

## WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Vacation Bible School (VBS) will be June 17th to 21st for children who are rising kindergarteners through 5th grade!** Nursery will be available for children of volunteers. **Save the date for a VBS interest meeting** between worship services in room 201 today. Come learn about how you can get involved!

**PROTAS Youth Ministry & Young Life Capernaum Partnership ~ Interest Meeting & Lunch: Sunday, April 28th @ 11am in the youth room.** All interested APC adults and teens are invited. Sarah Veenstra (current YL staff) and others will share about Young Life Capernaum Camp @ Rockbridge, VA = August 9-13, 2024. Since 2016, APC adults & PROTAS rising 9th graders-graduates have partnered with this ministry to teenagers with disabilities, seeking to give them the best week @ camp of their life and leading them to Jesus (many for the first time) as we walk one-on-one alongside each camper. Come hear about this opportunity to serve & make some new friends this summer!

**Prayer Meeting tonight at 5pm in the Main Level Adult Education Room (Room 112).** This meeting is for all. Please join Pastor Tom as we engage in praying for the needs of the church, the city, and the world.

**Spanish Worship Service tonight, April 28th, at 5pm in Room 201.** Join us 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 Jesus Christ through this time of worship.

**Missions Opportunity - Short-term trip to Japan from November 8th through 16th.** We are being asked if we could help support and serve the region through a leadership development and church planting conference. The aim is to help run a VBS with children of registrants, engage relationally with teens of missionary families and church planters, and to help with conference event needs. The anticipated attendance is 600-700 people and serves many in the region through plenary sessions, workshops, and opportunities to fellowship.

**Newcomer Fellowship Dinner is Saturday, May 18th, 6pm.** A few weeks before our inquirers class, we will be hosting a newcomer dinner. 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 May 31st and June 1st!** 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!

**Women's Thursday Bible studies.** Ladies, as we continue with our theme of Unfailing Hope, we invite you to pray about joining the Thursday women's Bible study. We are going through the book of Philippians using Melissa Kruger's study *In All Things*. Joy is what we are made for. How can we find it? Only by knowing the One who considered it a joy to save us! The morning study meets weekly from 9:45-11:30am. 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.



## SUNDAY MORNING MINISTRY WORKERS

### Hospitality Nursery

**This Week:** The Brittle Family

**This Week (9am):** Sue Edwards, Brian and Sarah Field, Owen Gentry, Will and Catherine Marks, Amy Murr, Jo Porwoll, Andrea Romyn, Rachel Sylvia

**This Week (11am):** Stacey Diack, Rick, Sara and Lydia Eppright, Emily Kinch, Nathan Leamer, Kaycee Poole

**Next Week (9am):** Christine and Zach Brittle, Carrie, Millie, and Matt Brown, Jamie Connelly, Matti Jamison, Elizabeth Kohlmann, Sarah and Drew Lindsay, Catherine Marks

**Next Week (11am):** Cindy Cai, Laura, Rob, and Elyse Coit, Stacey Diack, Gina Mitchell, Gladys Monroy

### Children's Church

**9am:** Becky Knapp and Amy Murr, Mark and Kari Adams

**11am:** Shant and Annie Boyajian

### Tech Team

Hensley Gollop, Eli Kendrick, Abby McGahey, Brittany Payton

### Greeters

**9am:** Matt Coombs, Lynn Streett, Emma and Crissy Stubbs

**11am:** Pierre Jolly, Kristi Hellmuth, Emma and Crissy Stubbs

### Ushers

**9am:** Mark Adams, Femi Adeniji, Sue Edwards, Brian Field, Katty Hoyle, Daniel Hoyle, Romy Murr, Sam White

**11am:** Christian and Connor Brittle, Rick Eppright, Vynn Huh, Jodie and Seth Kirk

## 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.

### Adults

*Adult Key Equipping classes have finished, but the equipping will continue, including the following opportunities:*

**Spanish Service and Prayer Meeting, April 28th.**

**Prayer Meeting, May 19th.**

**Spanish Service, May 26th.**

**Shepherding Large Group, June 2nd.**

**Prayer Meeting, June 9th**

April 28, 2024

unchanging  
truth.  
changing  
lives

**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.

# Holy Worship Service

## GOD INVITES HIS PEOPLE TO WORSHIP

### ■ prelude

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

*Hosea 2:19-20*

<sup>19</sup> And I will betroth you to me forever. I will betroth you to me in righteousness and in justice, in steadfast love and in mercy. <sup>20</sup> I will betroth you to me in faithfulness. And you shall know the Lord.

## GOD’S PEOPLE RESPOND

### ■ song of praise

#### **Come Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy**

Come, ye sinners, poor and needy, weak and wounded, sick and sore;  
Jesus, ready, stands to save you, full of pity, love, and pow’r.  
He is able, He is able; He is willing, doubt no more.

Come ye needy, come, and welcome, God’s free bounty glorify:  
true belief and true repentance, every grace that brings you nigh.  
Without money, without money come to Jesus Christ and buy.

Come, ye weary, heavy laden, lost and ruined by the fall;  
if you tarry till you’re better, you will never come at all.  
Not the righteous, not the righteous; sinners Jesus came to call.

Let not conscience make you linger, nor of fitness fondly dream;  
all the fitness He requireth is to feel your need of Him.  
This He gives you, this He gives you, ‘tis the Spirit’s rising beam.

I will arise and go to Jesus; He will embrace me in His arms;  
in the arms of my dear Savior, O, there are ten thousand charms.  
In the arms of my dear Savior, O, there are ten thousand charms.

*Words by Joseph Hart, 1759; Music ARISE from W. Walker’s The Southern Harmony, 1835; © Public Domain; CCLI Song # 22111*

### ■ prayer of adoration

## GOD FEEDS HIS PEOPLE THROUGH HIS WORD

### ■ scripture reading | *Shannon Allen (9am); Annie Boyajian (11am)*

*Isaiah 62:1-5 (pg. 582)*

#### **Zion’s Coming Salvation**

<sup>1</sup>For Zion’s sake I will not keep silent,  
and for Jerusalem’s sake I will not be quiet,  
until her righteousness goes forth as brightness,  
and her salvation as a burning torch.

<sup>2</sup>The nations shall see your righteousness,  
and all the kings your glory,  
and you shall be called by a new name  
that the mouth of the Lord will give.

<sup>3</sup>You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand  
of the Lord,  
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

<sup>4</sup>You shall no more be termed Forsaken,  
and your land shall no more be termed  
Desolate,

but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her  
and your land Married;  
for the Lord delights in you,  
and your land shall be married.

<sup>5</sup>For as a young man marries a young woman,  
so shall your sons marry you,  
and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride,  
so shall your God rejoice over you.

## GOD’S PEOPLE RESPOND

### ■ song of praise

#### **He Will Hold Me Fast**

When I fear my faith will fail, Christ will hold me fast.  
When the tempter would prevail, He will hold me fast.  
I could never keep my hold through life’s fearful path,  
for my love is often cold; He must hold me fast.

*He will hold me fast; He will hold me fast, for my Savior loves me so; He will hold me fast.*

Those He saves are His delight; Christ will hold me fast;  
precious in His holy sight; He will hold me fast.  
He’ll not let my soul be lost; His promises shall last.  
Bought by Him at such a cost; He will hold me fast.

For my life He bled and died; Christ will hold me fast.  
Justice has been satisfied; He will hold me fast.  
Raised with Him to endless life; He will hold me fast;  
till our faith is turned to sight when He comes at last.

*Words and music by Ada Ruth Habershon and Matthew Merker; © 2013 Getty Music Publishing / Matthew Merker Music (Admin. by Music Services, Inc.); CCLI Song # 7016161*

### ■ congregational prayer

### ■ offertory prayer

### ■ offertory | *Adult Choir (9am)*

#### **Hymn of Mercy**

Gracious Lord, Thy mercy filleth all the earth below;  
and from heaven’s throne it falleth when to Thee I go.  
Mercy flowing, swift pursuing, like a river strong,  
sympathizing with my weakness; mercy suffering long.

Mercy calling with compassion, “O return to Me”;  
wounded hands extended, loving is the plea.  
How can I refuse Thy mercy? Whither would I flee?  
From my idol shrine I turn, Lord, reaching up to Thee.

Tender mercy of the Savior gently drawing nigh,  
with the blood that cleanseth sinners ready to apply.  
Gracious Lord, Thy mercy filleth all the earth below;  
and from heaven’s throne it falleth when to Thee I go.

*Words by Eileen Berry, based on Hosea 14:1-4; Music by Dan Forrest; © 2006 Beckenhorst Press, 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

*Hosea 14 (pg. 711)*

#### **A Plea to Return to the Lord**

<sup>1</sup>Return, O Israel, to the Lord your God,  
for you have stumbled because of your iniquity.

<sup>2</sup>Take with you words  
and return to the Lord;  
say to him,

“Take away all iniquity;  
accept what is good,  
and we will pay with bulls  
the vows of our lips.

<sup>3</sup>Assyria shall not save us;  
we will not ride on horses;  
and we will say no more, ‘Our God,’  
to the work of our hands.

In you the orphan finds mercy.”

<sup>4</sup>I will heal their apostasy;  
I will love them freely,  
for my anger has turned from them.

<sup>5</sup>I will be like the dew to Israel;  
he shall blossom like the lily;  
he shall take root like the trees of Lebanon;

<sup>6</sup>his shoots shall spread out;  
his beauty shall be like the olive,  
and his fragrance like Lebanon.

<sup>7</sup>They shall return and dwell beneath my shadow;  
they shall flourish like the grain;  
they shall blossom like the vine;  
their fame shall be like the wine of Lebanon.

<sup>8</sup>O Ephraim, what have I to do with idols?  
It is I who answer and look after you.  
I am like an evergreen cypress;  
from me comes your fruit.

<sup>9</sup>Whoever is wise, let him understand these things;  
whoever is discerning, let him know them;  
for the ways of the Lord are right,  
and the upright walk in them,  
but transgressors stumble in them.

### ■ prayer for illumination

### ■ sermon | *Tom Holliday, Senior Pastor*

**“Returning to Our God”** Sermon series: *God’s Love That Pursues*

## GOD’S PEOPLE RESPOND

### ■ confession

O Lord our God,  
You tell us that we must return to You, and You alone. We acknowledge that only You know how far off Your people have wandered. Please forgive us for trying to negotiate with You, presuming on Your forgiveness.

You tell us further to return to You with words. We confess our reluctance to use our words to name the specific sins, not just sin in general, that have been our downfall. Holy Spirit, please direct our hearts to identify and grieve over the sins that have wounded You.

By Your grace, we hear Your invitation to lay down the work of our hands and cling to Jesus our Bridegroom. Renew us to desire His righteousness, until every thorn in our tents is overtaken by the blossoms of Your beauty and the roots of Your flourishing. Only Your love for us could accomplish such an astonishing work as this. Have mercy on us, in Jesus’ Name. Amen.

### ■ assurance of pardon | *Hosea 14:4*

### ■ song of assurance

#### **Come Unto Jesus**

Come unto Jesus, all you who are weary; come to the mercy seat, fervently kneel.  
Here bring your wounded hearts, broken and needy;  
come unto Jesus, mighty to heal.

Joy of the comfortless, Light for the straying, Hope of the penitent, Peace in our strife;  
here speaks the Comforter, tenderly saying,  
“My yoke is easy, my burden is light.”

*Come unto Jesus, come unto Jesus. Lay down your burdens; He is enough.  
Come unto Jesus— rest in His love.*

Come taste the Bread of Life, broken for sinners,  
drink from the cup of His promise made sure,  
feast at His table as sons and as daughters;  
grace overflowing is yours evermore.

Come now and follow Him, this life forsaking; all that was gain count as nothing but loss;  
trade all this world for His kingdom unfading.  
Come unto Jesus— take up your cross.  
Come unto Jesus— take up your cross:  
Life everlasting He offers to us!

*Words and music by Jordan Kauflin, Laura Story, and Matt Merker, adapted from “Come, Ye Disconsolate” by Thomas Moore (1824) and Thomas Hastings (1832); © 2023 Getty Music Hymns and Songs; Getty Music Publishing; Jordan Kauflin Music; Laura’s Stories and Songs; Matthew Merker Music; CCLI Song #7228728*

### ■ deacons’ fund | *Deacon Bryan Wittmeyer*

### ■ song of response

#### **Wonderful, Merciful Savior**

Wonderful, merciful Savior, precious Redeemer and Friend  
Who would have thought that a Lamb could rescue the souls of men?  
O You rescue the souls of men

*You are the One that we praise; You are the One we adore  
You give the healing and grace our hearts always hunger for  
O our hearts always hunger for*

Counselor, Comforter, Keeper, Spirit we long to embrace  
You offer hope when our hearts have hopelessly lost our way  
O we’ve hopelessly lost our way

Almighty, infinite Father, faithfully loving Your own  
Here in our weakness You find us falling before Your throne  
O we’re falling before Your throne

*Words and music by Dawn Rodgers and Eric Wyse; © 1989 Curb Dayspring Music (Admin. by Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp.), Curb Word Music (Admin. by WC Music Corp.); CCLI Song # 106879*

### ■ 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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