

WELCOME

Welcome, we are glad you're here! Please silence all electronic devices.

Se ofrece traducción al español cada domingo durante el servicio de la 9am. Para más detalles acercarse a alguno de los ujieres.
Spanish translation is offered every Sunday during the 9am service.
 For more details, approach one of the ushers.

Assisted Listening System is offered every service. Ask a sound tech for assistance.

A simulcast of the worship service will also be available in the Main Level Adult Education Room (Room 112). You may view and hear the full service from this room with others that use this space. As you consider your family's needs during worship, please feel free to use this area to continue your worship!

Nursing Mothers Room available downstairs near the fellowship hall in room 009. You may view and hear the full service, while comfortably nursing and caring for your child.

Nursery is available downstairs for newborn to age 4. Children age 5 through 2nd grade are welcome to continue worship in Children's Church following the offertory song.

Large Print Bulletin Available. See one of the greeters for the large print bulletin.

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

APC Deaconess 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.) Suggestions will be received through December 15. 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 19 worship services. To suggest a deaconess, along with further information on the Deaconess ministry and APC's decision to begin this ministry, scan the "APC Sign-Ups" QR code or see the weekly APC email this Wednesday.

Walking in the Spirit (WitS) begins January 12 from 5-7pm. 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 12 and runs through March 23, with a break on February 16. 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 to celebrate and share testimonies of what God has done in our midst on March 30. More details will be forthcoming on the banquet. **This year, WitS is limited to the first 75 people to sign up. Sign up in "APC Sign-Ups" before Christmas.**

Upcoming Women's Thursday morning Bible Study. Ladies, we invite you to join us for a new 7 week series on the I AM statements of Jesus, beginning Thursday, December 5th. We will be using *Behold and Believe* by Courtney Doctor and Joanna Kimbrel as our study guide. We meet weekly from 9:45-11:30 in the fellowship hall. Nursery is available. For more information, please contact Lynn Streett at lynn.streett79@gmail.com.

Do you have a heart for college-aged students? Join us on Sunday, December 15, at 11am in the youth room as we discuss a vision to disciple college-aged students this summer! For more information contact Adam LeRoy at adam.leroy@alexandriapres.org.

Lessons and Carols. Our Lessons and Carols service will be on Sunday, December 15th, at 5pm. The prelude will start at 4:45pm. Come join us as we see how the Scriptures of Jesus' coming offer us an eternal and glorious hope! There will be a cookie reception following the service. Please bring cookies to share.

Christmas Eve. Our Christmas Eve service will be at 4:30pm. We invite you to join us for worship as we remember Christ's first coming. This will be a candlelight service - parents, please help your children with candles or let them use the battery-operated candles. No childcare will be available.

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 5 at 5pm; Wednesday, January 8 at 7:30pm; and Saturday, January 11 at 9am.

Connect With APC



APC Sign-Ups



Give to APC



Sign-ups for all events can be found in the QR Code above titled, "APC Sign-Ups."

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SUNDAY MORNING MINISTRY WORKERS

Hospitality

This Week: Gladys Acevedo, Suyapa Martinez, Miriam Moreno Coto

Nursery

This Week (9am): Femi Adeniji, John Connelly, Ryan and Amy Douglass, Kirsten Etherton, Evelyn Heil, Patricia Kodjo, Joe, Paul, McKinzie and Anna Newman, Evan and Maureen Ward

This Week (11am): Marc, Shannon and Sarah Allen, Sue Edwards, Caitlin Jolly, Carmen Rives, Bailey Rolland

Next Week (9am): Mark and Luke Adams, Jon and Nikki Blank, John Connelly, Maggie Coombs, Andrew Hobold, Anna Grace, Mila and Amy Murr, Christian Poole, Bailey Rolland, Susanna Root, Margaret Veenstra

Next Week (11am): Jodie and Anna Kirk, Laurie and Asa LeRoy, Reb Maylum, KayCee Poole, Allison Rivera, Liza, Will and Mary Mtchell Todd, Staci Root

Children's Church

9am: Mary Lou and Chase Chesser, Bryant and Lynn Streett

11am: Ryan and Erin Furgerson

Tech Team

Hensley Gollopp, Beth Ifft, Mike Mazek, Amanda Petelik

Greeters

9am: Ryan Furgerson, Jim and Jo Ann Kottkamp, Katy Rogers

11am: Sara Butler, Kristi Hellmuth, Chris Nelms, Katy Rogers

GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

GivingTuesday and Year-End gifts to APC. As GivingTuesday approaches on December 3, many people are considering specific ways to give. We appreciate your prayerful consideration of APC and including us as part of your giving on this day!

Year-End Gifts. 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 29. Gifts received in the mail the first week of January—if dated and postmarked in 2024—will be included in your 2024 year-end giving statement. You may also make your year-end gifts through APC's online giving portal thru December 31, 2024. 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 special year end gift, simply indicate this on your check and mail it to the APC office or put it in the offering box. You may also make your donation online. Thank you for considering APC in your year-end planning.

If you are age 70 ½ or older and have an IRA, federal law permits you to make a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) from your retirement account up to \$105,000 per year to a charity such as APC. A QCD does not constitute income to you and does not count as a charitable tax deduction. However, a QCD does constitute a distribution for purposes of making a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD). Particularly for taxpayers who must take RMDs beginning at age 73, making a QCD can have tax benefits. Please consult with your tax advisor or retirement account institution to see if this makes sense for you.

For Lincolnian seniors and Missions giving opportunities, please see below: Serving Our World:

Partner with Lebanon—The current conflicts, economic meltdown, and social crises in Lebanon have led many to ask whether they can ever find an assurance that they find favor with their God and new hope in this life and eternity. Due to the recent war, many families were displaced and lost everything except the clothing they were wearing at the time. APC-supported missionaries in Lebanon collaborate with a local church to develop and implement a Christmas program to reach the children in crisis with the gospel message. There are two ways you can participate: 1) provide a one-time tax deductible money donation to the 'Missions Christmas Fund' to help provide warm clothing, shoes, jackets; 2) encourage our children to participate in a mission-focused effort organized by Covenant Kids and PROTAS to write encouraging messages to share their understanding of Jesus birth and God's love with children in Lebanon.

Partner with the Kinders—This Christmas, we invite you to give toward a one-time gift to bless the Kinders in their first year abroad, and to write a letter to be delivered to them as a source of encouragement and support. The children and youth will have an opportunity to participate as a part of Covenant Kids and PROTAS.

Scan the QR code to donate to either/both and select 'Missions Christmas Fund' on the dropdown. Children can return letters to Erin Furgerson and youth can return them to Adam LeRoy. Adults can return letters to the Kinders to the church office.

Serving Our City:

Bless a Senior at Lincolnian—APC has a long-established relationship with our ministry to seniors and is happy to serve The Lincolnian Assisted Living Senior Care Facility in Alexandria. This Christmas, we will bless their 54 seniors with toiletry kits. This is a great way to show love to our seniors!

Scan the QR code to donate and select 'Lincolnian Christmas Donation' on the dropdown to give toward the toiletry kits.



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 | *Josh Diack, Pastor of Congregational Life and Missions*

Psalm 117

¹ Praise the LORD, all nations!
Extol him, all peoples!

² For great is his steadfast love toward us,
and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever.

Praise the LORD!

GOD’S PEOPLE RESPOND

■ song of praise

Behold Our God

Who has held the oceans in His hands? Who has numbered every grain of sand?
Kings and nations tremble at His voice; all creation rises to rejoice.

Behold our God, seated on His throne—come let us adore Him!
Behold our King; nothing can compare—come let us adore Him!

Who has given counsel to the Lord? Who can question any of His Words?
Who can teach the One who knows all things? Who can fathom all His wondrous deeds?

Who has felt the nails upon His hands, bearing all the guilt of sinful man?
God eternal, humbled to the grave; Jesus, Savior, risen now to reign!

Men: You will reign forever! (*Women:* Let Your glory fill the earth!)

Words and music by Jonathan Baird, Meghan Baird, Ryan Baird, and Stephen Altrogge; © 2011 Sovereign Grace Praise, Sovereign Grace Worship (Admin. by Integrity Music); CCLI Song # 5937510

■ prayer of adoration

GOD FEEDS HIS PEOPLE THROUGH HIS WORD

■ lighting the advent candle of hope

■ scripture reading | *The Capone family (9am); The Todd family (11am)*

Isaiah 11:1-10 (pg. 539)

The Righteous Reign of the Branch

¹There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.

²And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him,
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and might,
the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

³And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide disputes by what his ears hear,

⁴but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

⁵Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist,
and faithfulness the belt of his loins.

⁶The wolf shall dwell with the lamb,
and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat,
and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together;
and a little child shall lead them.

⁷The cow and the bear shall graze;
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

⁸The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra,
and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder’s den.

⁹They shall not hurt or destroy
in all my holy mountain;

for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD

as the waters cover the sea.

¹⁰ In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples—of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious.

GOD’S PEOPLE RESPOND

■ song of praise

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.

O come, Thou Dayspring from on high, and cause Thy light on us to rise;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death’s dark shadows put to flight.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, O come, true prophet of the Lord, and turn the key to heaven’s door;
be Thou our comforter and guide, and lead us to the Father’s side.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall by His word our darkness dispel.

O come, our great High Priest, and intercede; Thy sacrifice, our only plea.

The judgment we no longer fear; Thy precious blood has brought us near.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel has banished every fear of hell.

O Come, Thou King of nations, bring an end to all our suffering;

bid every pain and sorrow cease and reign now as our Prince of Peace.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel; Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel;

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come again with us to dwell.

Latin antiphons, 12th cent., trans. by John Mason Neale, 1851; alt. and addt’l. words by Steve Cook and Bob Kauflin; Music VENI EMMANUEL, 13th cent. plainsong; © 2014 Sovereign Grace Praise, Sovereign Grace Worship (Admin. by Integrity Music); CCLI Song # 7031873

■ congregational prayer

■ offertory prayer | *Andrea Jones (9am); Jon Erickson (11am)*

■ presentation of tithes and offerings | *Adult Choir (9am)*

The Yearning

There is a yearning in hearts weighed down by ancient grief and centuries of sorrow.

There is a yearning in hearts that in the darkness hide
and in the shades of death abide, a yearning for tomorrow.

There is a yearning, a yearning for the promised One, the Firstborn of creation.

There is a yearning for the Lord who visited His own,

and by His death for sin atoned, to bring to us salvation.

Emmanuel, Emmanuel, within our hearts, the yearning.

There is a yearning that fills the hearts of those who wait the day of His appearing.

There is a yearning when all our sorrows are erased

and we shall see the One who placed within our hearts the yearning.

Words by Susan Bentall Boersma; Music by Craig Courtney; © 2011 Lorenz Publishing Company.

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.

Parents: to pick up your children, go down the main stairwell and turn right into the nursery. Follow the signs to Children’s Church.

GOD FEEDS HIS PEOPLE THROUGH HIS WORD

■ sermon scripture reading

Isaiah 42:1-9 (pg. 564)

The LORD’s Chosen Servant

¹ Behold my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen, in whom my soul delights;

I have put my Spirit upon him;

he will bring forth justice to the nations.

² He will not cry aloud or lift up his voice,
or make it heard in the street;

³ a bruised reed he will not break,
and a faintly burning wick he will not

quench;

he will faithfully bring forth justice.

⁴ He will not grow faint or be discouraged

till he has established justice in the earth;
and the coastlands wait for his law.

⁵ Thus says God, the LORD,
who created the heavens and stretched

them out,

who spread out the earth and what

comes from it,

who gives breath to the people on it

and spirit to those who walk in it:

⁶ “I am the LORD; I have called you in
righteousness;

I will take you by the hand and keep you;

I will give you as a covenant for the people,

a light for the nations,

⁷ to open the eyes that are blind,

to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,

from the prison those who sit in darkness.

⁸ I am the LORD; that is my name;

my glory I give to no other,

nor my praise to carved idols.

⁹ Behold, the former things have come

to pass,

and new things I now declare;

before they spring forth

I tell you of them.”

■ prayer for illumination

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

“Savoring the Sent Servant”

Sermon Series: *Songs of the Servant*

GOD FEEDS HIS PEOPLE THROUGH HIS TABLE

■ sacrament of the lord’s supper

Explanation, Invitation, Participation

All baptized Christians who are members in good standing of a church that proclaims the Gospel of Jesus Christ are invited to participate. Children who have been admitted into the church as communicant members are invited to participate as well. If you have any questions, please ask one of our pastors or elders. Members will be invited to come forward to receive the bread and the cup. You will receive the elements from the pastors and elders standing up front in your section of the Sanctuary, and then take the bread and cup back to your seat. If you are unable to come forward, raise your hand and a server will bring the elements to your seat. We will take the elements together as prompted by the pastor.

During the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper, you are invited to sing or meditate on the following song:

■ communion song

O Come, All You Unfaithful

O come, all you unfaithful, come, weak and unstable, come, know you are not alone.

O come, barren and waiting ones, weary of praying, come— see what your God has done.

Christ is born, Christ is born, Christ is born for you.

O come, bitter and broken, come with fears unspoken, come, taste of His perfect love.

O come, guilty and hiding ones, there is no need to run— see what your God has done.

He’s the Lamb who was given, slain for our pardon;

His promise is peace for those who believe.

He’s the Lamb who was given, slain for our pardon;

His promise is peace for those who believe.

So come, though you have nothing, come, He is the offering,

come— see what your God has done.

Words and music by Bob Kauflin and Lisa Clow; © 2020 Sovereign Grace Praise (Admin. by Integrity Music); CCLI Song # 7160115

GOD’S PEOPLE RESPOND

■ 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.

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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