#### WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Pray with a Shepherd after both worship services.** After each service, leaders of APC's shepherding prayer ministry will be waiting at the front of the Sanctuary. They would love to pray with you about any topic.

The next Inquirers Class is September 29 and 30. 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 QR scan or APC website!

Covenant Fellowship Groups (CFGs). If you missed the CFG Meet and Greet last week, stop by the desk in the lobby to pick up a CFG brochure and listing of current groups, or scan the QR code to find the info on our website. CFGs are small groups that meet regularly in various locations for teaching, prayer, and fellowship, and are a key vehicle at APC for promoting Gospel-centered fellowship. Contact Pastor Josh Diack at josh.diack@alexandriapres.org with any questions.

Men's Discipleship group Thursdays from 7-8am. Jesus calls every Christian to be a disciple and to help others become disciples. As with his first followers, this involves spiritual hunger, commitment, learning, prayer, fellowship, much grace, and the power of the Holy Spirit—all in the context of a supportive community. Join with a group of men who want to learn, grow, and encourage one another to faithfully follow Jesus. Each week the group will read a chapter from the soon to be published book, *The Heart and Soul of Discipleship*. Each chapter will be provided by hard copy or electronic version. The group meets Thursdays from 7-8am in Room 114 (started September 14) and runs for 10 weeks. Email Jim Taft at jamesdake1017@gmail.com to RSVP.

Women's Friday Bible Study begins September 22. Ladies, join us for 7 alternating Fridays from 9:45-11:30am beginning September 22 and meeting every other week at the church. We will use Nancy Guthrie's *The Wisdom of God: Seeing Jesus in the Psalms and Wisdom Books*. Childcare is available. Please order your book ahead of time. Free copies will also be available for those who need one. Contact Ruth Fisher at ruth.fisher@hotmail.com or Amy Weld at amyhweld@gmail.com to let us know you are coming and if you need childcare.

Monthly Spanish Worship Service begins September 24 at 5pm! We are excited to announce a new monthly worship service that will be held in Spanish, led by Pastor Joel Acevedo! Join us on September 24 in the Sanctuary for a time of singing, prayer, and a sermon— all in Spanish. We are in need of musicians and volunteers to run PowerPoint and A/V. Please contact Pastor Joel at joel. acevedo@alexandriapres.org if you are able to serve in this way. Help us spread the word by inviting friends and neighbors, and join us in prayer as we seek to glorify Christ through this time of worship!

**Next Baptism is Sunday, October 15.** If you would like to have your child or children baptized, please send an email to Bailey Rolland at bailey.rolland@alexandriapres.org.

**Trunk or Treat on October 28 at 3:30pm.** Come enjoy trunk or treating in the APC parking lot! This has been a great outreach event the past couple years, with new families joining us from the neighborhood and beyond. Whether or not you have kids participating, we would love for you to decorate your trunk and pass out candy. Invite your friends and family!

**Interest meeting on October 1.** Join us between worship services (10:20-10:50am) on October 1 for a Trunk or Treat volunteer interest meeting.

Women's Thursday morning and Thursday evening Bible studies have begun! This year's theme for the Thursday Bible study is HOPE. Both studies are reading Nancy Guthrie's *The Promised One* from her *Seeing Jesus in the Old Testament* series. The Thursday morning group meets weekly from 9:45-11:30am in the Fellowship Hall. Nursery is provided.

The Thursday evening group is hybrid, meeting in person at the church the first Thursday of each month and continuing on Zoom the remaining Thursdays of each month from 7-8:30pm. Please rsvp to Lynn Streett at lynn.streett79@gmail.com for both studies!

Do you have the Church by MinistryOne

App? It's a great way to easily access the church directory and online giving, listen to sermons, register for upcoming events, submit prayer requests, and contact the church. Email Stacey Diack at stacey.diack@alexandriapres.org with any questions!



#### SUNDAY MORNING MINISTRY WORKERS

**Hospitality** This Week's Coffee Set Up: The Brittle family

Next Week's Coffee Set Up: Kari Adams, the Flores family

Nursery This Week's 9am Service: Tina Brady, Sarah Field, Andrew Hobold, Patricia

Kodjo, Susanna Root, Rachel Sylvia, Justin Wells-Morgan, Bryan Wittmeyer *This Week's 11am Service:* Stacey and Sam Diack, Dan and Kathryn Johnson, Laurie LeRoy, Jackie McCauley, Mary Mitchell Todd

Next Week's 9am Service: Femi Adeniji, Sifa Balagizi, Catherine Marks, Jenny and Abby McGahey, Stephanie, Abbie, and Ellie Olsen Next Week's 11am Service: Hillary Capper, Juliet Edem, KayCee Poole,

Joey and Bailey Rolland, Bethany Tinev

**Children's Church** *This Week's 9am Service:* Shant and Annie Boyajian, Chris and Amy Weld

This Week's 11am Service: Mark and Kari Adams

A/V Team This Week: Liz Crowley, Hensley Gollopp, Eli Kendrick, Joshua Youngquist Greeters This Week's 9am Service: Ryan Furgerson, Marc, Shannon, James, and

Sarah Allen, Chevelle Tallman

*This Week's 11am Service:* Maggie Cho, Sara Eppright, Greg Thomas

Susannah Johnston

**Ushers** This Week's 9am service: Femi Adeniji, Andy, Kira, and Granville Allison,

Will Marks, Janice Nichols, Sam and Collin White

This Week's 11am service: Sam Diack, JW Jung, Jodie and Seth Kirk,

Christian and Jack Poole, Rachel Veenstra

**Deacons on Duty** Owen Gentry, Aaron McCauley

#### 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 followers and worshipers of Jesus.

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!

#### 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.

#### Adult Classe

Exploring our Theology, led by Pastors Josh Diack and Mike Powell, Room 112. Any time we think about a teaching of the Bible and strive to understand it, we are engaging in theology. In this sense, everyone is a theologian. Theology has a direct impact on our life and relationship to God. Join Pastors Josh and Mike in this core theology class as we focus on the biblical teachings of God and Scripture.

Key Pillars of a Gospel Marriage, led by Pastor Tom Holliday, Room 201. This class will address the purpose, the mystery, and the meaning of marriage. We will discuss key pillars of a gospel marriage such as intimacy, communication, and conflict. The class discussions will draw from books on the subject Pastor Tom has found helpful, such as the Meaning of Marriage by Tim and Kathy Keller, the Mystery of Marriage by Mike Mason, and Each for the Other by Bryan Chapell.

Genesis, led by Aaron Renenger, Room 114. From creation to the fall, from Abraham to Joseph, the Book of Genesis is the story of God and his people—a story that finds its ultimate fulfillment in Christ. To study Genesis is to study God's character as revealed in creation and in his covenant love for his rebellious, sinful people. It is also to study our own character—full of sin and faith and doubt—as displayed in the page-turning narratives of some of the most famous, and famously-flawed, biblical characters.

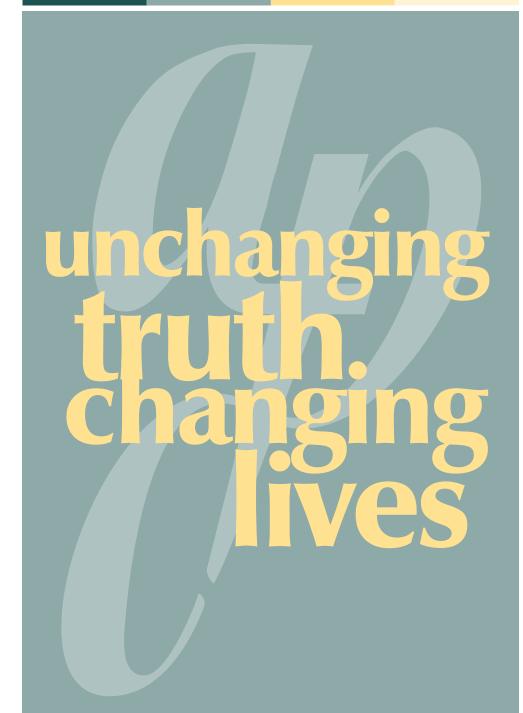








September 17, 2023



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.

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

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

Psalm 29:1-2, 10-11

Leader: Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings,
All: ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.
Leader: Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name;
All: worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness.

Leader: The Lord sits enthroned over the flood;
All: the Lord sits enthroned as king forever.
Leader: May the Lord give strength to his people!
All: May the Lord bless his people with peace!

# GOD'S PEOPLE RESPOND

songs of praise

#### Psalm 34 (Taste and See)

I sought the Lord, and He answered me and delivered me from every fear. Those who look on Him are radiant; they'll never be ashamed, they'll never be ashamed.

This poor man cried, and the Lord heard me and saved me from my enemies. The Son of God surrounds His saints; He will deliver them, He will deliver them.

Magnify the Lord with me; come exalt His name together! Glorify the Lord with me; come exalt His name forever!

O taste and see that the Lord is good! O blessed is he who hides in Him! O fear the Lord, O all you saints; He'll give you everything, He'll give you everything.

Let us bless the Lord every day and night. Never ending praise— may our incense rise.

Words and music by Joe Rigney and Shane Barnard; © 2015 Songs From Wellhouse; CCLI Song #7054932

#### I Stand Amazed (How Marvelous)

I stand amazed in the presence of Jesus the Nazarene, and wonder how He could love me, a sinner, condemned, unclean.

For me it was in the garden He prayed, "Not My will, but Thine"; He had no tears for His own griefs, but sweat drops of blood for mine.

How marvelous! How wonderful—and my song shall ever be— How marvelous! How wonderful is my Savior's love for me!

He took my sins and my sorrows, He made them His very own; He bore my burden to Calvary, and suffered and died alone.

When with the ransomed in glory His face I at last shall see, 'twill be my joy through the ages to sing of His love for me.

Words and music (MY SAVIOR'S LOVE) by Charles H. Gabriel, 1905; © Public Domain; CCLI Song #25297

# prayer of adoration

# GOD FEEDS HIS PEOPLE THROUGH HIS WORD

**scripture reading** | Vell Rives (9am); Eleanor Nagy (11am)

Revelation 21:1-2, 22-27, 3-5

<sup>1</sup>Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. <sup>2</sup>And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

<sup>22</sup>And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. <sup>23</sup>And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb. <sup>24</sup>By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it, <sup>25</sup>and its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. <sup>26</sup>They will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. <sup>27</sup>But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

<sup>3</sup>And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. <sup>4</sup>He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

<sup>5</sup>And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."

## **GOD'S PEOPLE RESPOND**

song of praise

### We Will Feast in The House of Zion

We will feast in the house of Zion, We will sing with our hearts restored. "He has done great things," we will say together, We will feast and weep no more.

We will not be burned by the fire; He is the Lord our God. We are not consumed by the flood— Upheld, protected, gathered up.

In the dark of night before the dawn,

My soul, be not afraid.

For the promised morning, O how long? O God of Jacob, be my strength!

Every vow we've broken and betrayed; You are the Faithful One. And from the garden to the grave, Bind us together, bring shalom.

Words and music by Joshua Moore and Sandra McCracken; © 2015 Integrity Worship Music, Paper News Publishing (Admin. by Integrity Music), joshmooreownsthismusic (Admin. by Music Services, Inc.); CCLI Song # 7041364

#### **a** capernaum camp and missions partner update

PROTAS teens; Sarah Veenstra, Young Life Capernaum Fairfax

## **congregational prayer**

offertory prayer | Bethany Tinev (9am); Mike Powell, Pastoral Associate (11am)

# presentation of tithes and offerings

offertory | Adult Choir (9am)

#### Lord, Speak to Me

Lord, speak to me, that I may speak in living echoes of Thy tone; as Thou has sought, so let me seek Thy erring children lost and lone.

O teach me, Lord, that I may teach the precious things Thou dost impart; and wing my words, that they may reach the hidden depths of many a heart.

O fill me with Thy fullness, Lord, until my very heart o'erflow in kindling thought and glowing word— Thy love to tell, Thy praise to show.

Words by Francis R. Havergal, 1872; Music by Jeffrey H. Rickard; © 1976, 1996 The Sacred Music Press.

Children ages 5 through 2nd grade are now invited to continue worship in Children's Church. Children should exit the Sanctuary using the door to the left of the stage.

# GOD FEEDS HIS PEOPLE THROUGH HIS WORD

# sermon scripture reading

Ezra 7:7-10 (page 366)

<sup>7</sup>And there went up also to Jerusalem, in the seventh year of Artaxerxes the king, some of the people of Israel, and some of the priests and Levites, the singers and gatekeepers, and the temple servants. <sup>8</sup>And Ezra came to Jerusalem in the fifth month, which was in the seventh year of the king. <sup>9</sup>For on the first day of the first month he began to go up from Babylonia, and on the first day of the fifth month he came to Jerusalem, for the good hand of his God was on him. <sup>10</sup>For Ezra had set his heart to study the Law of the Lord, and to do it and to teach his statutes and rules in Israel.

Nehemiah 2:11-18 (page 370)

<sup>11</sup>So I went to Jerusalem and was there three days. <sup>12</sup>Then I arose in the night, I and a few men with me. And I told no one what my God had put into my heart to do for Jerusalem. There was no animal with me but the one on which I rode. <sup>13</sup>I went out by night by the Valley Gate to the Dragon Spring and to the Dung Gate, and I inspected the walls of Jerusalem that were broken down and its gates that had been destroyed by fire. <sup>14</sup>Then I went on to the Fountain Gate and to the King's Pool, but there was no room for the animal that was under me to pass. <sup>15</sup>Then I went up in the night by the valley and inspected the wall, and I turned back and entered by the Valley Gate, and so returned. <sup>16</sup>And the officials did not know where I had gone or what I was doing, and I had not yet told the Jews, the priests, the nobles, the officials, and the rest who were to do the work.

<sup>17</sup>Then I said to them, "You see the trouble we are in, how Jerusalem lies in ruins with its gates burned. Come, let us build the wall of Jerusalem, that we may no longer suffer derision." <sup>18</sup>And I told them of the hand of my God that had been upon me for good, and also of the words that the king had spoken to me. And they said, "Let us rise up and build." So they strengthened their hands for the good work.

Esther 4:12-17 (page 384)

<sup>12</sup>And they told Mordecai what Esther had said. <sup>13</sup>Then Mordecai told them to reply to Esther, "Do not think to yourself that in the king's palace you will escape any more than all the other Jews. <sup>14</sup>For if you keep silent at this time, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" <sup>15</sup>Then Esther told them to reply to Mordecai, <sup>16</sup>"Go, gather all the Jews to be found in Susa, and hold a fast on my behalf, and do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my young women will also fast as you do. Then I will go to the king, though it is against the law, and if I perish, I perish." <sup>17</sup>Mordecai then went away and did everything as Esther had ordered him.

## **prayer for illumination**

**sermon** Tom Holliday, Senior Pastor

"Different Callings, One Mission"

Sermon series: Serving Our City and Our World in the Name of Christ

#### GOD'S PEOPLE RESPOND

# song of response

#### By Faith

By faith, we see the hand of God in the light of creation's grand design, in the lives of those who prove His faithfulness, who walk by faith and not by sight.

By faith, our fathers roamed the earth with the pow'r of His promise in their hearts of a holy city built by God's own hand–A place where peace and justice reign.

We will stand as children of the promise; we will fix our eyes on Him, our soul's reward. Till the race is finished and the work is done, we'll walk by faith and not by sight.

By faith, the prophets saw a day when the longed-for Messiah would appear, with the pow'r to break the chains of sin and death and rise triumphant from the grave.

By faith, the church was called to go in the pow'r of the Spirit to the lost, to deliver captives and to preach good news, in every corner of the earth.

By faith, this mountain shall be moved, and the pow'r of the gospel shall prevail, for we know in Christ all things are possible for all who call upon His name.

Words and music by Keith & Kristyn Getty and Stuart Townend; © 2009 Thankyou Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing), Getty Music Publishing (Admin. by Music Services, Inc.); CCLI Song # 5469291

#### **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** | Elder Matt Coombs, Executive Director of Ministries

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