

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday School and Sunday evening activities are not meeting today, in light of Thanksgiving weekend.

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.

Holiday Giving Opportunities. Each year, APC prepares a list of giving opportunities. Please prayerfully consider participating in one or more of the following APC ministry or APC missions opportunities:

Christmas at The Lincolnian. In 2007 the APC Seniors Ministry began with one resident of the Lincolnian Assisted Living facility in West Alexandria asking for a ride to worship. Since then, dozens of residents have been part of the APC family, and we have a regular ministry presence there. Starting in 2015, APC has sponsored Christmas gifts for the residents. This was especially meaningful in 2020, as they had a months-long in-room quarantine. Our gifts and outreach truly provided light and hope in a very dark time. One year later, COVID-19 continues to create strict limits on access into the facility, and blocks their coming to worship. As a result, the Seniors Ministry will again this year purchase standard gifts for all residents in one online purchase. These are fleece sweaters, where each resident gets to pick their color. We will add a Christmas greeting card from APC, and families will be recruited for children to make individualized cards. You can participate via a suggested \$25 using the designated fund "Seniors Ministry Christmas Donation" on the APC website, church app, or submit a check noted for Lincolnian Seniors. The Seniors Ministry will provide you with the name of your sponsored resident. Please pray for them and consider adding them to your own Christmas card/greeting list. **Contact: Phyllis Sergent at phyllis.sergent@gmail.com**

Gifts for Our Neighbors—Casa Chirilagua is a local non-profit organization and a longtime supported ministry of APC that exists to see "God's Kingdom established in the Chirilagua community by developing relationships with families so that they may be transformed by Christ." This year, Casa will be hosting a theater style Christmas event for the Casa community to attend. In order to make this event happen on December 11th, they need a few things! Please consider supporting this ministry with one of the options below this Christmas season.

1) Volunteer! Help set up for the event either the day before or the day of the event (link in APC email).

2) Provide gifts to raffle off during the event! Casa typically raffles off anywhere from 30-50 prizes for their community during this Christmas celebration. These gifts can range from themed baskets (ex: Grocery Basket, Movie night basket, Board game basket, or a baby basket) to gift cards (ranging from \$25-\$50) to toys for kids. Items will be collected outside of Josh Diack's office in the Fellowship Hall until December 5th. **Contact: Linda Willows at lindawillows5@gmail.com**

Assist a Family in Paraguay—Paraguay is South America's poorest country and families are more in need due to COVID-19. Please consider sponsoring a child at the Barrio Parque School launched through APC's 2017 missions trip. To support and expand the school APC helped to launch, we need sponsors for students. \$50/month will provide a child with an excellent Christian education, healthy food, and clean water to take home each day. To help, visit projectparaguay.org/school. **Contact: Joy Otaño at joy.e.otano@gmail.com**

UPCOMING DATES

December 4—Ladies Table Talk Dinners

December 11—Prayer Meeting

December 18—Lessons and Carols

January 2, 5, 8—Week of Prayer

January 22—Newcomer Dinner

Scan to
give to APC



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. 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, Fellowship Hall and classrooms. 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

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 | 5-6:30pm

Discipleship & Mentoring: Filling to Overflow, Led by Staci Root, Lynn Streett, and others, Room 104 and Zoom (link in APC email).

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, Chapel and Zoom (link in APC email).

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.

CORPORATE PRAYER IN 2021

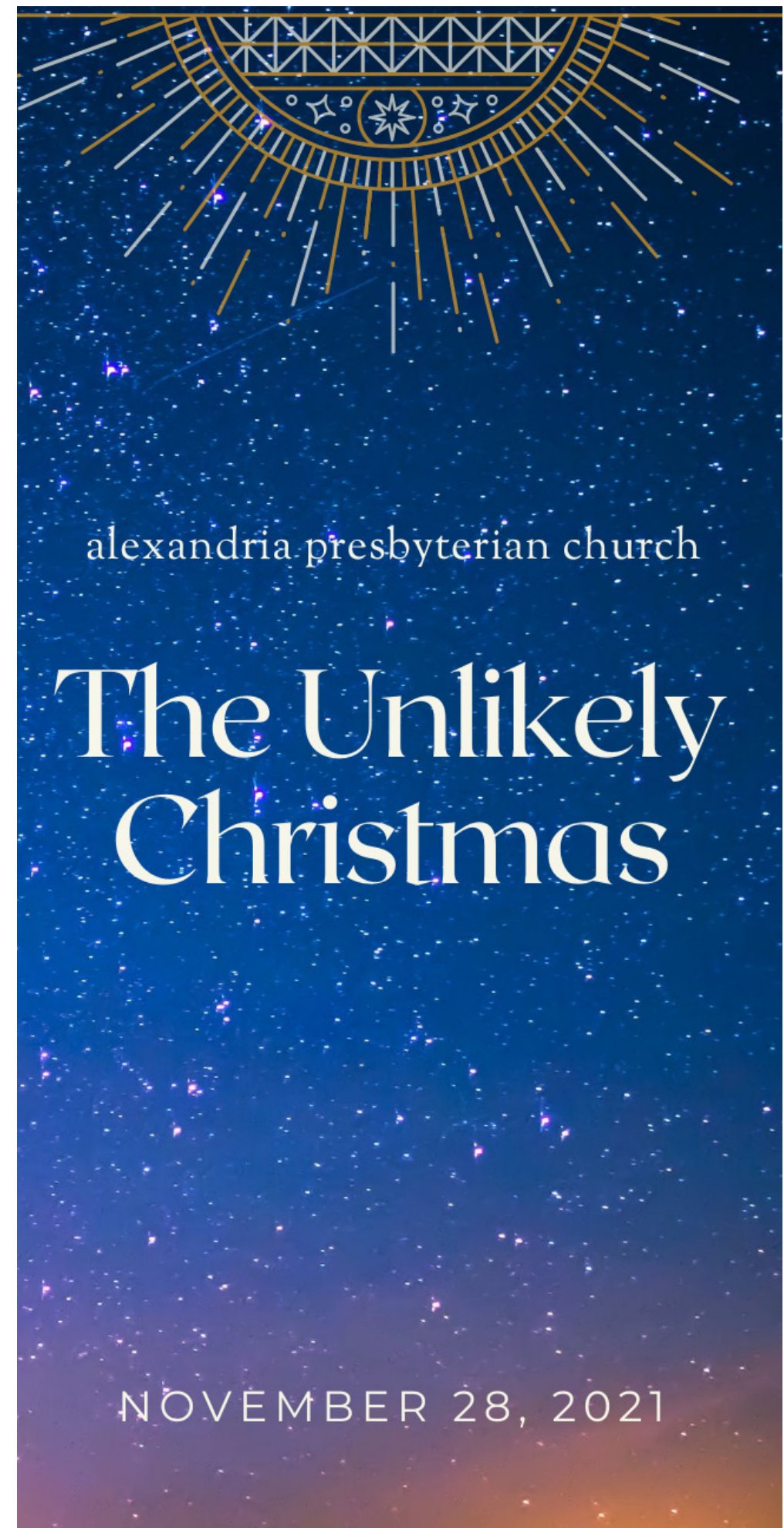
Every Sunday, 8am—Chapel or via Zoom. Praying for our Worship Service.

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.



Holy Worship Service

GOD INVITES HIS PEOPLE TO WORSHIP

■ **prelude** | *Praise Team*

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

1 Peter 2:9-10

⁹But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. ¹⁰Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

■ **songs of praise**

Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery

Come behold the wondrous myst'ry
In the dawning of the King
He the theme of heaven's praises
Robed in frail humanity
In our longing in our darkness
Now the light of life has come
Look to Christ who condescended
Took on flesh to ransom us

Come behold the wondrous myst'ry
He the perfect Son of Man
In His living in His suff'ring
Never trace nor stain of sin
See the true and better Adam
Come to save the hell-bound man
Christ the great and sure fulfillment
Of the law in Him we stand

Come behold the wondrous myst'ry
Christ the Lord upon the tree
In the stead of ruined sinners
Hangs the Lamb in victory
See the price of our redemption
See the Father's plan unfold
Bringing many sons to glory
Grace unmeasured love untold

Come behold the wondrous myst'ry
Slain by death the God of life
But no grave could e'er restrain Him
Praise the Lord He is alive
What a foretaste of deliv'rance
How unwavering our hope
Christ in power resurrected
As we will be when He comes

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Jesus Messiah

He became sin who knew no sin
That we might become His righteousness
He humbled Himself and carried the cross
Love so amazing—love so amazing

Jesus Messiah—Name above all names
Blessed Redeemer—Emmanuel
The Rescue for sinners
The Ransom from heaven
Jesus Messiah Lord of all

His body the bread—His blood the wine
Broken and poured out all for love
The whole earth trembled and the veil was torn
Love so amazing love so amazing

All our hope is in You
All our hope is in You
All the glory to You God
The Light of the world

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■ **prayer of adoration**

■ **lighting the advent wreath**

GOD'S PEOPLE RESPOND

■ **scripture reading**

Isaiah 7:1-17

Isaiah Sent to King Ahaz

¹In the days of Ahaz the son of Jotham, son of Uzziah, king of Judah, Rezin the king of Syria and Pekah the son of Remaliah the king of Israel came up to Jerusalem to wage war against it, but could not yet mount an attack against it. ²When the house of David was told, "Syria is in league with[a] Ephraim," the heart of Ahaz and the heart of his people shook as the trees of the forest shake before the wind.

³And the Lord said to Isaiah, "Go out to meet Ahaz, you and Shear-jashub your son, at the end of the conduit of the upper pool on the highway to the Washer's Field. ⁴And say to him, 'Be careful, be quiet, do not fear, and do not let your heart be faint because of these two smoldering stumps of firebrands, at the fierce anger of Rezin and Syria and the son of Remaliah. ⁵Because Syria, with Ephraim and the son of Remaliah, has devised evil against you, saying, ⁶"Let us go up against Judah and terrify it, and let us conquer it for ourselves, and set up the son of Tabeel as king in the midst of it," ⁷thus says the Lord God:

"It shall not stand,
and it shall not come to pass.

⁸For the head of Syria is Damascus,
and the head of Damascus is Rezin.

And within sixty-five years

Ephraim will be shattered from being a people.

⁹And the head of Ephraim is Samaria,
and the head of Samaria is the son of Remaliah.

If you are not firm in faith,
you will not be firm at all."

The Sign of Immanuel

¹⁰Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz: ¹¹"Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." ¹²But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test."

¹³And he said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. ¹⁵He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶For before the boy knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land whose two kings you dread will be deserted. ¹⁷The Lord will bring upon you and upon your people and upon your father's house such days as have not come since the day that Ephraim departed from Judah—the king of Assyria!"

■ **advent prayer**

Please stand and read in unison, "O Source of All Good", from The Valley of Vision.

O Source of all good,
What shall I render to thee for the gift of gifts,
thine own dear Son, begotten, not created,
my Redeemer, proxy, surety, substitute,
his self-emptying incomprehensible,
his infinity of love beyond the heart's grasp.

Herein is wonder of wonders:

he came below to raise me above,
was born like me that I might become like him.

Herein is love;

when I cannot rise to him he draws near on wings of grace,
to raise me to himself.

In Christ thou hast given me so much that heaven can give no more.

■ **congregational prayer**

■ **offertory prayer** | *Deacon Adam Barr*

■ **musical offering**

At this time, children 5 years old through 2nd grade are dismissed for Children's Church. Parents: at the end of the service please promptly pick up your child from the Children's Church Room.

GOD FEEDS HIS PEOPLE THROUGH HIS WORD

■ **sermon scripture reading**

Matthew 1:18-25

The Birth of Jesus Christ

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²²All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

²³"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall call his name Immanuel"

(which means, God with us). ²⁴When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, ²⁵but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

■ **prayer for illumination**

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

"The Unlikely Couple"

GOD'S PEOPLE RESPOND

■ **song of response**

Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus (Trinity #196)

Come Thou long-expected Jesus
Born to set Thy people free
From our fears and sins release us
Let us find our rest in Thee
Israel's strength and consolation
Hope of all the earth Thou art
Dear desire of every nation
Joy of ev'ry longing heart

Joy to those who long to see thee
Dayspring from on high appear
Come thou promised Rod of Jesse
Of thy birth we long to hear
O'er the hills the angels singing
News glad tidings of a birth
Go to him your praises bringing
Christ the Lord has come to earth

Come to earth to taste our sadness
He whose glories knew no end
By his life he brings us gladness
Our Redeemer Shepherd Friend
Leaving riches without number
Born within a cattle stall
This the everlasting wonder
Christ was born the Lord of all

Born Thy people to deliver
Born a child and yet a King
Born to reign in us forever
Now Thy gracious Kingdom bring
By Thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone
By Thine all-sufficient merit
Raise us to Thy glorious throne

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■ **benediction**

■ **announcements**