

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

This morning we are pleased to baptize covenant child Kai Jolly, son of Pierre and Caitlin Jolly.

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.

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 at the outdoor service. 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 Sanctuary, 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 ups will begin soon!

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)

Casa Chirilagua (Contact: Linda Willows at lindawillows5@gmail.com)

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

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

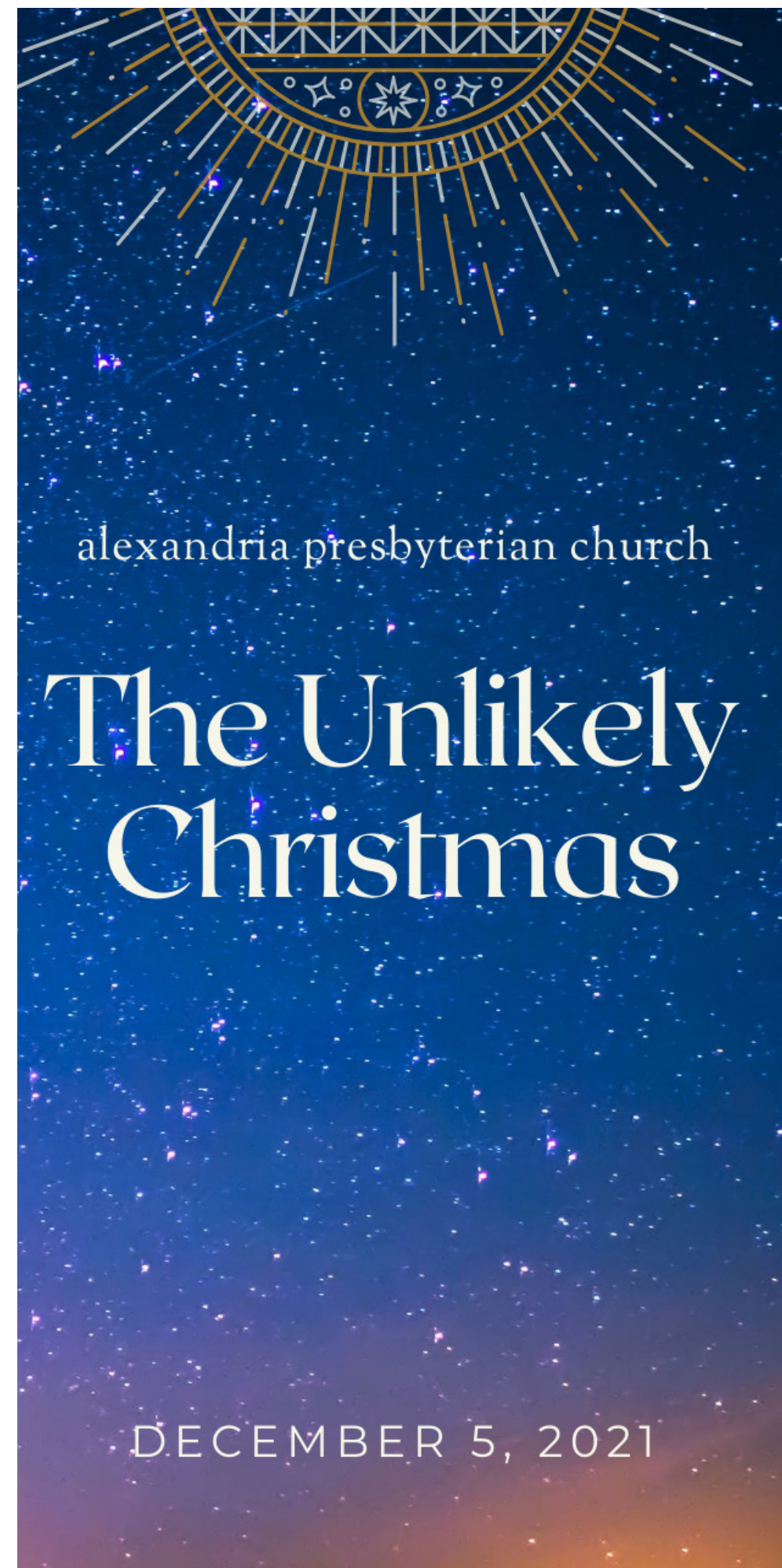
Every Sunday, 8am—Chapel or via Zoom. Praying for our Worship Service.

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.



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Holy Worship Service

GOD INVITES HIS PEOPLE TO WORSHIP

■ prelude | *Elyse and Emily Coit*

God Rest Ye, Merry Gentlemen, *Arr. Philip Keveren*
Silent Night, *Franz Gruber, arr. Melody Bober*
In the Bleak Midwinter, *Gustav Holst, arr. Philip Keveren*

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

Luke 1: 46-47
⁴⁶And Mary said,
“My soul magnifies the Lord,
⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

■ hymns of praise

Of the Father’s Love Begotten (Trinity #162 vv. 1, 2, 4, 5)

Of the Father’s love begotten
Ere the worlds began to be
He is Alpha and Omega
He the source the ending He
Of the things that are that have been
And that future years shall see
Evermore and evermore

O that birth for ever blessed
When the Virgin full of grace
By the Holy Ghost conceiving
Bare the Savior of our race
And the babe the world’s Redeemer
First revealed His sacred face
Evermore and evermore

O ye heights of heav’n adore Him
Angel hosts His praises sing
All dominions bow before Him
And extol our God and King
Let no tongue on earth be silent
Ev’ry voice in concert ring
Evermore and evermore

Christ to Thee with God the Father
And O Holy Ghost to Thee
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving
And unwearied praises be
Honor glory and dominion
And eternal victory
Evermore and evermore

Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, Henry Williams Baker, John Mason Neale, Theodoricus Petrus; © Words and Music: Public Domain; CCLI Song # 4780029

Angels We Have Heard on High (Trinity #214)

Angels we have heard on high
Sweetly singing o’er the plains
And the mountains in reply
Echo back their joyous strains

Gloria in excelsis Deo
Gloria in excelsis Deo

Shepherds why this jubilee
Why your joyous strains prolong
Say what may the tidings be
Which inspire your heav’nly song

Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing
Come adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord the newborn King

Traditional French melody; Edward Shippen Barnes, James Chadwick; © Public Domain; CCLI Song # 27721

■ prayer of adoration

■ lighting the advent candle of peace | *the Gentry family*

GOD’S PEOPLE RESPOND

■ scripture reading

Micah 5:2-5a

²But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah,
who are too little to be among the clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to be ruler in Israel,
whose coming forth is from of old,
from ancient days.

³Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labor has given birth;
then the rest of his brothers shall return
to the people of Israel.

⁴And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord,
in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.
And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth.

⁵And he shall be their peace.

■ 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 power;
when Deity and humanity were infinitely apart
he united them in indissoluble unity,
the uncreated and the created.

Herein is wisdom;
when I was undone, with no will to return to him,
and no intellect to devise recovery,
he came, God-incarnate, to save me to the uttermost,
as man to die my death, to shed satisfying blood on my behalf,
to work out a perfect righteousness for me.

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

■ sacrament of baptism

■ missions update | *Casa Chirilagua*

■ congregational prayer

■ offertory prayer | *Jeanette Hough*

■ musical offering | *Adult Choir*

I Hear the Prophet Callin'

I hear the prophet callin’, “Prepare the way of the Lord.”
Come and make straight the way in the desert, a highway for our God.

I hear Isaiah callin’, “Fear not, your God will come.”
Then will the eyes of the blind be opened. The ears of the deaf will hear.
And then the mute will shout for joy.

And the desert will be joyful and blossom as a rose.
We shall rejoice with joy and singing and see the glory of God.

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GOD FEEDS HIS PEOPLE THROUGH HIS WORD

■ sermon scripture reading

Luke 2:1-7

The Birth of Jesus Christ

¹In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

■ prayer for illumination

■ sermon | *Tom Holliday, Senior Pastor*

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

GOD’S PEOPLE RESPOND

■ hymn of response

O Come All Ye Faithful (Trinity #208 vv. 1, 3, 4)

O come all ye faithful
Joyful and triumphant
O come ye O come ye to Bethlehem
Come and behold Him
Born the King of angels

O come let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him
Christ the Lord

Sing choirs of angels
Sing in exultation
Sing all ye citizens
Of heav’n above
Glory to God all
In the highest

Yea Lord we greet Thee
Born this happy morning
Jesus to Thee be all glory giv’n
Word of the Father
Late in flesh appearing

C. Frederick Oakeley, John Francis Wade; © Words and Music: Public Domain; CCLI Song # 31054

■ benediction

■ extinguishing the advent candle of peace | *the Gentry family*

■ announcements