

## WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

After today's service there is an opportunity to "Pray with a Shepherd". Two of our Shepherds, Sam and Jessica White, are available to pray with anyone seeking prayer immediately after the service and will be waiting to pray in the left stairwell as you exit the Sanctuary.

**Sunday School and Sunday evening activities are on break December 19 and 26.**

**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](mailto: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.

**Newcomers' Fellowship Dinner, Saturday, January 22, 6-8pm.** If you've been attending APC for one week or several months, please join us for food and fellowship. You'll have a chance to meet church officers and staff, ask questions and learn more about the ministry God is building here. Please RSVP to Katie Coombs at [katie.coombs@alexandriapres.org](mailto:katie.coombs@alexandriapres.org), and indicate if you have childcare needs.

**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.

**The next Inquirer's Class is Friday evening, February 4 and Saturday morning, February 5.** If you are interested in membership or in gaining a deeper understanding of APC, you should attend this class. You will receive an introduction to Christianity, the PCA, and the specific vision/mission and philosophy of ministry at APC. Membership is open to all who profess faith in Christ and believe the basic teachings of the Christian faith. Attending the class does not obligate you to join the church. Further details about time and location will be forthcoming. Please RSVP to Katie Coombs at [katie.coombs@alexandriapres.org](mailto:katie.coombs@alexandriapres.org) if you wish to attend.

### Upcoming Dates

December 19 No Sunday School or Sunday Evening Activities  
December 26 No Sunday School or Sunday Evening Activities  
January 2, 9 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](mailto: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](mailto:adam.leroy@alexandriapres.org).

## ADULT EDUCATION

**Sunday school | 10:30-11:30am**

*Jesus in His Middle Eastern Context, Led by Elder Gary McGee, Room 302/303. Begins January 2.*  
This 10-week course will focus on Jesus and the women with whom he interacted, as well as, a selection of His parables. The Gospels and the events they recorded were written in a particular environment that included certain styles, language, morals, and customs specific to their time. To come to a more full understanding of their meaning, those attributes must be considered in the interpretation. 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. To unlock the secrets of His actions, statements and metaphors, we should realize that when taken in the context of the culture in which they were delivered, the gospels can provide 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 person of Jesus and his teachings.

\*The source material for this course will be the scriptures and "Jesus Through Middle Eastern Eyes" by Kenneth E. Bailey

*A Study of Colossians, Led by Elder Ryan Furgerson, Room 104. Begins January 9.*  
Please join together for a 9-week journey through the Apostle Paul's letter to the Colossians. This four-chapter book is easy to read in one sitting, and yet it provides stunning vistas of the perfections of Christ that few other New Testament documents can match. The Colossians needed to be reminded of the supremacy of Christ, as do we. In a world competing for our every waking minute, let us pray that this study will grip our hearts and lead us to more devoted lives magnifying Jesus.

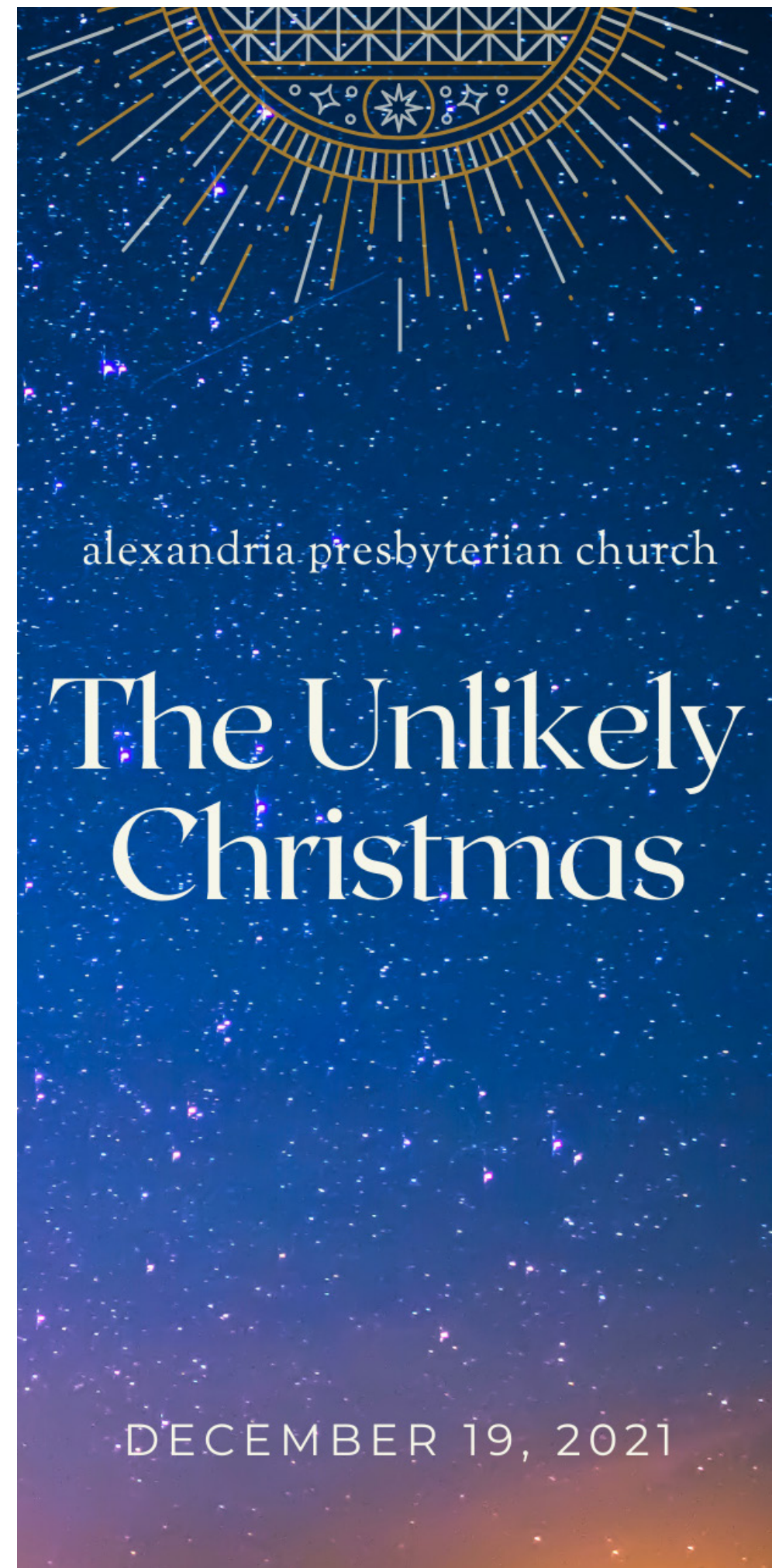
**Sunday Evening | 5-6:30pm. Resumes January 9.**

*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.

Giving at a Glance	YTD Giving (7/1/21-11/30/21)	\$775,112
	YTD Budget (7/1/21-11/30/21)	\$794,000
	Difference	\$18,888 (97.6%)



# Holy Worship Service

## GOD INVITES HIS PEOPLE TO WORSHIP

■ **prelude** | *Serenity Novak, Worship Assistant*

■ **call to worship anthem** | *Adult and Teen Choirs*

### Bonse Aba

Bonse aba mu pokelela  
Ba lipеле maka akuba bana  
Kuba bana bakwa lesa  
Muyayaya bakwa lesa

*To all who believed, He gave the right  
To be called the children of God.  
Children of God by the power of God.  
Forever by the power of God.*

Traditional Zambian song, arr. Andrew Fischer. © 2006 JEHMS, Inc. Alliance Music Publications.  
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■ **call to worship** | *Mike Powell, Pastoral Associate*

*Isaiah 62:11*

<sup>11</sup>The Lord has made proclamation  
to the ends of the earth:  
“Say to Daughter Zion,

“See, your Savior comes!  
See, his reward is with him,  
and his recompense accompanies him.”

■ **hymns of praise**

### Hark the Herald Angels Sing (Trinity #203)

Hark the herald angels sing  
Glory to the newborn King  
Peace on earth and mercy mild  
God and sinners reconciled  
Joyful all ye nations rise  
Join the triumph of the skies  
With th’angelic host proclaim  
Christ is born in Bethlehem  
Hark the herald angels sing  
Glory to the newborn King

Hail the heav’n-born Prince of Peace  
Hail the Sun of Righteousness  
Light and life to all He brings  
Ris’n with healing in His wings  
Mild He lays His glory by  
Born that man no more may die  
Born to raise the sons of earth  
Born to give them second birth  
Hark the herald angels sing  
Glory to the newborn King

Christ by highest heav’n adored  
Christ the everlasting Lord  
Late in time behold Him come  
Offspring of the Virgin’s womb  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see  
Hail th’incarnate Deity  
Pleased as man with men to dwell  
Jesus our Emmanuel  
Hark the herald angels sing  
Glory to the newborn King

Charles Wesley, Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy; © Words and Music: Public Domain; CCLI Song # 27738

### Thou Who Wast Rich beyond All Splendor (Trinity #230)

Thou who wast rich beyond all splendor  
All for love’s sake becamest poor  
Thrones for a manger didst surrender  
Sapphire-paved courts for stable floor  
Thou who wast rich beyond all splendor  
All for love’s sake becamest poor

Thou who art love beyond all telling  
Savior and King we worship Thee  
Emmanuel within us dwelling  
Make us what Thou wouldst have us be  
Thou who art love beyond all telling  
Savior and King we worship Thee

Thou who art God beyond all praising  
All for love’s sake becamest man  
Stooping so low but sinners raising  
Heav’nward by Thine eternal plan  
Thou who art God beyond all praising  
All for love’s sake becamest man

Frank Houghton; © 1934 OMF International (UK) (Admin. by Music Services, Inc.); CCLI Song # 6224284

■ **prayer of adoration**

■ **lighting the advent candle of love** | *the Barr family*

## GOD’S PEOPLE RESPOND

■ **scripture reading**

*Isaiah 40:1-11*

### Comfort for God’s People

<sup>1</sup>Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.

<sup>2</sup>Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,  
and cry to her  
that her warfare is ended,

that her iniquity is pardoned,  
that she has received from the Lord’s hand  
double for all her sins.

<sup>3</sup>A voice cries:

“In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord;

make straight in the desert a highway for  
our God.

<sup>4</sup>Every valley shall be lifted up,  
and every mountain and hill be made low;  
the uneven ground shall become level,  
and the rough places a plain.

<sup>5</sup>And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,  
and all flesh shall see it together,  
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”

### The Word of God Stands Forever

<sup>6</sup>A voice says, “Cry!”

And I said, “What shall I cry?”

All flesh is grass,  
and all its beauty is like the flower of the  
field.

<sup>7</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades  
when the breath of the Lord blows on it;  
surely the people are grass.

■ **advent prayer**

*Please stand and read in unison, “Christ Is All”, from The Valley of Vision.*

O Lover to the uttermost,  
May I read the meltings of thy heart to me  
in the manger of thy birth  
in the garden of thy agony,  
in the cross of thy suffering,  
in the tomb of thy resurrection,  
in the heaven of thy intercession.

Bold in this thought I defy my adversary,  
tread down his temptations,  
resist his schemings,  
renounce the world,  
am valiant for truth.

Deepen in me a sense of my holy  
relationship to thee,  
as spiritual Bridegroom,  
as Jehovah’s Fellow,  
as sinners’ Friend.

I think of thy glory and my vileness,  
thy majesty and my meanness,  
thy beauty and my deformity,  
thy purity and my filth,  
thy righteousness and my iniquity.

■ **congregational prayer**

■ **offertory prayer** | *Maggie Cho*

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

### Noel Caribe

O gather ‘round and listen to our story  
About a night so long ago and far away,  
How Mary’s Boy Child came that blessed Christmas day.

In Bethlehem, that noisy, crowded city,  
Joseph could find no room, no place for them to stay.  
Mary’s sweet Boy Child came that blessed Christmas day.

*O can you hear the angels singing Alleluia.*

*All of heaven is celebrating this day.*

O’er Bethlehem a brilliant star was shining.  
The shepherds trembled at the angels’ serenade.  
When Mary’s Boy Child slept upon a bed of hay.

*Oyes cantando los angeles Aleluya  
Todo del cielo celebra el dia*

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<sup>8</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades,  
but the word of our God will stand forever.

### The Greatness of God

<sup>9</sup>Go on up to a high mountain,  
O Zion, herald of good news;

lift up your voice with strength,  
O Jerusalem, herald of good news;  
lift it up, fear not;

say to the cities of Judah,

“Behold your God!”

<sup>10</sup>Behold, the Lord God comes with might,  
and his arm rules for him;  
behold, his reward is with him,  
and his recompense before him.

<sup>11</sup>He will tend his flock like a shepherd;

he will gather the lambs in his arms;

he will carry them in his bosom,

and gently lead those that are with young.

## GOD FEEDS HIS PEOPLE THROUGH HIS WORD

■ **sermon scripture reading**

*Matthew 2:1-12*

### The Visit of the Wise Men

<sup>1</sup>Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup>saying, “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.” <sup>3</sup>When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup>and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. <sup>5</sup>They 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.’”

<sup>7</sup>Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup>And 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.” <sup>9</sup>After 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. <sup>10</sup>When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. <sup>11</sup>And 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. <sup>12</sup>And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

■ **prayer for illumination**

■ **sermon** | *Mike Powell, Pastoral Associate*

“**The Unlikely Guest**” *Sermon series: The Unlikely Christmas*

## GOD’S PEOPLE RESPOND

■ **hymn of response**

### What Child Is This? (Trinity #213)

What Child is this who laid to rest  
On Mary’s lap is sleeping  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet  
While shepherds watch are keeping  
This this is Christ the King  
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing  
Haste haste to bring Him laud  
The Babe the Son of Mary

So bring Him incense gold and myrrh  
Come peasant king to own Him  
The King of kings salvation brings  
Let loving hearts enthrone Him  
Raise raise the song on high  
The Virgin sings her lullaby  
Joy joy for Christ is born  
The Babe the Son of Mary

Why lies He in such mean estate  
Where ox and ass are feeding  
Good Christian fear for sinners here  
The silent Word is pleading  
Nails spear shall pierce Him through  
The cross be borne for me for you  
Hail hail the Word made flesh  
The Babe the Son of Mary

Words: Unknown, adapted William Chatterton Dix, Tune: GREENSLEEVES; © Words and Music: Public Domain; CCLI  
Song # 30983

■ **benediction**

■ **extinguishing the advent candle of love** | *the Barr family*

■ **announcements**