamb of God I come I come

*Jesus I come—Jesus I come
O Lamb of God I come
Jesus I come—Jesus I come
O Lamb of God I come*

Just as I am Thy love unknown
Hath broken ev’ry barrier down
Now to be Thine yea Thine alone
O Lamb of God I come I come

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■ **benediction**

■ **announcements** | *Adam LeRoy, Director of Youth Ministries*