

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

On December 10 at 2pm, Koinonia is hosting a Christmas Party in the Fellowship Hall. We will have a white elephant gift exchange, a gingerbread house decorating competition and an ugly sweater contest as well as other themed contests! Prizes will be available for the winners of all the competitions. Contact Bailey Rolland at bailey.rolland@alexandriapres.org with any questions.

Join us for worship this Christmas season as we await the dawn of Christ's coming!

Advent Services: December 4, 11, and 18

Lessons and Carols Service: December 17 at 5pm. Our special Christmas service, "Behold Our King" will take place on Saturday, December 17 at 5pm (prelude begins at 4:45pm). Join us as we await the coming of Christ and behold His beauty. A hot cocoa and cookies reception will follow.

Christmas Eve Service: December 24 at 5pm

Christmas Day Service: December 25 at 5pm

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 8 at 5pm, Wednesday, January 11 at 7:30pm; and Saturday, January 14 at 9am.

Discovering God's Global Purpose - Perspectives Class: Interested in learning how God is fulfilling His promises to make His name known to the nations from the Biblical, historical, cultural and strategic perspectives? Perspectives is a 15-lesson education course being offered on Tuesday evenings from 6:30-9:30pm at Cherrydale Baptist Church in Arlington, VA. It is a heart and life-altering journey that includes deep study, prayer, group lectures with guest speakers, and Perspectives' unique ways of teaching and reaching the hearts of all who attend. The class begins January 10. Cost is \$285; scholarships from APC missions committee are available if cost is a barrier to your attendance. For more information see <https://class.perspectives.org/Visitor/Public.aspx?ClassId=435568>. Questions? Contact Luke Godshall at lukegodshall@msn.com or Eleanor Nagy at eleanornagy@gmail.com.

Walking in the Spirit (WitS) begins January 15 from 5-7pm. APC is offering a discipleship ministry called Walking in the Spirit (WitS), which will be led by Pastor Tom and Sharon Holliday. This is a 10 week in-depth study of the person and work of the Holy Spirit, which begins Sunday, January 15 and runs through April 2, with a break on February 19. The last week is a special banquet to end the course. Each class will consist of an hour of teaching followed by 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 or scan the QR code below.

Newcomer Fellowship Dinner, Saturday, January 21, 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. Sign up through the link in the APC email or website or scan the QR code below. Location details will be forthcoming.

The next Inquirers Class is February 3 and 4. If you are interested in membership or in gaining a deeper understanding of APC, we invite you to attend this class. You will receive an introduction to Christianity, the PCA, and the specific vision/mission and philosophy of ministry at APC. It's also a great opportunity to meet other newcomers to the church, as well as pastors and staff! 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. Sign up through the link in the APC email or website or scan the QR code below. Questions: contact inquirers@alexandriapres.org.

The next baptism is February 5th. If you would like to have your child or children baptized, please send an email to Bailey Rolland at bailey.rolland@alexandriapres.org.

Give
to APC



APC
Visitor Form



Cookie
Reception



Walking
in the Spirit



Newcomer
Fellowship Dinner



Inquirers
Class



All-Church Retreat
Registration



FURTHER OUT DATES

Women's Event with Abby Hutto via Zoom February 10

All Church Dinner February 25

Missions Dinner March 25

All Church Retreat May 5-7

SUNDAY MORNING MINISTRY WORKERS

Hospitality

This Week's Coffee Set Up: Brittle family

Next Week's Coffee Set Up: Owen Gentry, more volunteers requested

Nursery

This Week's 9am Service: Stephanie, Abbie and Ellie Olsen, Andrea Romyn, Staci Root, Doug Shipley, Justin and Emmett Stephens

This Week's 11am Service: Shannon Allen, Sara Eppright, Laura and Alex Erickson, Dan and Kathryn Johnson

Next Week's 9am Service: Megan Barr, Juliet Edem, Jackie McCauley, Janice Nichols, Renenger family

Next Week's 11am Service: Femi Adeniji, Sifa Balagizi, Hillary Capper, Sarah Huntington, Lynn Streett

Children's Church

Next Week's 9am Service: Mark and Kari Adams (9am);

Next Week's 11am Service: Amanda Leamer and Denise McMullen (11am)

A/V Team

This Week's Service: Chris McGahey, Ethan Novak, Bailey Rolland

Ushers

For December: Mark Adams, Sue Edwards, Alex and Heidi Gesch, Katty and Daniel Hoyle, Jim King, Jon Osborne

Deacons on Duty

Adam Barr, Stephen Sylvia

KEY EQUIPPING

During our Key Equipping time on Sunday evenings from 5-7pm, ministries are designed to equip all ages, from toddlers to seniors, to be disciples. A disciple is a follower and worshiper of Jesus. This is a life-long process of learning how to become more like our Lord.

Covenant Kids Ministry: Children 2 years old - 5th grade, Lower Level (Nursery for 1 & under)

We welcome children to learn foundational truths about God and the Gospel story. We experience what it looks like to love God and love others in community with our worship, small groups, teaching, games, fellowship, and dinner!

Contact: Erin Furgerson at erin.furgerson@alexandriapres.org.

PROTAS Youth Ministry: Teens 6th-12th grade, Upper Level

Connect each week in community with your peers — the schedule includes games, worship, small group discussions, a short devotion at a teen level, and dinner.

Contact: Adam LeRoy at adam.leroy@alexandriapres.org.

Foundational Track— "Biblical Theology", Led by Pastor Tom Holliday and Elder Jim Taft,

Upper Level Adult Classroom (New location: Room 201). Did you know that the Bible is a story?

Not just any story, but the best story ever told. Biblical Theology is looking at the Bible as God's story of how He fulfilled His promise of bringing redemption to a lost world through His Son, Jesus. Did you know Jesus is in the Old Testament in every story, not just in the gospels? Every story points to Jesus. This class is designed to show us Jesus as the focus of both the Old and the New Testaments. Theologians call this the redemptive-historical approach to Scripture. It can literally change your life when you start seeing Jesus as the focus of every story in the Bible. You may find yourself understanding and enjoying the Old Testament like never before. Our textbook will be "The Unfolding Mystery: Discovering Christ in the Old Testament", by Ed Clowney.

Topical Track— "Responding to Christ's Call", Led by Elder Aaron Renenger, Main Level Adult

Classroom (Room 112). What is Jesus calling you to? The answer is not primarily about what we will do for a living, who we will marry or where we will live. Rather, he is calling you to Himself. It is a totalizing call, an "unyielding command," according to Jack Miller, that "requires complete surrender to God of all that I am and have." In this course, based on Os Guinness's book, "The Call," we will explore what it means to live an integrated life responsive to Christ's call. Answering the call, explains Mr. Guinness, "will engage your loftiest thoughts, your most dedicated exertions, your deepest emotions, [and] all your abilities and resources, to the last step you take and the last breath you breathe."

Book of the Bible—"A Study on the Book of Galatians", Led by Elder Marc Allen, Conference Room (Room 114). Commenting on Galatians, Martin Luther says: "The Gospel supplies the world with the salvation of Jesus Christ, peace of conscience, and every blessing. Just for that the world abhors the Gospel." Over seven weeks we will study Galatians' singular message of justification by faith in Christ Jesus alone. Bring your questions and your open heart. We can expect to be changed as we meet God's powerful Word in this epistle.



Alexandria
Presbyterian
Church



December 4, 2022

Please, no food or drink other than water in the Sanctuary. Silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.

Holy Worship Service

GOD INVITES HIS PEOPLE TO WORSHIP

■ prelude

■ gathering song

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Come, Thou long-expected Jesus, born to set Thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel’s strength and consolation, hope of all the earth Thou art;
dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Joy to those who long to see Thee, Dayspring from on high, appear;
come, thou promised Rod of Jesse, of Thy birth we long to hear!
O’er the hills the angels singing news, glad tidings of a birth;
“Go to Him, your praises bringing; Christ the Lord has come to earth.”

Come to earth to taste our sadness, He whose glories knew no end;
by His life He brings us gladness, our Redeemer, Shepherd, Friend.
Leaving riches without number, born within a cattle stall;
this the everlasting wonder, Christ was born the Lord of all.

Born Thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King,
born to reign in us forever, now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit, rule in all our hearts alone;
by Thine all sufficient merit, raise us to Thy glorious throne.

Words by Charles Wesley, 1744, Mark E Hunt, 1978; Music by Rowland Hugh Prichard, 1855; © Public Domain; CCLI Song # 31999

■ call to worship | Tom Holliday, Senior Pastor

Luke 2:25

²⁵Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him.

GOD’S PEOPLE RESPOND IN PRAISE

■ song of praise

Of the Father’s Love Begotten (Trinity Hymnal #162)

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 forever blessed, when the Virgin, full of grace,
by the Holy Ghost conceiving, bore 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, every 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!

Words by Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 348-413, trans. John Mason Neale (1854), Henry W Baker (1859); 12th cent. plainsong, arr. Charles Winfred Douglas (1916); © Public Domain; CCLI Song # 4780029

■ prayer of adoration

■ lighting the advent candle of peace | Coit family (9am); Kirk family (11am)

GOD FEEDS HIS PEOPLE THROUGH HIS WORD

■ advent 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.

GOD’S PEOPLE RESPOND IN FAITH

■ confession of faith | Heidelberg Catechism #35-36

Q. What does it mean that he “was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary”?

A. That the eternal Son of God, who is and remains true and eternal God, took to himself, through the working of the Holy Spirit, from the flesh and blood of the virgin Mary, a truly human nature so that he might become David’s true descendant, like his brothers in every way except for sin.

Q. How does the holy conception and birth of Christ benefit you?

A. He is our mediator, and with his innocence and perfect holiness he removes from God’s sight my sin—mine since I was conceived.

■ song of praise

The King In All His Beauty

O lift your eyes to heaven, see the Holy One eternal;

behold the Lord of Majesty exalted in His temple.

As symphonies of angels’ praise now strain to sound His glory,

come worship, fall before His grace, the King in all His beauty.

How worthy, how worthy, how worthy the King in all His beauty.

Now see the King who wears a crown, one made of shame and splinters;

the sacrifice for ruined man, the substitute for sinners.

As Earth is stained with royal blood, and quakes with love and fury,

He breathes His last and bows His head, the King in all His beauty.

Now see the Savior lifted up, the Lamb who reigns in splendor,

the hope of every tribe and tongue; His kingdom is forever!

Bring praise and honor to His courts, bring wisdom, power, blessing;

for endless ages we’ll adore the King in all His beauty.

Words and music by Matt Boswell and Matt Papa; © 2015 Getty Music Hymns and Songs, Getty Music Publishing, Love Your Enemies Publishing, Messenger Hymns (Admin. by Music Services, Inc.); CCLI Song # 7124322

■ update from mission partners | Jon Paramore, Casa Chirilagua

■ congregational prayer

■ offertory prayer | Elder Matt Brown

■ presentation of tithes and offerings

■ offertory | Adult Choir (9am)

Good Christian Men, Rejoice

For lyrics, please see Trinity Hymnal #207.

GOD FEEDS HIS PEOPLE THROUGH HIS WORD

■ sermon scripture reading

Matthew 1:18-25

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” ²²All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

^{23a}Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall call his name Immanuel”

(which means, God with us). ²⁴When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, ²⁵but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

■ prayer for illumination

■ sermon | Tom Holliday, Senior Pastor “From Fear to Faith”

Series: Christmas Through the Eyes of Matthew

GOD’S PEOPLE RESPOND IN PRAISE

■ song of response

Is He Worthy

Do you feel the world is broken? (We do) Do you feel the shadows deepen? (We do)

But do you know that all the dark won’t stop the light from getting through? (We do)

Do you wish that you could see it all made new? (We do)

Is all creation groaning? (It is) Is a new creation coming? (It is)

Is the glory of the Lord to be the light within our midst? (It is)

Is it good that we remind ourselves of this? (It is)

Is anyone worthy? Is anyone whole?

Is anyone able to break the seal and open the scroll?

The Lion of Judah, who conquered the grave

He is David’s root and the Lamb who died to ransom the slave

Is He worthy? Is He worthy of all blessing and honor and glory?

Is He worthy of this? He is.

Does the Father truly love us? (He does) Does the Spirit move among us? (He does)

And does Jesus, our Messiah, hold forever those He loves? (He does)

Does our God intend to dwell again with us? (He does)

Is anyone worthy? Is anyone whole?

Is anyone able to break the seal and open the scroll?

The Lion of Judah, who conquered the grave

He is David’s root and the Lamb who died to ransom the slave

From every people and tribe, every nation and tongue

He has made us a kingdom, and priests to God to reign with the Son

Is He worthy? Is He worthy

of all blessing and honor and glory?

Is He worthy? Is He worthy? Is He worthy of this?

He is, He is, He is, He is, He is, He is, He is worthy! He is worthy of all blessing and honor and glory!

Is He worthy of this? He is.

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■ 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

■ extinguishing the advent wreath

■ announcements | Matt Coombs, Executive Director of Ministries (9am);

Ben Elliott, Director of Music Ministries (11am)