

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dorothy Taft will be sharing more about The Market Project today in between worship services. Join her on the stage in the Fellowship Hall!

PROTAS and Covenant Kids will meet this evening, as well as the CFG huddle for CFG leaders.

APC Deaconess Suggestions. Today is the last day to submit suggestions! In April 2023, Session decided to begin a new Deaconess ministry at APC, appointing Godly women of the congregation to assist the Deacons in their ministry of mercy and administration. At this time, Session welcomes suggestions of female members who discern a call to such service. (It is a prerequisite that any woman suggested have previously completed APC's Spiritual Leadership class.) Please confirm with the woman that she welcomes the suggestion, before submitting it to Session. Those women that Session appoints as Deaconess will be commissioned at the January 14 worship services. To suggest a deaconess, along with further information on the Deaconess ministry and APC's decision to begin this ministry, scan the QR code or see the APC email.

Advent Services: Sundays, December 10, 17 at 9am and 11am; December 24 at 10am

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service: Sunday, December 24 at 5pm

Light Shattering Darkness: Lessons and Carols Service and Reception on Sunday, December 17 at 5pm. Please arrive by 4:45pm for the prelude. If you are able, please park at the Scottish Rite Temple to leave space in our parking lot for visitors. Join us and invite a friend for a celebration of our Lord and Savior's birth. This service will show us the centrality of Jesus the Light of the World in every part of the gospel story, and will feature carol singing led by APC choirs and musicians. Nursery will be provided for children ages 4 and under. Join us after the service for a reception of Cocoa and Cookies in the Fellowship Hall. **Please bring cookies to share for the reception!**

Carol singing at Lincolnian on December 23! We invite you for a time of singing carols and passing out toiletry kits and artwork to the seniors on December 23 from 10:30-11:15am. Alternatively, feel free to schedule a visit simply to meet and chat with some of the seniors during this Advent season. This is a meaningful way to love and minister to them, and will be a blessing to all. Email Phyllis Sergent at phyllis.sergent@gmail.com to arrange your visit, or with any questions. **We are collecting artwork and cards to give to the seniors!** Artwork and cards can be delivered in the designated box in the Fellowship Hall.

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 25-January 1, and the last worship service of the year is December 31. Gifts received in the mail the first week of January—if dated and postmarked in 2023—will be included in your 2023 year-end giving statement. You may also make your year-end gifts through APC's online giving portal thru December 31, 2023. In addition, if you would like to donate securities or stocks to APC's general fund, 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 donate a year end gift, simply indicate this on your check and mail it to the APC office. You may also make your donation online. Thank you for considering APC in your year-end planning.

New Women's Thursday Bible studies begin January 11. Ladies, as we continue with our theme of Unfailing Hope, we invite you to pray about joining the Thursday women's Bible study, beginning January 11. We will be going through the book of Hebrews, using Jen Wilkin's study *Better*. As we "fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith", we'll see Him as the better Word, the better high priest, the better sacrifice, etc. The morning study meets weekly from 10-11:30am. Childcare is provided. The evening study is a hybrid class: the first Thursday of each month we meet in person and the remaining weeks we meet via Zoom, from 7-8:30pm. Please rsvp to Lynn Streett at lynn.streett79@gmail.com in order to receive the Zoom link or if you have any questions.

Walking in the Spirit (WiS) begins January 14 from 5-7pm. Space is limited, so please sign up as soon as possible! APC congregants have priority until Christmas, at which time we will open registration to others from outside APC who have expressed interest. APC is offering a discipleship ministry called Walking in the Spirit (WiS), 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 14 and runs through March 24, with a break on February 18. 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. Participants are also invited to a banquet on April 7 to celebrate and share testimonies of what God has done in our midst.

Communicants Class for Children and Teens ~ January '24: The class will be held on Thursdays from 5-6pm at APC and run for eight weeks starting January 18. 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. To find out more information, preview the workbook, or sign up; please contact Adam at adam.leroy@alexandriapres.org.

Call to Prayer— January 2024. As we embark on a New Year, the elders invite you to join them in APC-wide prayer opportunities: Sunday, January 7 at 5pm, Wednesday, January 10 at 7:30pm; and Saturday, January 13 at 9am.

Newcomer Fellowship Dinner, Saturday, January 20, 6pm. 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.

The next Inquirers Class is February 2 & 3. 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.

SUNDAY MORNING MINISTRY WORKERS

Hospitality

This Week: Alex and Allison Bolling, Onasis and Miriam Rivas Moreno

Next Week: the Flores family

Nursery

9am: Sifa Balagizi, Maggie Coombs, Brian and Sarah Field, Patricia Kodjo, Stephanie, Abbie, and Ellie Olsen, Andrea Romyn

11am: Juliet Edem, Frank Girgenti, Aaron, Christina, Peter, and Abigail Renenger, Bethany Tinev

Next week's 9am: John Connelly, Evelyn Heil, Owen Gentry, Susanna Root, Doug Shipley, Stephen Sylvia, Evan and Maureen Ward, Bryan Wittmeyer

Next week's 11am: Juliet Edem, KayCee Poole, Carmen Rives, Andrew, Rebecca, and Bethany Schad, Stephen Sylvia

Children's Church

9am: Shant and Annie Boyajian, Daniel and Andrea Jones

11am: Tom and Amanda Petelik

A/V Team

Ben Crowley, Sam and Collin White

Greeters

9am: Matt Coombs, Chase Chesser, Lindsay Hutter, Chris Nelms, Lynn Streett

11am: Pierre Jolly, Marc, Shannon, James, and Sarah Allen, Kristi Hellmuth

Ushers

9am: Mark Adams, Sue Edwards, Brian Field, Alex and Heidi Gesch, Katty and Daniel Hoyle, Jonathon Osborne

11am: Christian and Connor Brittle, Rick Eppright

Deacons on Duty

Aaron McCauley, Pete Olsen, Bryan Wittmeyer

KEY EQUIPPING

Adult Classes resume January 14

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.

WE ARE HIRING

Communications Manager: The Communications Manager maintains and develops APC's communications both inside and outside the congregation through various means including website, social media, weekly emails, bulletins, and more. Experience with Adobe InDesign, Canva, and MailChimp is preferred; however training is available. A full position description is available. This position is part-time with an anticipated 25 hours/week (including Sunday activities). If you desire to use those talents as a member of APC's staff, please contact Executive Director of Ministries Matt Coombs at matthew.coombs@alexandriapres.org.

Nursery Assistant: The Nursery Assistant's primary function will be to oversee certain aspects of the nursery, in close coordination with the Director of Children's Ministries, in order to create a high-quality, safe, and nurturing environment for the children and families we serve. This position is part-time, and expected to take 6-7 hours weekly (including Sunday activities). Please contact Erin Furgerson, by email or in person, if interested in applying and for the full Position Description: erin.furgerson@alexandriapres.org.

Giving at a Glance	YTD Giving (7/1/23-11/30/23)	\$867,787
	YTD Budget (7/1/23-11/30/23)	\$944,000
	Difference	-\$76,213 (92%)

APC
Visitor Form



Give
to APC



Inquirers
Class



Newcomer
Dinner



Walking
in the Spirit



Suggest a
Deaconess



Covenant
Fellowship Groups



Advent Week 2: The Song of Peace

December 10, 2023

love
joy
peace
& hope.

Alexandria Presbyterian Church



Holy Worship Service

GOD INVITES HIS PEOPLE TO WORSHIP

■ prelude

■ **call to worship** | *Josh Diack, Pastor of Congregational Life and Missions*
John 1:14

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.

GOD’S PEOPLE RESPOND

■ **choral introit** | *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.

■ song of praise

Angels, from the Realms of Glory (Trinity Hymnal #218)

Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o’er all the earth;
ye who sang creation’s story, now proclaim Messiah’s birth;

Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn King.

Shepherds in the fields abiding, watching o’er your flocks by night,
God with man is now residing, yonder shines the infant Light:

Sages, leave your contemplations; brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great Desire of nations; ye have seen His natal star:

Saints before the altar bending, watching long in hope and fear,
suddenly the Lord, descending, in His temple shall appear:

All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son;
evermore your voices raising to th’eternal Three in One:

Words by James Montgomery, 1825; Music REGENT SQUARE by Henry Smart, 1867; © Public Domain; CCLI Song # 31669

■ prayer of adoration

GOD FEEDS HIS PEOPLE THROUGH HIS WORD

■ lighting the advent candle of peace

■ **scripture reading** | *the Stephens family (9am); the Howard family (11am)*

Micah 5:2-5a (pg. 730)

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.

GOD’S PEOPLE RESPOND

■ song of praise

See, Amid the Winter’s Snow

See, amid the winter’s snow, born for us on earth below,
see, the tender Lamb appears, promised from eternal years.

Hail, thou ever-blessed morn! Hail, redemption’s happy dawn!
Sing through all Jerusalem: Christ is born in Bethlehem.

Lo, within a manger lies He Who built the starry skies;
what a love, that came from bliss down to such a world as this!

Teach, O teach us, holy Child, by Thy face so meek and mild,
teach us to resemble Thee, in Thy sweet humility.

See the Father’s love for us, and His mercy generous;
see, the worthy Lamb was slain; risen, He will come to reign.

Words by Edward Caswall, 1851, alt. and addt’l words by Tim Briggs and Ben Elliott; Music by John Goss, 1870, arr. Nathan Storey; © Public Domain; CCLI Song # 260784

■ **missions partner update** | *Dorothy Taft, The Market Project*

■ **congregational prayer** | *Elder Shant Boyajian*

■ **offertory prayer** | *Chris Popadich (9am); Brian Knapp (11am)*

■ song of preparation

How Low Was Our Redeemer Brought

How low was our Redeemer brought: The King who held the stars
lay helpless in a maiden’s arms and pressed against her heart.
While sheep and cattle raised their voice, the babe could speak no words;
the ever flowing Spring of joy had come to share our thirst.

Gloria, gloria in the highest!
Gloria, gloria in the highest!

How low was our Redeemer brought: The Lord the worlds obeyed
would stumble as He learned to walk upon the ground He’d made.
The One the angels bowed before would kneel to wash our feet
and be at home among the poor, though He owned everything.

How low was our Redeemer brought to raise us from our shame;
and now the highest praise of all belongs to Jesus’ name.
The Healer wounded on a tree to bear our grief and sin;
the King gave up His crown so we could ever reign with Him.

Words and music by Matt Boswell, Bob Kauflin, Nathan Stiff, and David Zimmer; © 2020 Sovereign Grace Worship, Sovereign Grace Praise, Messenger Hymns, Getty Music Publishing (Admin. by Integrity Music); CCLI Song # 7160122

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

Luke 2:8-20 (pg. 805)

The Shepherds and the Angels

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.

■ prayer for illumination

■ **sermon** | *Josh Diack, Pastor of Congregational Life and Missions*
“Heavenly Calm”

Sermon Series: The Songs of Jesus’ Advent

GOD’S PEOPLE RESPOND

■ song of response

Turn Your Eyes

Turn your eyes upon Jesus, look full in His wonderful face,
and the things of earth will grow strangely dim in the light of His glory and grace.

Turn your eyes to the hillside where justice and mercy embraced;
there the Son of God gave His life for us, and our measureless debt was erased.

Jesus, to You we lift our eyes— Jesus, our glory and our prize.
We adore You, behold You, our Savior ever true, O Jesus, we turn our eyes to You.

Turn your eyes to the morning and see Christ the Lion awake.
What a glorious dawn; fear of death is gone, for we carry His life in our veins.

Turn your eyes to the heavens— our King will return for His own;
every knee will bow, every tongue will shout, “All glory to Jesus alone!”

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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

■ **announcements** | *Matt Coombs, Executive Director of Ministries*

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