



light
shattering
darkness

A FESTIVAL OF LESSONS AND CAROLS



Alexandria Presbyterian Church

PRELUDE

Musicians

INTROIT

Adult Choir

Chill of the Nightfall

Chill of the nightfall; lamps in the windows,
letting their light fall clear on the snow;
bitter December bids us remember
Christ in the stable long, long ago.

Silence of midnight; voices of angels,
singing to bid night yield to the dawn;
darkness is ended, sinners befriended,
where in the stable Jesus is born.

Splendor of starlight high on the hillside,
faint is the far light burning below;
kneeling before Him, shepherds adore Him,
Christ in the stable long, long ago.

Glory of daybreak! Sorrows and shadows,
suddenly they break forth into morn;
sing out and tell now, "All shall be well now!"
for in the stable Jesus is born.

Words by Timothy Dudley-Smith, 1978; Music CAMILLA by K. Lee Scott; © 1997 Hinshaw Music, Inc.

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor Tom Holliday

Congregation stands

Psalm 118:19-27

Leader: ¹⁹Open to me the gates of righteousness,
that I may enter through them
and give thanks to the Lord.

**All: ²⁰This is the gate of the Lord;
the righteous shall enter through it.
²¹I thank you that you have answered me
and have become my salvation.**

Leader: ²²The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone.

**All: ²³This is the Lord's doing;
it is marvelous in our eyes.
²⁴This is the day that the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

Leader: ²⁵Save us, we pray, O Lord!
O Lord, we pray, give us success!

**All: ²⁶Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!
We bless you from the house of the Lord.
²⁷The Lord is God,
and he has made his light to shine upon us.**

OPENING HYMN

O Come, All Ye Faithful (Trinity Hymnal #208)

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.*

God of God, Light of Light;
lo, He abhors not the virgin's womb;
very God, begotten, not created;

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above;
glory to God 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;

Words attr. to John Francis Wade, 1751, trans. by Frederick Oakeley, 1841; Music ADESTE FIDELES from Wade's Cantus Diversi, arr. by David Willcocks; © Words: Public Domain, Music: Oxford University Press; CCLI Song # 31054

INVOCATION AND LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor Tom Holliday

English:

Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever, Amen.

French:

Notre Père qui es aux cieux! Que ton nom soit sanctifié.
Que ton règne vienne; Que ta volonté soit faite sur la terre comme au ciel.
Donne-nous aujourd'hui notre pain quotidien.
Pardonne-nous nos offenses comme nous pardonnons aussi à ceux qui nous ont offensés.
Ne nous laisse pas entrer dans la tentation, mais délivre-nous du malin.
Car c'est à toi qu'appartiennent, dans tous les siècles, le règne, la puissance et la gloire. Amen.

Spanish:

Padre nuestro que estás en los cielos, santificado sea Tu Nombre.
Venga Tu reino, hágase Tu voluntad, En la tierra como en el cielo.
Danos hoy el pan de este día y perdona nuestras deudas como nosotros perdonamos nuestros deudores.
Y no nos dejes caer en al tentación sino que líbranos del malo,
Tuyo es el reino el poder y la gloria por siempre Señor, Amen.

Congregation sits

FIRST LESSON

Reader: Pastor Joel Acevedo

Juan/John 1:1-5

From all eternity, Jesus Christ is the source of the light of life.

¹En el principio era el Verbo, y el Verbo era con Dios, y el Verbo era Dios. ²Este era en el principio con Dios. ³Todas las cosas por él fueron hechas, y sin él nada de lo que ha sido hecho, fue hecho. ⁴En él estaba la vida, y la vida era la luz de los hombres. ⁵La luz en las tinieblas resplandece, y las tinieblas no prevalecieron contra ella.

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Congregation stands

CAROL

Of the Father's Love Begotten (Trinity Hymnal #162, verses 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 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. by John Mason Neale (1854) and Henry W. Baker (1859);
Music DIVINUM MYSTERIUM, 12th cent. plainsong, arr. Charles Winfred Douglas, 1916; © Public Domain; CCLI Song #
4780029*

Congregation sits

SECOND LESSON

Reader: Pastor Josh Diack

Genesis 3:8-24

Man's sin introduces the darkness of the Fall, which bars his way to true life.

⁸And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. ⁹But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" ¹⁰And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself."

¹¹He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" ¹²The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." ¹³Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

¹⁴The Lord God said to the serpent,

"Because you have done this,
cursed are you above all livestock
and above all beasts of the field;
on your belly you shall go,
and dust you shall eat
all the days of your life.

¹⁵I will put enmity between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and her offspring;
he shall bruise your head,
and you shall bruise his heel."

¹⁶To the woman he said,

"I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing;
in pain you shall bring forth children.
Your desire shall be contrary to your husband,
but he shall rule over you."

¹⁷And to Adam he said,

"Because you have listened to the voice of your wife
and have eaten of the tree
of which I commanded you,
'You shall not eat of it,'
cursed is the ground because of you;
in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life;

¹⁸thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you;
and you shall eat the plants of the field.

¹⁹By the sweat of your face
you shall eat bread,
till you return to the ground,
for out of it you were taken;
for you are dust,
and to dust you shall return."

²⁰The man called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living. ²¹And the Lord God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them.

²²Then the Lord God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of us in knowing good and evil. Now, lest he reach out his hand and take also of the tree of life and eat, and live forever—"

²³therefore the Lord God sent him out from the garden of Eden to work the ground from which he was taken. ²⁴He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

MEDITATION

Adult Choir

Lost in the Night

Lost in the night do the people yet languish,
longing for morning the darkness to vanquish,
plaintively heaving a sigh full of anguish.
Will not day come soon? Will not day come soon?

Must we be vainly awaiting the morrow?
Shall those who have light no light let us borrow,
giving no heed to our burden of sorrow?
Will You help us soon? Will You help us soon?

Sorrowing wanderers in darkness yet dwelling,
dawned has the day of a radiance excelling,
death's dreaded darkness forever dispelling:
Christ is coming soon, Christ is coming soon!

Words and music from Finnish folk song, trans. by Olav Lee; Arr. by Kyle Haugen; © 2000 Augsburg Fortress.

THIRD LESSON

Reader: Lynn Streett

Isaiah 8:20-9:2, 6-7

God continues speaking to His sin-darkened people, promising to send the light of a Child-King.

²⁰To the teaching and to the testimony! If they will not speak according to this word, it is because they have no dawn. ²¹They will pass through the land, greatly distressed and hungry. And when they are hungry, they will be enraged and will speak contemptuously against their king and their God, and turn their faces upward. ²²And they will look to the earth, but behold, distress and darkness, the gloom of anguish. And they will be thrust into thick darkness.

^{9:1}But there will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

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.

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.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Congregation stands

CAROL

Glory in the Darkest Place

Out of the depths of silent night, Immanuel, come hear our cry.
Our grief is strong, our burdens great; the night is long and hope is faint.
You came to set the captives free, a Morning Star of joy and peace.
Why does this darkness feel so deep? Why can't our weary spirits see

*Glory, glory, glory in the darkest place
Glory, glory, glory, let Your mercy reign*

Out of the depths of silent night, a Savior born, a mother's sigh;
the darkness trembled at this Star, a beam of hope for troubled hearts.
You came to make Your blessings known, and bear our curse of death alone;
You came to share our suffering, so in our sorrow we could sing

Words and music by Brittany Born; © 2016 Sovereign Grace Praise (Admin. by Integrity Music); CCLI Song # 7077597

Congregation sits

FOURTH LESSON

Readers: Ethan & Serenity Novak

Luke / 路加福音 1:26-38, 46-55

Mary hears and responds to the message that the Child-King will come to the world through her.

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth,
²⁷to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!"
²⁹But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³²He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, ³³and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

³⁴And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

³⁵And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God.

³⁶And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

⁴⁶馬利亞說：
“我心尊主為大，
⁴⁷我靈以神我的救主為樂，
⁴⁸因為他垂顧他婢女的卑微，
看哪！今後萬代都要稱我為有福。
⁴⁹全能者為我行了大事，他的名為聖；
⁵⁰他的憐憫世世代代歸與敬畏他的人。
⁵¹他用膀臂施展大能，
驅散心裡妄想的狂傲人。
⁵²他使有權能的失位，
叫卑微的升高，
⁵³讓飢餓的得飽美食，
使富足的空手回去。
⁵⁴他扶助了他的僕人以色列，
為要記念他的憐憫，
⁵⁵正如他向我們列祖所說的，
恩待亞伯拉罕和他的後裔，直到永遠。”

⁴⁶And Mary said,
“My soul magnifies the Lord,
⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
⁴⁸for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.
For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
⁴⁹for he who is mighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.
⁵⁰And his mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.
⁵¹He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts;
⁵²he has brought down the mighty from their thrones
and exalted those of humble estate;
⁵³he has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he has sent away empty.
⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
⁵⁵as he spoke to our fathers,
to Abraham and to his offspring forever.”

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Congregation stands

CAROL

He Who Is Mighty

O the mercy our God has shown to those who sit in death's shadow.
The sun on high pierced the night; born was the Cornerstone.
Unto us a Son is given, unto us a Child is born.

*He Who is mighty has done a great thing;
taken on flesh, conquered death's sting,
shattered the darkness and lifted our shame.
Holy is His name.*

O the freedom our Savior won; the yoke of sin has been broken.
Once a slave, now by grace no more condemnation.
Unto us a Son is given, unto us a Child is born.

Now my soul magnifies the Lord; I rejoice in the God Who saves;
I will trust His unfailing love; I will sing His praises all my days.

*Words and music by Kate DeGraide and Rebecca Elliott; © 2014 Sovereign Grace Praise, Sovereign Grace Worship
(Admin. by Integrity Music); CCLI Song # 7031870*

Congregation sits

FIFTH LESSON

Reader: Mella LeRoy

Luke 2:1-7

Jesus, the Light of the World, is born.

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.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

Advent Singers

He Is Born

*Il est né le divin enfant,
jouez hautbois, résonnez musettes!
Il est né le divin enfant,
chantons tous son avènement!*

*He is born, the divine Christ Child;
play on the flute and the bagpipes merrily!
He is born, the divine Christ Child;
Sing we all of the Savior's birth.*

Through long ages of the past,
prophets have foretold His coming
through long ages of the past;
now the time has come at last!

In a stable He was born;
in a manger was His cradle.
In a stable He was born,
humble Babe of Bethlehem.

Jesus, Lord of all the world,
coming as a Child among us!
Jesus, Lord of all the world,
grant to us Thy heavenly peace.

Words and music trad. French IL EST NÉ, trans. by George Evans; Arr. by Trevor Manor; © 2015 Choristers Guild.

Luke 2:8-20

Lowly shepherds become witnesses to heaven's glory shining in the night.

⁸And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. ¹⁰And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹²And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

¹⁵When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. ¹⁷And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. ¹⁸And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Congregation stands

CAROL

It Came upon the Midnight Clear (Trinity Hymnal #200)

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to men, from heav'n's all-gracious King";
the world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come, with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heav'nly music floats o'er all the weary world:
above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hov'ring wing,
and ever o'er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing.

And ye, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low,
who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow,
look now! for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing:
O rest beside the weary road and hear the angels sing.

For lo, the days are hast'ning on, by prophet bards foretold,
when with the ever-circling years comes round the age of gold;
when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,
and the whole world give back the song which now the angels sing.

Words by Edmund H. Sears, 1850; Music CAROL by Richard S. Willis, 1850; © Public Domain; CCLI Song # 31078

Congregation sits

SEVENTH LESSON

Reader: Didier Balagizi

Luc/Luke 23:44-46

Crucified on a cross, Jesus overcomes sin's darkness by taking it upon Himself.

⁴⁴Il était environ midi, quand le pays tout entier fut plongé dans l'obscurité, et cela dura jusqu'à trois heures de l'après-midi. ⁴⁵Le soleil resta entièrement caché. Le grand rideau du Temple se déchira par le milieu. ⁴⁶Alors Jésus poussa un grand cri : *Père, je remets mon esprit entre tes mains.* Après avoir dit ces mots il mourut.

⁴⁴It was now about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour, ⁴⁵while the sun's light failed. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. ⁴⁶Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!" And having said this he breathed his last.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Congregation stands

CAROL

Come, Behold the Wondrous Mystery

Come, behold the wondrous mystery in the dawning of the King:
He, the theme of heaven's praises, robed in frail humanity.
In our longing, in our darkness, now the light of life has come;
look to Christ, Who condescended, took on flesh to ransom us.

Come, behold the wondrous mystery: He, the perfect Son of Man,
in His living, in His suffering, never trace nor stain of sin.
See the true and better Adam, come to save the hell-bound man;
Christ, the great and sure fulfillment of the law; in Him we stand.

Come, behold the wondrous mystery: Christ the Lord upon the tree;
in the stead of ruined sinners hangs the Lamb in victory.
See the price of our redemption, see the Father's plan unfold,
bringing many sons to glory— grace unmeasured, love untold.

Come, behold the wondrous mystery: slain by death the God of life,
but no grave could e'er restrain Him; praise the Lord, He is alive!
What a foretaste of deliverance; how unwavering our hope:
Christ in power resurrected, as we will be when He comes.

Words and music by Matt Boswell, Matt Papa, and Michael Bleecker; © 2012 Bleecker Publishing (Admin. by Michael Bleecker), Getty Music Hymns and Songs, Getty Music Publishing, Love Your Enemies Publishing, McKinney Music, Inc. (Admin. by Music Services, Inc.); CCLI Song # 7026028

Congregation sits

EIGHTH LESSON

Reader: Pastor Tom Holliday

John 1:14-18

God brings us into the light of redemption and reconciliation through Jesus.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵(John bore witness about him, and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.'") ¹⁶For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

Pastor Tom Holliday

NINTH LESSON

Reader: Eleanor Nagy

Revelation 21:1-4, 22:1-5

The glory of the Light of the World will eradicate the night forever.

^{21:1}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. ²And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³And 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. ⁴He 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."

^{22:1}Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb ²through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. ³No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. ⁴They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. ⁵And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

MEDITATION

Adult Choir

No Night There

God is with us; God is for us;
do not be afraid.

I am with you; I am for you;
do not be afraid.

There shall be
no night there, no crying there;
God shall wipe away every tear from their eyes.

Even in the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil.

Lo, I am with you always, even to the end;
I am with you to the end.

Words from Matthew 1:23, Psalm 118:6, Luke 2:10, Revelation 21:3-4 & 22:5, Psalm 23:4, and Matthew 28:20; Music by Dan Forrest; © 2023 Beckenhorst Press, Inc.

Congregation stands

CAROL

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing (Trinity Hymnal #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."

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."

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."

Words by Charles Wesley, 1739/1753; Music by Felix Mendelssohn, 1840, arr. William H. Cummings, 1856; © Public Domain; CCLI Song # 27738

Congregation sits

PRAYER

O Father of all Life,

How astonishing is the life You offer to us! You have sent Your Son to open our eyes, so that we may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God. We have received not only forgiveness of sins, but an inviolable place in Your renewed and restored creation. Thank You for a hope and peace that abound eternally.

Keep us now in the power of Your Spirit until the return of Jesus Christ our King, when You will swallow up death forever, to the unceasing glory of Your holy Name. Amen.

BENEDICTION

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Alexandria Presbyterian Church would like to acknowledge the many individuals whose hard work and creativity made possible this Festival of Lessons and Carols:

Musicians:

Jocelyn Bravo, John Kinch, and Emily Kinch, vocals
Ben Elliott, piano
Angel Tinev, guitar
Dave Broyles, bass
Scott Kirk, percussion
Becky Mason, flute
Dorothy Taft, violin
Matt Suckling, trumpet
Kara Suckling, horn

Choir:

Jocelyn Bravo, Dave Broyles, Cindy Cai, Liz Crowley, Jeff Fearon, Vynn Huh, John Kinch, Emily Kinch, Jennie Leotta, Denise McMullen, Jeannine Mood, Eleanor Nagy, Pete Olsen, Vell Rives, Tom Schauer, Deirdre Shipley, Ramona Smith, Sharon Steeg, Matt Suckling, Jim Taft, Dorothy Taft, Angel Tinev, Linda Willows, Ben Youngquist, Traci Youngquist, Joshua Youngquist, Caleb Youngquist
Lina Gentry, accompanist

Advent Singers

Hudson Diack, Sam Diack, Will Diack, Vivian Field, Camila Flores, Graeme Furgerson*, Edwin Gentry, Mary Ellis Jones*, Wilson Jones*, Cora Kinder, Anna Kirk, Ephraim Leamer, India Leamer*, Miles LeRoy, Isaac Lynch*, Lilianna Lynch*, Sophia Lynch*, Zoe Lynch*, Lilee Mason, Ollie Mason, Claire McCauley, Anna Newman, Bert Rives, Justin Root, Phoebe Stephens*, Elizabeth Todd, Charlie Weld, Sam Weld, Ana Youngquist*, Haddie Youngquist*
(*Youth Choir member)

Staci Root, accompanist

Andrea Jones, Camille Kinder, Amanda Leamer, Jackie McCauley, McKinzie Newman, Mary Mitchell Todd, and Traci Youngquist, parent assistants

Readers:

Pastor Joel Acevedo, Pastor Josh Diack, Lynn Streett, Ethan & Serenity Novak, Mella LeRoy, Dave Broyles, Elder Didier Balagizi, Pastor Tom Holliday, Eleanor Nagy

Technicians:

Lee Huntington, audio
Wayne Folta, video
Bailey Rolland, projection

Print Materials:

Stacey and Josh Diack, Bailey Rolland

Decorations:

Laura Coit, Andrea Romyn

Music Directors:

Ben Elliott, Director of Music Ministries
Serenity Novak, Worship Assistant

If you'd like to join us for Sunday worship, we have two services at 9 and 11am, with a time of fellowship between the services beginning at 10:15am.

In addition, we have regularly scheduled activities for children, teens and adults throughout the week.

Please contact us or visit our website for more information:
www.alexandriapres.org

MINISTRIES AT APC

Covenant Fellowship Groups (CFGs). 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.

Covenant Kids Children's Ministry. Children are an active and growing part of the APC family! Children's Church is available during Sunday worship to provide children a worship service on their level. Covenant Kids meets Sunday evenings for children ages five through 5th grade to build relationships, study the Bible, and learn to live for Christ in every aspect of life.

Youth Ministry. PROTAS is a dynamic, teen-led, adult-mentored, relationship-based, youth community with the goal of teens becoming strong disciples of Christ as they reach out to their lost friends. This happens through exciting outreach events, relevant and challenging instruction from a Biblically reformed perspective, small discipleship groups, and loving Christ-like service to those in need.

Men's and Women's Ministries. Men and Women enjoy times of fellowship and community throughout the year. Bible studies and events are planned with a variety of opportunities for teaching, fellowship, and social activities. Bi-annual retreats are also planned for men and women separately.

Koinonia. Koinonia is a community of people in their twenties through their thirties who meet for ongoing fellowship opportunities.

Seniors' Ministry. APC invites seniors to be active in each aspect of our worship, community, and equipping. We offer a Bible study at a nearby senior living facility and transportation to and from worship on Sunday mornings.

Spanish Worship Service. This monthly worship service includes singing, prayer, and a sermon— all in Spanish.

Music Ministry. APC's music ministry teams aim to magnify God's greatness, and to model and encourage the gospel-motivated, heart-engaged, Spirit-reliant worship of the gathered church. The Worship Team, Adult Choir, Youth Choirs, and Tech Team all contribute to special services like the Lessons and Carols Service, and additionally serve in various capacities throughout the year.

Sunday Adult Education. APC offers an array of classes on Sunday evenings at 5pm for further spiritual development. One upcoming class is Walking in the Spirit, which is a 10 week in-depth study of the person and work of the Holy Spirit. Other classes covering a variety of topics are offered to help believers learn and grow in Christ.

Mercy Ministry. Our deacons have a Biblical mandate (Acts 6) to address needs within the Body of Christ, so we have a monthly Deacons' Fund collection to provide the resources to help people. Funds are used to help both those within our congregation and those in our surrounding community.

Missions. We presently support 11 domestic and 15 overseas missionaries, as well as various mission-related needs within our PCA denomination. Missionary profiles can be found in the Member Area of our website, and we also hear updates from our missionaries periodically from the pulpit.



OUR MISSION

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.