

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Call to Prayer— January 2022. APC Week of Prayer meetings have all been moved to Zoom. As we embark on a New Year, the elders invite you to join them in APC-wide prayer opportunities: Sunday, January 2 at 5pm; Wednesday, January 5 at 7:30pm; Saturday, January 8 at 9am. The Zoom links can be found in your APC email or on our website.

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Supplication. Each January at APC, we invite the congregation to offer written prayers of thanksgiving and supplication. A time will be set aside during the worship service on January 16 to bring your written prayer requests forward and place them in a basket, consecrating them before the Lord. Prayers may also be submitted via the APC website (alexandriapres.org), or by mail to the church office: 2405 Russell Road, Alexandria VA 22301, attention Tom Holliday.

The pastors and elders will read your submissions and will spend time in prayer for you. As you consider your prayer of thanksgiving, we encourage you to thank God for a special prayer that has been answered this past year, which encouraged your faith. As we offer prayers of supplication for the upcoming year, we encourage you to ask God to do something in your life that feels like a stretch—something that requires faith. As we often say at APC, “We want to ask God to do something so great, that if He is not in it, we are sure to fail.”

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.**

Communicants Class for Children and Teens will begin in January. Parents, please talk with your child/teen and consider whether or not you think they are ready to join the church as a communicant member. The decision to hold this 8 week class in-person or over zoom will be made in January. To find out more information, preview the workbook, or to sign up; please contact Pastor Tom Holliday (tom.holliday@alexandriapres.org) or Adam LeRoy (adam.leroy@alexandriapres.org).

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, and indicate if you have childcare needs.

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 if you wish to attend.

Upcoming Dates

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

Jesus in His Middle Eastern Context, Led by Elder Gary McGee, Room 302/303. Start date is TBD

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. Start date is TBD

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.

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 2022

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.

January 2, 2022

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.

Holy Worship Service

GOD INVITES HIS PEOPLE TO WORSHIP

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

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

Hebrews 12:1-2

¹Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ²looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

■ **song of praise**

King of Kings

In the darkness we were waiting
Without hope without light
Till from Heaven You came running
There was mercy in Your eyes
To fulfil the law and prophets
To a virgin came the Word
From a throne of endless glory
To a cradle in the dirt

Praise the Father
Praise the Son
Praise the Spirit three in one
God of Glory
Majesty
Praise forever to the King of kings

To reveal the kingdom coming
And to reconcile the lost
To redeem the whole creation
You did not despise the cross
For even in Your suffering
You saw to the other side
Knowing this was our salvation
Jesus for our sake You died

Brooke Ligertwood, Jason Ingram, Scott Ligertwood; © 2019 Hillsong Music Publishing Australia (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing), Fellow Ships Music (Admin. by Essential Music Publishing LLC), So Essential Tunes (Admin. by Essential Music Publishing LLC); CCLI Song # 7127647

And the morning that You rose
All of heaven held its breath
Till that stone was moved for good
For the Lamb had conquered death
And the dead rose from their tombs
And the angels stood in awe
For the souls of all who'd come
To the Father are restored

And the Church of Christ was born
Then the Spirit lit the flame
Now this Gospel truth of old
Shall not kneel shall not faint
By His blood and in His Name
In His freedom I am free
For the love of Jesus Christ
Who has resurrected me

■ **prayer of adoration**

GOD'S PEOPLE RESPOND

■ **scripture reading** | *Amy Weld*

Ephesians 3:14-21

Prayer for Spiritual Strength

¹⁴For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, ¹⁵from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, ¹⁶that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ¹⁹and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

²⁰Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, ²¹to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

■ **congregational prayer**

■ **offertory prayer** | *Linda Willows*

■ **song of preparation**

Come My Soul Thy Suit Prepare (Trinity #628 vv 1, 2, 3, 5)

Come my soul thy suit prepare
Jesus loves to answer prayer
He himself has bid thee pray
Therefore will not say thee nay
Therefore will not say thee nay

Thou art coming to a King
Large petitions with thee bring
For his grace and pow' r are such
None can ever ask too much
None can ever ask too much

With my burden I begin
Lord remove this load of sin
Let thy blood for sinners spilt
Set my conscience free from guilt
Set my conscience free from guilt

While I am a pilgrim here
Let thy love my spirit cheer
As my guide my guard my friend
Lead me to my journey's end
Lead me to my journey's end

John Newton; Public Domain; CCLI Song # 4223043

GOD FEEDS HIS PEOPLE THROUGH HIS WORD

■ **sermon scripture reading**

John 15:1-11

I Am the True Vine

¹"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. ²Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. ³Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. ⁹As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

■ **prayer for illumination**

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

“Abiding and Asking”

GOD'S PEOPLE RESPOND

■ **song of response**

Be Thou My Vision

Be Thou my vision
O Lord of my heart
Naught be all else to me
Save that Thou art
Thou my best thought
By day or by night
Waking or sleeping
Thy presence my light

Be Thou my wisdom
Be Thou my true Word
I ever with Thee
And Thou with me Lord
Thou my great Father
I Thy true son
Thou in me dwelling
And I with Thee one

Riches I heed not
Nor man's empty praise
Thou mine inheritance
Now and always
Thou and Thou only
First in my heart
High King of heaven
My treasure Thou art

High King of heaven
My victory won
May I reach heaven's joys
O bright heav'n's Sun
Heart of my own heart
Whatever befall
Still be my vision
O Ruler of all

Eleanor Henrietta Hull, Mary Elizabeth Byrne; © Words and Music: Public Domain; CCLI Song # 30639

■ **dismissal**

Leader: Let us go forth and serve our city and our world as those who love the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

All: We will go forth and serve our city and our world in the name of Christ.

■ **benediction**

■ **announcements** | *Adam LeRoy, Director of Youth Ministries*