

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

The “Praying the Psalms” Adult Sunday School class is not meeting today.

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.

For the Nations DC Ministry Equipping Day on Saturday, November 13 from 9am-12pm. Our goal for this training is to help you understand the Muslim worldview, to equip you to engage in spiritual conversations, and to share tips for practicing hospitality (whether as a single person or as a family). We will have some short talks and a panel discussion where you can ask questions of Global Gates and FTN staff members. We’ll have coffee/tea, snacks, and eat lunch together. RSVP by November 8 at the link in the APC email.

APC will have a Teen Choir for the December 18 Christmas service! It is open to anyone ages 12-19. **Rehearsals begin next Sunday, November 14, after the worship service and before Sunday school, 10:05-10:25am at Russell Road.** Contact Vell Rives with questions: vellrives@gmail.com

Women’s Ministry Prayer Gathering - As the holiday season approaches, let us gather together as sisters in Christ to lift up our hearts to the Lord in prayer. **Please join us over Zoom on Sunday, November 14 at 7:30pm** for a time of encouragement as we go to our sovereign and good Father with our praise, thanksgiving and supplications. Please contact Jessica White (jessica@samwhite.com) or Shannon Allen (shannonallen9@gmail.com) with any questions. The Zoom link can be found in the APC email.

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, 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

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 | 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.

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** | *Becky Mason, flute; Serenity Novak, piano*

Saraband from Sonata No. 8, Op. 5, *Arcangelo Corelli*
Come, Thou Almighty King, *Felice de Giardini, arr. Karen Kuehmann*

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

1 Peter 2:4-5

⁴As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, ⁵you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

■ **songs of praise**

Cornerstone

My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness
I dare not trust the sweetest frame
But wholly trust in Jesus' Name

Christ alone—Cornerstone
Weak made strong in the Savior's love
Through the storm—He is Lord
Lord of all

When darkness seems to hide His face
I rest on His unchanging grace
In every high and stormy gale
My anchor holds within the veil
My anchor holds within the veil

When He shall come with trumpet sound
Oh may I then in Him be found
Dressed in His righteousness alone
Faultless to stand before the throne

Edward Mote, Eric Liljero, Jonas Myrin, Reuben Morgan, William Batchelder Bradbury; © 2011 Hillsong Music Publishing Australia (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing); CCLI # 6158927

Christ Is Mine Forevermore

Mine are days that God has numbered
I was made to walk with Him
Yet I look for worldly treasure
And forsake the King of kings
But mine is hope in my Redeemer
Though I fall His love is sure
For Christ has paid for every failing
I am His forevermore

Mine are tears in times of sorrow
Darkness not yet understood
Through the valley I must travel
Where I see no earthly good
But mine is peace that flows from heaven
And the strength in times of need
I know my pain will not be wasted
Christ completes His work in me

Mine are days here as a stranger
Pilgrim on a narrow way
One with Christ I will encounter
Harm and hatred for His name
But mine is armor for this battle
Strong enough to last the war
And He has said He will deliver
Safely to the golden shore

And mine are keys to Zion city
Where beside the King I walk
For there my heart has found its treasure
Christ is mine forevermore

Come rejoice now O my soul
For His love is my reward
Fear is gone and hope is sure
Christ is mine forevermore

Jonny Robinson, Rich Thompson; © 2016 CityAlight Music (Admin. by Integrity Music); CCLI Song # 7036096

■ **prayer of adoration**

GOD'S PEOPLE RESPOND

■ **scripture reading** | *Traci Youngquist*

Ephesians 2:11-22

One in Christ

¹¹Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called “the uncircumcision” by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands— ¹²remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. ¹³But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility ¹⁵by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, ¹⁶and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. ¹⁷And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. ¹⁸For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. ¹⁹So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, ²⁰built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, ²¹in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. ²²In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

■ **ordination and installation of officers**

■ **congregational prayer**

■ **offertory prayer** | *Sue Edwards*

■ **musical offering** | *Becky Mason, flute; Serenity Novak, piano*

Jesus, What a Friend for Sinners, *Roland Prichard, arr. Karen Kuehmann*

GOD FEEDS HIS PEOPLE THROUGH HIS WORD

■ **sermon scripture reading**

Matthew 16:13-20

Peter Confesses Jesus as the Christ

¹³Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” ¹⁴And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” ¹⁵He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” ¹⁶Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” ¹⁷And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. ¹⁸And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. ¹⁹I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.” ²⁰Then he strictly charged the disciples to tell no one that he was the Christ.

■ **prayer for illumination**

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

“I Will Build My Church”

GOD'S PEOPLE RESPOND

■ **hymn of response**

Rock of Ages (Trinity Hymnal #500)

Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in Thee;
Let the water and the blood from Thy riven side which flowed,
Be of sin the double cure, cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.

Not the labors of my hands can fulfill Thy law's demands;
Could my zeal no respite know, could my tears forever flow,
All for sin could not atone; Thou must save, and Thou alone.

Nothing in my hand I bring, simply to Thy cross I cling;
Naked, come to Thee for dress; helpless, look to Thee for grace;
Foul, I to the Fountain fly; wash me, Savior, or I die.

While I draw this fleeting breath, when mine eyelids close in death,
When I soar to worlds unknown, see Thee on Thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in Thee.

Augustus Montague Toplady, James Ward; Words: Public Domain, Music: 1985 James Ward Music; CCLI Song # 323401

■ **benediction**

■ **announcements** | *Erin Furgerson, Director of Children's Ministries*

■ **recessional anthem** | *Adult Choir*

Long Life Shall Israel's King Behold (Psalm 61)

Long life shall Israel's King behold,
And ages count on ages rolled.
With lasting joy, thy servant's eyes
Shall see his children's children rise.

Safe in thy presence let him stand,
And share the blessings of thy hand.
His dwelling let thy truth defend,
Thy mercy on his steps attend.

So shall thy love awake my song,
Thy faithfulness its notes prolong,
And warmed with zeal, thy Name I praise,
My vows fulfill through all my days. Amen.

Words: Psalm 61:6-8, versified James Merrick, 1765, alt.
Music: Franz Joseph Haydn, 1794, from Six English Psalms.