

WELCOME

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

As you are able, please sit toward the front and move to the middle of the row. Please try to leave no empty seats between families sitting on the same row.

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

Our Lessons and Carols service is tonight, Sunday, December 15th. Please plan to arrive by 4:45. If you are able, please park at Scottish Rite Temple. 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.

APC Deaconess Suggestions. The Deaconess ministry at APC appoints Godly women of the congregation to assist the Deacons in their ministry of mercy and administration. 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 must be received by today.** Please confirm with the woman that she welcomes the suggestion, before submitting it to Session. 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 an Elder.

Sign up for Walking in the Spirit before Christmas. This discipleship ministry called Walking in the Spirit (WitS), led by Pastor Tom and Sharon Holliday, is a 10 week in-depth study of the person and work of the Holy Spirit. WitS begins January 12 from 5-7pm 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. **We have less than 20 spots left. Sign up in "APC Sign-Ups" before Christmas.**

Women's Thursday morning Bible Study. Ladies, we invite you to join us for a 7 week series on the I AM statements of Jesus, which began Thursday, December 5th. We are 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.

Communicants Class for Children and Teens: The class will be held on Thursdays from 5:00-6:00pm at APC and run for eight weeks starting January 16th. 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.leroy@alexandriapres.org.

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."

SUNDAY MORNING MINISTRY WORKERS

Hospitality

This Week: Alex and Allison Bolling

Nursery

This Week (9am): Matt Brown, Matt Coombs, Kirsten Etherton, Brian, Sarah, Vivie and Tommy Field, Owen Gentry, Jackie and Claire McCauley, Evan and Maureen Ward, Doug Shipley, Margaret Veenstra

This Week (11am): Christine, Kaitlyn and Zach Brittle, Frank Girgenti, Drew and Sally Lindsay, Gina Mitchell, Bethany Tinev

Next Week (9am): Sifa Balagizi, Jackie McCauley, Jenny and Abby McGahey, Shauna and Rob Pittman, Andy, Rebecca and Bethany Schad

Next Week (11am): Juliet Edem, Gina Mitchell, Tom Mood, Chris Nelms, Ben and Kimberly Signer

Children's Church

9am: Mark and Kari Adams, Chris and Amy Weld

11am: Ryan and Erin Furgerson

Tech Team

Chris Blackburn, Chris McGahey, Brittany Payton

Greeters

9am: Adam and Hannah Davis, Lindsay Hutter, Becky Knapp, Yaovi and Patricia Kodjo

11am: Allen Family, Kristi Hellmuth, Cynthia Oviatt

GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

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. 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 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 "Give to APC" QR code to donate to either/both and select 'Missions Christmas Fund' on the dropdown.

GIVING AT A GLANCE

July 1 - November 30, 2024

Giving: \$1,005,872.
Budget: \$983,000.
Difference: \$22,872.
Percentage: 102%

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December 15, 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*
Romans 15:12-13

¹² And again Isaiah says,

“The root of Jesse will come,
even he who arises to rule the Gentiles;
in him will the Gentiles hope.”

¹³ May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

GOD’S PEOPLE RESPOND

■ song of praise

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus (#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

■ prayer of adoration

GOD FEEDS HIS PEOPLE THROUGH HIS WORD

■ lighting the advent candle of joy

■ **scripture reading** | *the Mason family (9am); the Lynch family (11am)*

Psalms 132:8-18 (pg. 486)

⁸ Arise, O LORD, and go to your resting place,
you and the ark of your might.

⁹ Let your priests be clothed with righteousness,
and let your saints shout for joy.

¹⁰ For the sake of your servant David,
do not turn away the face of your anointed one.

¹¹ The LORD swore to David a sure oath
from which he will not turn back:

“One of the sons of your body
I will set on your throne.

¹² If your sons keep my covenant
and my testimonies that I shall teach them,
their sons also forever
shall sit on your throne.”

¹³ For the LORD has chosen Zion;
he has desired it for his dwelling place:

¹⁴ “This is my resting place forever;
here I will dwell, for I have desired it.

¹⁵ I will abundantly bless her provisions;
I will satisfy her poor with bread.

¹⁶ Her priests I will clothe with salvation,
and her saints will shout for joy.

¹⁷ There I will make a horn to sprout for David;
I have prepared a lamp for my anointed.

¹⁸ His enemies I will clothe with shame,
but on him his crown will shine.”

GOD’S PEOPLE RESPOND

■ songs of praise

Immanuel (From the Squalor of a Borrowed Stable)

From the squalor of a borrowed stable, by the Spirit and a virgin’s faith,
to the anguish and the shame of scandal came the Savior of the human race.
But the skies were filled with the praise of heav’n; shepherds listen as the angels tell
of the Gift of God come down to man at the dawning of Immanuel.

King of heaven, now the Friend of sinners, humble servant in the Father’s hands,
filled with power and the Holy Spirit, filled with mercy for the broken man.
Yes, He walked my road, and He felt my pain, joys and sorrows that I know so well;
yet His righteous steps give me hope again– I will follow my Immanuel.

Through the kisses of a friend’s betrayal He was lifted on a cruel cross;
He was punished for a world’s transgressions, He was suffering to save the lost.
He fights for breath, He fights for me, loosing sinners from the claims of hell;
and with a shout our souls are free– death defeated by Immanuel.

Now He’s standing in the place of honor, crowned with glory on the highest throne,
interceding for His own beloved till His Father calls to bring them home.
Then the skies will part, as the trumpet sounds hope of heaven or the fear of hell;
but the bride will run to her Lover’s arms, giving glory to Immanuel.

*Words and music by Stuart Townend; © 1999 Thankyou Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing);
CCLI Song # 2733786*

Joy to the World (#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 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, 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, 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. by Lowell Mason, 1836; ©
Public Domain; CCLI Song # 24016.*

■ congregational prayer

■ **farewell** | *Matt and Avery Wilson (9am)*

■ **offertory prayer** | *Vell Rives (9am); Christina Renenger (11am)*

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

No Night There

God is with us; God is for us;
do not be afraid.
I am with you; I am for you;
do not be afraid.

There shall be
no night there, no crying there;
God shall wipe away every tear from their eyes.

Even in the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil.
Lo, I am with you always, even to the end;
I am with you to the end.

*Words from Matthew 1:23, Psalm 118:6, Luke 2:10, Revelation 21:3-4 & 22:5, Psalm 23:4, and Matthew
28:20; Music by Dan Forrest; © 2023 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.*

*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 50:4-11 (pg. 572)

⁴ The LORD God has given me
the tongue of those who are taught,
that I may know how to sustain with a word
him who is weary.

Morning by morning he awakens;
he awakens my ear
to hear as those who are taught.

⁵ The LORD God has opened my ear,
and I was not rebellious;
I turned not backward.

⁶ I gave my back to those who strike,
and my cheeks to those who pull out the
beard;
I hid not my face
from disgrace and spitting.

⁷ But the LORD God helps me;
therefore I have not been disgraced;
therefore I have set my face like a flint,
and I know that I shall not be put to
shame.

⁸ He who vindicates me is near.

Who will contend with me?

Let us stand up together.

Who is my adversary?

Let him come near to me.

⁹ Behold, the LORD God helps me;
who will declare me guilty?

Behold, all of them will wear out like a
garment;
the moth will eat them up.

■ prayer for illumination

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

“Savoring the Listening Servant”

Advent Sermon Series: *Songs of the Servant*

GOD’S PEOPLE RESPOND

■ song of response

How Deep the Father’s Love for Us

How deep the Father’s love for us, how vast beyond all measure,
that He should give His only Son to make a wretch His treasure.
How great the pain of searing loss; the Father turns His face away
as wounds which mar the Chosen One bring many sons to glory.

Behold the Man upon a cross, my sin upon His shoulders;
ashamed, I hear my mocking voice call out among the scoffers.
It was my sin that held Him there until it was accomplished.
His dying breath has brought me life; I know that it is finished.

I will not boast in anything, no gifts, no pow’r, no wisdom,
but I will boast in Jesus Christ—His death and resurrection.
Why should I gain from His reward? I cannot give an answer,
but this I know with all my heart: His wounds have paid my ransom.

*Words and music by Stuart Townend; © 1995 Thankyou Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing);
CCLI Song # 1558110*

■ 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*

¹⁰ Who among you fears the LORD
and obeys the voice of his servant?

Let him who walks in darkness
and has no light
trust in the name of the LORD
and rely on his God.

¹¹ Behold, all you who kindle a fire,
who equip yourselves with burning
torches!

Walk by the light of your fire,
and by the torches that you have kindled!
This you have from my hand:
you shall lie down in torment.