

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Save the Date for Lessons and Carols! Our special Christmas service this year will be on Saturday, December 18 at 5pm (prelude begins at 4:45pm). Join us as we await the coming of Christ and behold His beauty. Nursery will be available for children ages 3 and under who have been pre-registered on the APC website. **We are in need of volunteers for nursery during the Lessons and Carols Service. Contact Erin Furgerson at erin.furgerson@alexandriapres.org if you are able to help.**

We will not be holding a Christmas Eve service this year, due to our Braddock Road building still being under construction. We look forward to resuming the service next year in the new building!

Year-End gifts to APC. As you plan a year-end gift to APC, keep in mind that the church office will be closed December 24-January 3, and the last worship service of the year is December 26. Gifts received in the mail the first week of January—if dated and postmarked in 2021—will be included in your 2021 year-end giving statement. You may also make your year-end gifts through APC's online giving portal thru December 31, 2021. In addition, if you like to donate securities or stocks to APC's general fund or the Arise Capital Campaign, please contact Kathy Sens at kathy.sens@alexandriapres.org and she can give you the information needed to make a transfer. If you would like to designate a special year end gift to the Arise campaign, simply annotate the memo section of your check "Arise" and mail it to the APC office or put it in the offering box. You may also do your donation online. Thank you for considering APC in your year-end planning.

Call to Prayer— January 2022. As we embark on a New Year, the elders invite you to join them in APC-wide prayer opportunities: Sunday, January 2 at 5pm in the Fellowship Hall, Wednesday, January 5 at 7:30pm in the Chapel or via Zoom; and Saturday, January 8 at 9am in the Fellowship Hall. We encourage you to mark your calendars to join at least one of these three corporate prayer times.

Walking in the Spirit (WitS) begins January 23! APC is offering a discipleship ministry called Walking in the Spirit (WitS), which will be led by Pastor Tom and Sharon Holliday. The first class will begin Sunday, January 23 from 5-7pm (location TBD). This is a 10 week in-depth study of the person and work of the Holy Spirit. It consists of an hour of teaching and an hour of small group interaction, as well as reflection and homework during the week. Since each week builds upon the previous week, we ask that you commit to being present in at least 8 of the 10 weeks. Sign up through the link in the APC email or website by January 9.

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. Details for each ministry can be found in the APC email.

Christmas at The Lincolnian

(Contact: Phyllis Sergent at phyllis.sergent@gmail.com)

Assist a Family in Paraguay (Contact: Joy Otaño at joy.e.otano@gmail.com)

Upcoming Dates

December 18 Lessons and Carols Service
December 19 No Sunday School or Sunday Evening Activities
December 26 No Sunday School or Sunday Evening Activities
January 2 New Adult Sunday School classes begin
January 2, 5, 8 Week of Prayer
January 22 Newcomers Dinner
January 23 Walking in the Spirit (WitS) begins
February 4-5 Inquirers Class

Scan to
give to APC



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, 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

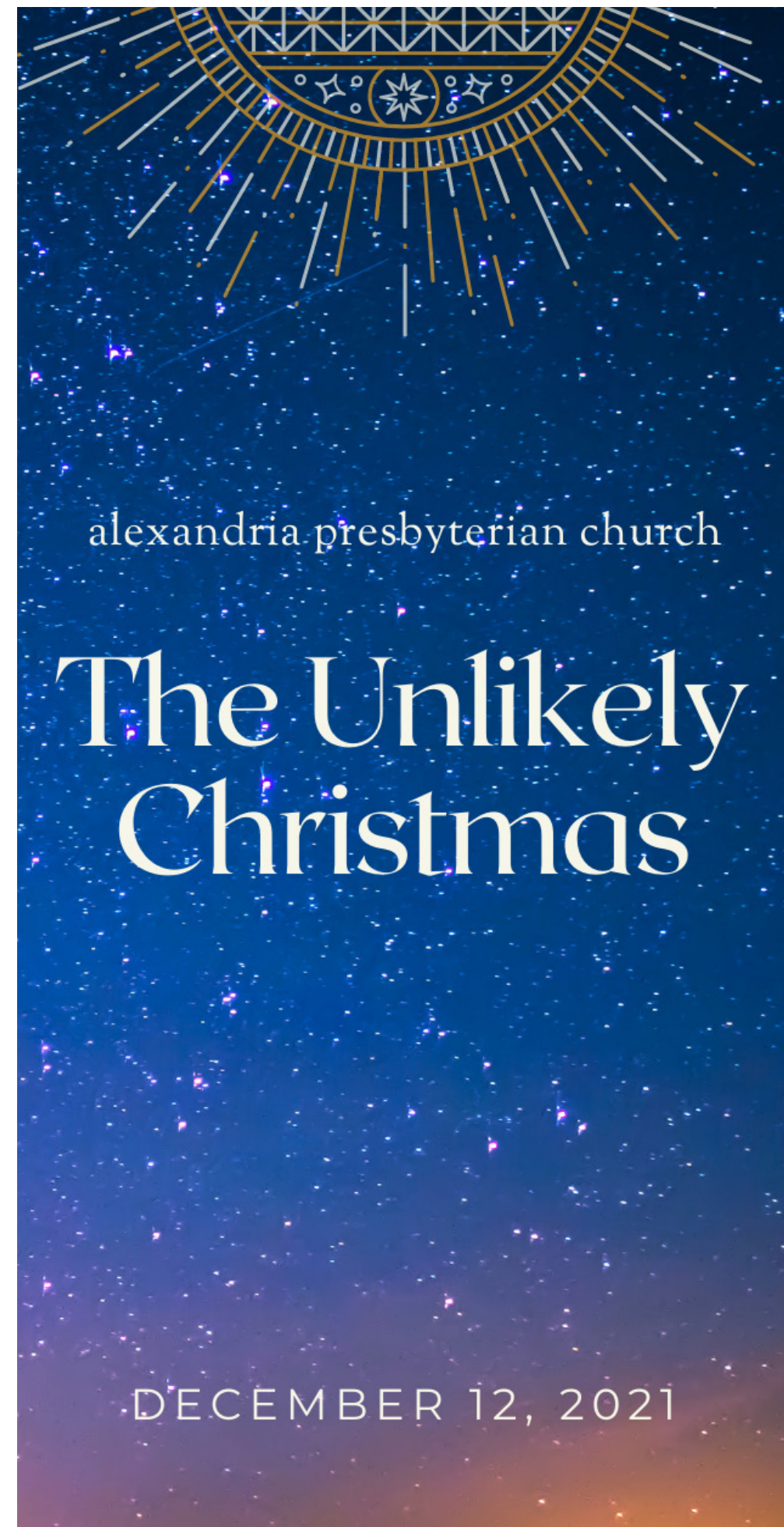
Every Sunday, 8am—Chapel or via Zoom. Praying for our Worship Service.

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** | *Caleb and Joshua Youngquist, Lina and Edwin Gentry*

Ukrainian Carol, Leontovych *arr. Olson*

O Come O Come Emmanuel, *arr. Seidel*

Let All Mortal Flesh, *arr. Keveren*

Angels We Have Heard on High, *arr. Ham*

Mary’s Baby (Christmas Medley), *arr. Ham*

■ **call to worship anthem** | *Adult Choir*

Rise, Shine, for Thy Light Is A-Comin’

O rise shine for thy light is a-coming
My Lord says He’s coming by and by

I intend to shout and never stop
Until I reach the mountain top

This is the year of Jubilee
My Lord has set His people free

Wet or dry I intend to try
To serve the Lord until I die

Traditional spiritual, arr. John W. Work III, 1940, Crown Publishers, admin. by Random House, Inc.

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

Psalms 95:1-2

¹Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord;
let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.

²Let us come before him with thanksgiving
and extol him with music and song.

■ **hymn of praise**

Angels from the Realms of Glory (Trinity #218)

Angels from the realms of glory
Wing your flight o’er all the earth
Ye who sang creation’s story
Now proclaim Messiah’s birth

Saints before the altar bending
Watching long in hope and fear
Suddenly the Lord descending
In His temple shall appear

*Come and worship come and worship
Worship Christ the newborn King*

All creation join in praising
God the Father Spirit Son
Evermore your voices raising
To th’eternal Three in One

Shepherds in the field abiding
Watching o’er your flocks by night
God with man is now residing
Yonder shines the infant light

Sages leave your contemplations
Brighter visions beam afar
Seek the great Desire of nations
Ye have seen His natal star

Henry Thomas Smart, James Montgomery; © Words and Music: Public Domain; CCLI Song # 31669

■ **prayer of adoration**

■ **lighting the advent candle of joy** | *the Youngquist family*

GOD’S PEOPLE RESPOND

■ **scripture reading**

Isaiah 9:2-7

²The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;

those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
on them has light shone.

³You have multiplied the nation;
you have increased its joy;

they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as they are glad when they divide the spoil.

⁴For the yoke of his burden,
and the staff for his shoulder,
the rod of his oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

⁵For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult
and every garment rolled in blood
will be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given;

and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be called

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷Of the increase of his government and of peace
there will be no end,

on the throne of David and over his kingdom,
to establish it and to uphold it

with justice and with righteousness
from this time forth and forevermore.

The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

■ **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.

O God, take me in spirit to the watchful shepherds,
and enlarge my mind;

let me hear good tidings of great joy,
and hearing, believe, rejoice, praise, adore,

my conscience bathed in an ocean of repose,
my eyes uplifted to a reconciled Father;

place me with ox, donkey, camel, goat,
to look with them upon my Redeemer’s face,

and in him account myself delivered from sin;

let me with Simeon clasp the new-born child to my heart,
embrace him with undying faith,

exulting that he is mine and I am his.
In Christ thou hast given me so much
that heaven can give no more.

■ **congregational prayer**

■ **offertory prayer** | *Dave Williams*

■ **musical offering** | *Adult Choir*

Jesus Good Above All Other

Jesus, good above all other,
gentle child of gentle mother,
in a stable born our brother,
give us grace to persevere.

Jesus, who our sorrows bearest,
all our thoughts and hopes thou sharest,
thou to man the truth declarest;
help us all thy truth to hear.

Jesus, cradled in a manger,
for us facing every danger,
living as a homeless stranger,
make we thee our King most dear.

Jesus, for thy people dying,
risen Master, death defying,
Lord in heaven, thy grace supplying,
keep us to thy presence near.

Words: Percy Dearmer, 1906. Music: Quem Pastores Laudavere, c.1410. Public domain.

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 2:1-12

The Visit of the Wise Men

¹Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, ²saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” ³When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

“‘And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel.’”

⁷Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. ⁸And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him.” ⁹After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. ¹¹And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. ¹²And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

■ **prayer for illumination**

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

“The Unlikely Guest, Part 1” *Sermon series: The Unlikely Christmas*

GOD’S PEOPLE RESPOND

■ **hymn of response**

O Come O Come Emmanuel (Trinity #194, vv. 1, 3, 4)

O come O come Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear

O come Thou Dayspring come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine advent here
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night
And death’s dark shadows put to flight

*Rejoice rejoice Emmanuel
Shall come to thee O Israel*

O come thou Rod of Jesse free
Thine own from Satan’s tyranny
From depths of hell thy people save
And give them vict’ry o’er the grace

John Mason Neale, Thomas Helmore; © Words and Music: Public Domain; CCLI Song # 31982.

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

■ **hymn of response**

How Deep the Father’s Love for Us

How deep the Father’s love for us
How vast beyond all measure
That He should give His only Son
To make a wretch His treasure
How great the pain of searing loss
The Father turns His face away
As wounds which mar the Chosen One
Bring many sons to glory

I will not boast in anything
No gifts no pow’r no wisdom
But I will boast in Jesus Christ
His death and resurrection
Why should I gain from His reward
I cannot give an answer
But this I know with all my heart
His wounds have paid my ransom

Behold the Man upon a cross
My sin upon His shoulders
Ashamed I hear my mocking voice
Call out among the scoffers
It was my sin that held Him there
Until it was accomplished
His dying breath has brought me life
I know that it is finished

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■ **benediction**

■ **extinguishing the advent candle of joy** | *the Youngquist family*

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