

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday evening activities (including Explorers, PROTAS and the Adult Education Classes) are cancelled for this evening, October 31.

Newcomer Brunch on Sunday, November 7 immediately following worship. If you are new to APC, we would love the chance to get to know you over brunch! You'll have a chance to meet church officers and staff, ask questions and learn more about the ministry God is building here. We will meet outside next to the playground in the back of the church building. **Please RSVP to Katie Coombs at katie.coombs@alexandriapres.org no later than Wednesday, November 3.**

On November 11th, the Thursday Ladies Bible studies will begin a new class on prayer using the book "5 Things to Pray for Your Church". We invite you to join us as we spend 5 weeks learning ways to intentionally pray for the church in all her many facets. We can't think of a better subject to focus on as APC prepares to enter into a new season of ministry this coming spring! Please join us in the Chapel every Thursday morning from 9:45-11:30am, if you'd like to meet in-person. This same study will be available on Zoom in the evenings from 8-9:15pm. Childcare is available for the morning class. If you'd like to join the evening class, please contact Lynn Streett at lynn.streett79@gmail.com in order to get the Zoom link. The books may be ordered through Amazon.

Benefit Recital on November 13. APC attender and flutist, Becky Metheny Mason, is presenting a Benefit Recital on November 13 at 3:30pm in the Sanctuary to raise awareness and funds to support the important work of FAIR Girls, a non-profit based in DC that fights against human trafficking and assists survivors. Serenity Novak, piano, and Irma Cripe, cello, are also featured musicians on this program which consists of works by female African American composers. Donations will be gladly accepted on behalf of FAIR Girls.

Thanksgiving Praise Service and Reception on Sunday, November 21 at 5pm in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is invited to gather for a unique service of thanksgiving and praise, where individuals will have the opportunity to publicly give testimony to God's goodness throughout the year, or share a favorite passage with the congregation. Immediately following the service, we will enjoy fellowship over hot cider and donuts! **Volunteers are needed for the reception!** If you are interested in helping with set-up, food prep, serving or clean-up you may sign-up to volunteer using the sign-up genius link in the APC email or you may contact Katie Coombs at katie.coombs@alexandriapres.org.

Save the Date for Lessons and Carols! Our special Christmas service this year will be on Saturday, December 18 at 5pm. Join us as we await the coming of Christ and behold His beauty.

APC Men's Small Groups. The APC Men's Ministry desires to be intentional in our approach to, and foster a culture of, lifelong discipleship – growing as disciples of Jesus. It is exciting to know (based on recent feedback from APC's men) that there clearly seems to be a hunger at APC for small groups of men getting together to do these things. If you are interested in joining one of these small groups, check your APC email for more info and to sign up.

CORPORATE PRAYER IN 2021

Every Sunday, 8am—Chapel 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.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

APC's Hospitality Team needs you! If have been considering how to best use your gifts of service and hospitality, you are cordially invited to sign up for the hospitality team! This service opportunity includes things like decorating for events and serving/preparing food and coffee. (Think: serving donuts and hot cider at the Thanksgiving Service Reception!). This is a huge blessing to the APC family, and an excellent opportunity to spend some time with others who are helping as well. Thank you for considering, and we look forward to serving with you! Contact Katie Coombs if you are interested or have questions, at katie.coombs@alexandriapres.org.

CHILDREN AND TEENS

Nursery registration is required and offered up to age 4. We have a limited capacity based on how many volunteers we have. Please register at the link found in the APC email. Registration is open Wednesday through Friday each week.

Children's Church Room 124, 2nd and 4th Sundays during the sermon for children ages 5-7

Children Infants: ages 0-1 in Bunnies Room; Ages 2-3 in Tigers Room; Age 4 in Elephants Room; Grades K-1 in Lions Room; Grades 2-3 in Room 305; Grades 4-5 in Room 306
Teens Chapel

Sunday evening | 5-6:30pm

Explorers *Children age 5-5th grade, Outside as weather permits and Fellowship Hall.* We welcome children to experience gospel living and discipleship as they build relationships with one another and with the leaders of their small groups.
 Contact: Erin Furgerson at erin.furgerson@alexandriapres.org.
PROTAS *Teens 6th-12th grade*
 Connect each week in community with your peers — the schedule includes games, worship, small group discussions, a short devotion at a teen level, and more. Discipleship groups are also meeting during the week.
 Contact: Adam LeRoy at adam.leroy@alexandriapres.org.

ADULT EDUCATION

Sunday school | 10:30-11:30am

Praying the Psalms, Led by Elder Marc Allen, Room 302/303.
 When you pray, how do you pray? Do you pray as did David: "Be merciful to me and hear my prayer?" As the Sons of Korah did: "my soul pants for you O God?" Or as another Psalm-writer did: "Why, O Lord, do you stand far off?" However you pray, if you desire to come closer to God in your prayer life and to know Him more, then the Psalmists stand ready to guide you. By reading, studying, and praying selected Psalms, we will seek to understand better our own prayer lives, the shape a Godly prayer life takes, and the great promise of prayer God offers to us—an intimate relationship with Him.

The Gospel of John – The Word Made Flesh, Led by Elder Aaron Renenger and Pastor Josh Diack, Room 104.

Join us in our study of the Gospel of John, where we encounter Jesus as eternal God, Jesus as the incarnate Son, and Jesus as the Messiah who fulfills God's promises and brings grace upon grace. Whether one is brand new to the faith or has been a Christian for many years, the Gospel of John provides a deep and intimate portrait of our Lord and Savior, beckoning us not only to come to Jesus, but to remain in Him.

Sunday Evening beginning November 7 | 5-6:30pm

Discipleship & Mentoring: Filling to Overflow, Led by Staci Root, Lynn Streett, and others
 Imagine our cups being filled so abundantly that they overflow to others! Spend 6 Sunday nights between November and January exploring ideas of discipleship and mentoring in the Body of Christ. We'll look at foundational concepts from various resources including "Growing Together" by Melissa B. Kruger, hold conversations with APCers involved in discipleship, and utilize a small group practicum to encourage one another's faith. Come as often as you can.

Early History of Christianity, Led by Elder Jim Taft

Over the course of six weeks, we'll examine some of the key milestones as we witness the spreading flame of Christianity -- from the early days described in the book of Acts up until the time of the Reformation. We'll examine how God used ordinary men and women in extraordinary ways and ordered events to ensure that the Gospel spread from Jerusalem to Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth.

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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: Reformation Sunday

Today is Reformation Sunday, when we remember the great Protestant reformers who reclaimed the truth of God’s Word, like Martin Luther, John Huss, John Calvin and John Knox.

GOD INVITES HIS PEOPLE TO WORSHIP

■ prelude | *Adult Choir*

The Eternal Gifts of Christ the King

The eternal gifts of Christ the King,
The saints triumphant now we sing:
In heaven's hall a victor band,
True lights that lighten every land.

They bore the terrors of the time;
No torment shook their faith sublime.
The perfect love of Christ they know;
It lays the prince of this world low.
In them the Father's glory shone,
In them the Spirit's will was done,
The Son Himself exults in them;
Joy fills the new Jerusalem. Amen.

The Eternal Gifts of Christ the King, Ambrose of Milan, Medieval plainsong. © 1985 Church Publishing, Inc., All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE, License #A-726376. All rights reserved.

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

Psalms 46:1

God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.

■ hymns of praise

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God (Trinity Hymnal #92)

A mighty fortress is our God
A bulwark never failing
Our helper He amid the flood
Of mortal ills prevailing
For still our ancient foe
Doth seek to work us woe
His craft and pow’r are great
And armed with cruel hate
On earth is not his equal

Did we in our own strength confide
Our striving would be losing
Were not the right Man on our side
The Man of God’s own choosing
Dost ask who that may be
Christ Jesus it is He
Lord Sabaoth His name
From age to age the same
And He must win the battle

And though this world with devils filled
Should threaten to undo us
We will not fear for God hath willed
His truth to triumph through us
The prince of darkness grim
We tremble not for him
His rage we can endure
For lo his doom is sure
One little word shall fell him

That Word above all earthly pow’rs
No thanks to them abideth
The Spirit and the gifts are ours
Through Him who with us sideth
Let goods and kindred go
This mortal life also
The body they may kill
God’s truth abideth still
His kingdom is forever

Frederick Henry Hedge, Martin Luther; © Public Domain; CCLI Song # 42964

For All the Saints (Trinity Hymnal #358)

For all the saints who from their labors rest
Who Thee by faith before the world confessed
Thy name O Jesus be forever blest
Alleluia alleluia

Thou wast their rock their fortress and their might
Thou Lord their Captain in the well-fought fight
Thou in the darkness drear their one true light
Alleluia alleluia

O may Thy soldiers faithful true and bold
Fight as the saints who nobly fought of old
And win with them the victor’s crown of gold
Alleluia alleluia

The golden evening brightens in the west
Soon soon to faithful warriors comes their rest
Sweet is the calm of paradise the blest
Alleluia alleluia

But lo there breaks a yet more glorious day
The saints triumphant rise in bright array
The King of glory passes on His way
Alleluia alleluia

From earth’s wide bounds from ocean’s farthest coast
Through gates of pearl streams in the countless host
Singing to Father Son and Holy Ghost
Alleluia alleluia

Ralph Vaughan Williams, William Walsham How; © Public Domain; CCLI Song # 90590

■ prayer of adoration

GOD’S PEOPLE RESPOND

■ scripture reading | *Elder Shant Boyajian*

Joshua 1:1-9

God Commissions Joshua

¹After the death of Moses the servant of the Lord, the Lord said to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses’ assistant, ²“Moses my servant is dead. Now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, into the land that I am giving to them, to the people of Israel. ³Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given to you, just as I promised to Moses. ⁴From the wilderness and this Lebanon as far as the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites to the Great Sea toward the going down of the sun shall be your territory. ⁵No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life. Just as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you or forsake you. ⁶Be strong and courageous, for you shall cause this people to inherit the land that I swore to their fathers to give them. ⁷Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to do according to all the law that Moses my servant commanded you. Do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may have good success wherever you go. ⁸This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. ⁹Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”

■ ordination and installation of officers

■ congregational prayer | *Josh Diack, Pastor of Congregational Life and Missions*

■ offertory prayer | *Laura Erickson*

GOD FEEDS HIS PEOPLE THROUGH HIS WORD

■ sermon scripture reading

Acts 13:1-12

Barnabas and Saul Sent Off

¹Now there were in the church at Antioch prophets and teachers, Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen a lifelong friend of Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. ²While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” ³Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off.

Barnabas and Saul on Cyprus

⁴So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia, and from there they sailed to Cyprus. ⁵When they arrived at Salamis, they proclaimed the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews. And they had John to assist them. ⁶When they had gone through the whole island as far as Paphos, they came upon a certain magician, a Jewish false prophet named Bar-Jesus. ⁷He was with the proconsul, Sergius Paulus, a man of intelligence, who summoned Barnabas and Saul and sought to hear the word of God. ⁸But Elymas the magician (for that is the meaning of his name) opposed them, seeking to turn the proconsul away from the faith. ⁹But Saul, who was also called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked intently at him ¹⁰and said, “You son of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness, full of all deceit and villainy, will you not stop making crooked the straight paths of the Lord? ¹¹And now, behold, the hand of the Lord is upon you, and you will be blind and unable to see the sun for a time.” Immediately mist and darkness fell upon him, and he went about seeking people to lead him by the hand. ¹²Then the proconsul believed, when he saw what had occurred, for he was astonished at the teaching of the Lord.

■ prayer for illumination

■ sermon | *Tom Holliday, Senior Pastor*

“The Heavenly Commission”

GOD’S PEOPLE RESPOND

■ hymn of response

Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah (Trinity Hymnal #598)

Guide me O Thou great Jehovah—Pilgrim through this barren land
I am weak but Thou art mighty—Hold me with Thy pow’rful hand
Bread of heaven Bread of heaven
Feed me till I want no more—Feed me till I want no more

Open now the crystal fountain—Whence the healing stream doth flow
Let the fire and cloudy pillar—Lead me all my journey through
Strong Deliv’rer strong Deliv’rer
Be Thou still my strength and shield—Be Thou still my strength and shield

When I tread the verge of Jordan—Bid my anxious fears subside
Death of death and hell’s destruction—Land me safe on Canaan’s side
Songs of praises songs of praises
I will ever give to Thee—I will ever give to Thee

John Hughes, Peter Williams, William Williams; © Public Domain; CCLI Song # 1448

■ benediction

■ announcements | *Matt Coombs, Executive Director of Ministries*

■ recessional anthem | *Adult Choir*

On Jordan’s Stormy Banks

On Jordan’s stormy banks I stand and cast a wistful eye
To Canaan’s fair and happy land where my possessions lie.

*I am bound for the promised land;
Oh, who will come and go with me? I am bound for the promised land.*

O’er all those wide extended plains shines one eternal day;
There God the Son forever reigns and scatters night away.

When shall I reach that happy place and be forever blessed?
When shall I see my Father’s face and in His bosom rest?

Filled with delight, my raptured soul lives out its earthly day,
And then, though Jordan’s waves may roll, I’ll fearless launch away.

Words: Samuel Stennett, 1787. Music: The Sacred Harp, 1844.