

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Light Shattering Darkness: Lessons and Carols Service and Reception this evening. 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. PROTAS and Covenant Kids will not meet. Join us after the service for a reception of Cocoa and Cookies in the Fellowship Hall. Please bring cookies to share for the reception!

Next Sunday, December 24, two different worship services will be held, and we invite you to come to both! Our 4th week of Advent morning woship service will be at 10am, with fellowship after the service. Our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be at 5pm. Childcare will not be available during the 5pm service, as we encourage children to join the service for a special children's message.

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, which can be put in the box in the downstairs lobby.

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 (WitS) 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 (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 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.

Men's Discipleship Study beginning the second week in January (day of the week and time of day TBD). Jesus calls every Christian to be a disciple and to help others become disciples. This involves study and meditating on God's Word, 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 and discuss a chapter from the soon-to-be published book, "The Heart and Soul of Discipleship". The group will meet in Room 112 of APC starting the second week in January and running for 10 weeks. We'll decide which day of the week and time of day works best for the men who sign up. Last time, space filled up quickly, so please sign up as soon as you're able. Please email Jim Taft at jamesdake1017@gmail.com to RSVP and indicate your available days of the week and times of day to meet.

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: the Flores family

Next Week: Alex and Allison Bolling, Andrea Romyn

Nursery

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

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

Next week's service (10am): Christine Brittle, Mary Lou Chesser, Sharon Holliday, Laurie LeRoy, Stephanie, Abbie, and Ellie Olsen, Bethany Tinev

Children's Church

9am: Mark and Kari Adams

11am: Chris and Amy Weld

Tech Team

Ben Crowley, Hensley Gollopp, Amanda Petelik, Ethan Novak, Bailey Rolland

Greeters

9am: Matt Coombs, Lindsay Hutter, Yaovi and Patricia Kodjo, Gladys Monroy, Ariel Sanchez

11am: Pierre Jolly, Sara Eppright, Jodie Kirk, Chris Nelms, Cynthia Oviatt

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

Covenant Kids, PROTAS, and 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.

Adults

An array of adult classes for further spiritual development are offered, including a book of the Bible, foundational, and topical classes.

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.

APC Visitor Form



Walking in the Spirit



Give to APC



Newcomer Dinner



Covenant Fellowship Groups



Inquirers Class



Advent Week 3: The Song of Joy

December 17, 2023

love
joy
peace
& hope.

Alexandria Presbyterian Church



Holy Worship Service

GOD INVITES HIS PEOPLE TO WORSHIP

■ prelude

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

Psalm 16:11; Luke 1:46-47, 49

Leader: You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

All: My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

GOD’S PEOPLE RESPOND

■ songs of praise

Joy to the World (*Trinity Hymnal #195*)

Joy to the world! The Lord is come: Let earth receive her King; let every heart prepare Him room, and heav’n and nature sing, and heav’n and nature sing, and heav’n, and heav’n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns: Let men their songs employ, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground; He comes to make His blessings flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove the glories of His righteousness and wonders of His love, and wonders of His love, and wonders, wonders of His love.

Words by Isaac Watts, 1719; Music ANTIOCH by George F. Handel, 1742, arr. Lowell Mason, 1836; © Public Domain; CCLI Song # 24016.

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

■ prayer of adoration

GOD FEEDS HIS PEOPLE THROUGH HIS WORD

■ lighting the advent candle of joy

■ scripture reading | *the Schad family (9am); the White family (11am)*

Isaiah 61:1-3, 10-11 (pg. 581)

The Year of the Lord’s Favor

¹The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;

²to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn;

³to grant to those who mourn in Zion—to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit; that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that he may be glorified.

¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the Lord; my soul shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

¹¹For as the earth brings forth its sprouts, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to sprout up before all the nations.

GOD’S PEOPLE RESPOND

■ song of praise

Christ Our Treasure

Lord, our feet have wandered all the earth unsatisfied
Drinking from a sea of emptiness has left us dry
So we turn our eyes to

*Christ our Treasure, there is none like You
Precious Jesus, there is none like You*

Living Water, Word of Life, You are forever true
Every blessing, joy abounding here in knowing You
So we fix our eyes on

Grace for the guilty, help for the needy—Jesus, You satisfy our souls
Strength for the weary, hope for the grieving—Jesus, You satisfy our souls
Healer of sickness, fountain of goodness—Jesus, You satisfy our souls
Faithful Provider, gracious Redeemer—Jesus, You satisfy our souls
Mighty in power, awesome in splendor—Jesus, You satisfy our souls
Author, Perfecter, Keeper, Sustainer—Jesus, You satisfy our souls

Words and music by Jonathan Jackson, Jordan Kauflin, Grace Nixon, and Marc Willerton; © 2019 Sovereign Grace Worship/ASCAP, Sovereign Grace Praise/BMI (Admin. by Integrity Music); CCLI Song # 7138120

■ congregational prayer

■ offertory prayer | *Joel Acevedo, Pastor of International Outreach and Missions*

■ presentation of tithes and offerings | *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.

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 1:39-56 (pg. 804)

Mary Visits Elizabeth

³⁹In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, ⁴⁰and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, ⁴²and she exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! ⁴³And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.”

Mary’s Song of Praise: The Magnificat

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.”

⁵⁶And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her home.

■ prayer for illumination

■ sermon | *Tom Holliday, Senior Pastor*

“A Soul That Magnifies the Lord”

Sermon Series: The Songs of Jesus’ Advent

GOD’S PEOPLE RESPOND

■ song of response

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.

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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

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