

## WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Join us this evening for our **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 5pm**. Childcare will not be available, as we encourage children to join the service for a special children's message.

The APC office is closed for Christmas break from December 25 - January 1.

**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](mailto: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.

**Spanish Worship Service Saturday, December 30 at 6pm.** Join us in Room 201 for a time of singing, prayer, and a sermon— all in Spanish. This monthly worship service is led by Joel Acevedo, APC's Pastor of International Outreach and Mercy. 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. **We are in need of someone to play percussion.** Contact Pastor Joel at [joel.acevedo@alexandriapres.org](mailto:joel.acevedo@alexandriapres.org) if you can serve in this way.

**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. Prayer is foundational to all that we do at APC. Prayerfully consider joining us for at least one of these prayer meetings as we each seek the Lord's wisdom and transforming power in our lives and our church!

**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.

**Join the Youth Choir in Spring 2024!** The Youth Choir rehearses on Tuesday evenings from 5:00-6:00 and is open to grades 2-8. Participation will be offered in three shorter cycles in the spring: January 16 - February 6; February 13 - March 26; and April 2-23. Singers may join for one or more full cycles. For more details, please scan the QR code or visit the link in the APC email, where you may also register (deadline January 9.) Contact Serenity Novak ([serenity.novak@alexandriapres.org](mailto:serenity.novak@alexandriapres.org)) with additional questions.

**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](mailto:lynn.streett79@gmail.com) in order to receive the Zoom link or if you have any questions.

**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 114 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](mailto: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](mailto:adam.leroy@alexandriapres.org).

**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, Andrea Romyn

**Next Week:** the Flores family

### Nursery

**This Week:** Christine Brittle, Mary Lou Chesser, Sharon Holliday, Laurie LeRoy, Stephanie, Abbie, and Ellie Olsen, Bethany Tinev

**Next Week (9am):** John and Jamie Connelly, Ryan and Amy Douglass, Drew and Sally Lindsay, Jackie McCauley, Traci Youngquist

**Next Week (11am):** Sifa Balagizi, Stacey Diack, Juliet Edem, Becky Knapp, Andrew, Rebecca, and Bethany Schad

### Children's Church

Mark and Kari Adams

### Tech Team

Ethan Novak, Pete Olsen, Emmett Stephens

### Greeters

Mike and Vicki Gutshall, Andrew Hobold, Pierre Jolly,

Yaovi and Patricia Kodjo, Chris Nelms

### Ushers

Mark Adams, Sue Edwards, Brian Field, Alex and Heidi Gesch,

Katty and Daniel Hoyle, Jonathon Osborne

### 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](mailto: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](mailto:erin.furgerson@alexandriapres.org).

### APC Visitor Form



### Give to APC



### Covenant Fellowship Groups



### Walking in the Spirit



### Sign up for Youth Choir



### Newcomer Dinner



### Inquirers Class



# Advent Week 4: The Song of Love

December 24, 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

*Psalm 90:14; Luke 1:68-69*

Leader: Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

**All: Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David.**

## GOD’S PEOPLE RESPOND

### ■ songs of praise

**Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus** (*Trinity Hymnal #196*)

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) and Mark E. Hunt (1978); Music HYFRYDOL by Rowland Hugh Prichard, 1855; © Public Domain; CCLI Song # 31999*

**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*

### ■ prayer of adoration

## GOD FEEDS HIS PEOPLE THROUGH HIS WORD

### ■ lighting the advent candle of love

### ■ scripture reading | the Weld family

*Isaiah 40:1-2, 9-11 (pg. 561)*

<sup>1</sup>Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.

<sup>2</sup>Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,  
and cry to her  
that her warfare is ended,  
that her iniquity is pardoned,  
that she has received from the Lord’s hand  
double for all her sins.

### The Greatness of God

<sup>9</sup>Go on up to a high mountain,  
O Zion, herald of good news;

lift up your voice with strength,  
O Jerusalem, herald of good news;  
lift it up, fear not;

say to the cities of Judah,

“Behold your God!”

<sup>10</sup>Behold, the Lord God comes with might,

and his arm rules for him;  
behold, his reward is with him,  
and his recompense before him.

<sup>11</sup>He will tend his flock like a shepherd;  
he will gather the lambs in his arms;  
he will carry them in his bosom,  
and gently lead those that are with young.

## GOD’S PEOPLE RESPOND

### ■ advent prayer

**All: Gracious and merciful Father,  
I praise You this day for Your tender mercies.  
You have promised much and fulfilled all.  
When I was astray, You sought after me;  
although I was blind, You enlightened me.  
You have loved me with delight, and extend Your love eternally.  
To purchase my salvation, You stooped lowly and sacrificially.  
You have given Yourself for me, may I give myself to You;  
You have died for me, may I live to You,  
in every moment of my time,  
in every movement of my mind,  
with every pulse of my heart.  
In calling me to humbly enter the needs of others, would You  
comfort and strengthen me with a sense of Your nearness;  
keep me awake to Your leading;  
furnish me with Your righteousness;  
clothe me with Your grace.  
May I love You as I am loved.  
Amen.**

### ■ song of praise

**O Wondrous Love**

O wondrous love that will not let me go, I cling to You with all my strength and soul;  
yet if my hold should ever fail, this wondrous love will never let me go.

O wondrous love that’s come to dwell in me; Lord, who am I that I should come to know  
Your tender voice assuring me? This wondrous love will never let me go.

*I’m resting in the everlasting arms,  
in the ever faithful heart, the Shepherd of my life.  
You’ll carry me on Your mighty wings of grace,  
keeping me until the day I look into Your eyes.*

O wondrous love that sings of Calvary, the sweetest sound this sinner’s ever known,  
the song of Your redeeming Son, Whose wondrous love will never let me go.

O wondrous love that rushes over me, I can’t escape this river’s glorious flow;  
You overwhelm my days with good; Your wondrous love will never let me go.

*Words and music by Steve & Vikki Cook; © 2001 Sovereign Grace Worship (Admin. by Integrity Music);  
CCLI Song # 3337411*

### ■ congregational prayer

### ■ offertory prayer | Mike Powell, Pastoral Associate

### ■ musical offering | Worship Team

**Do Not Fear**

*Words and music by Jon Althoff and Nathan Stiff; © 2020 Sovereign Grace Worship (Admin. by Integrity Music); CCLI Song # 7160125*

*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 1:67-79 (pg. 803)*

**Zechariah’s Prophecy**

<sup>67</sup>And his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied, saying,

<sup>68</sup>“Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,  
for he has visited and redeemed his people

<sup>69</sup>and has raised up a horn of salvation for us  
in the house of his servant David,

<sup>70</sup>as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,

<sup>71</sup>that we should be saved from our enemies

and from the hand of all who hate us;

<sup>72</sup>to show the mercy promised to our fathers

and to remember his holy covenant,

<sup>73</sup>the oath that he swore to our father Abraham, to grant us

<sup>74</sup>that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies,

might serve him without fear,

<sup>75</sup>in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.

<sup>76</sup>And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;

for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,

<sup>77</sup>to give knowledge of salvation to his people

in the forgiveness of their sins,

<sup>78</sup>because of the tender mercy of our God,

whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high

<sup>79</sup>to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,  
to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

### ■ prayer for illumination

### ■ sermon | Josh Diack, Pastor of Congregational Life and Missions

**“Salvation: Love’s Ambition”**

*Sermon Series: The Songs of Jesus’ Advent*

## GOD’S PEOPLE RESPOND

### ■ deacons’ fund offering | Deacon Aaron McCauley

### ■ song of response

**Glorious Christ**

The radiance of the Father before the dawn of time,  
You spoke and all creation came to be.

The molecules and planets reveal Your great design,  
and every one was made so we could see—so we could see

*You are the glorious Christ, the greatest of all delights;  
Your power is unequalled, Your love beyond all heights.  
No greater sacrifice than when You laid down Your life;  
we join the song of angels who praise You day and night— glorious Christ!*

You left the air of heaven to breathe the dust of earth  
and dwell among the outcast and the poor;

You came to be forsaken, and died to take our curse  
so You could be our joy forevermore— forevermore.

You’re seated now in heaven, enthroned at God’s right hand;  
You’ve shattered death and freed us from our fears,  
and though we cannot see You, You’re coming back again,  
and all will be made right when You appear,  
and all will be made right when You appear.

*Words and music by Bob Kauflin; © 2012 Sovereign Grace Praise (Admin. by Integrity Music);  
CCLI Song # 6271684*

### ■ 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

*Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®). Copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. Music used by permission under CCLI #2595419 and ONE LICENSE #A-726376. All rights reserved.*