

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

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.

Walking in the Spirit (WitS) begins January 12 from 5-7pm. This is your last Sunday to sign up before Christmas (late sign ups cannot be accommodated). 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.**

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.

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.

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:* Gladys Acevedo, Miriam Moreno-Coto, Luke and Suzanne Godshall, Suyapa Martinez

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

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

Next Week (9am): Sifa and Didier Balagizi, Stacey Diack, Ryan and Erin Furgerson, Sharon Holliday, Chris Nelms

Next Week (11am): Juliet Edem, Emily Kinch, Gina Mitchell, Tom Mood, Eleanor Nagy

Children's Church *9am:* Mark and Kari Adams, Ryan and Erin Furgerson

11am: Chris and Amy Weld

Tech Team Pete and Christian Olsen, Bailey Rolland

Greeters *9am:* Ryan Furgerson

11am: Maggie Cho, Ariel Sanchez

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.

December 22, 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.

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Holy Worship Service

GOD INVITES HIS PEOPLE TO WORSHIP

■ prelude

■ call to worship | *Ben Elliott, Director of Music Ministries*

John 1:14, 16-18

Leader: ¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

All: ¹⁶ For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.

Leader: ¹⁷ For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

All: ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father’s side, he has made him known.

GOD’S PEOPLE RESPOND

■ song of praise

Angels from the Realms of Glory (#218)

Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o’er all the earth; ye who sang creation’s story, now proclaim Messiah’s birth;

Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.

Shepherds in the fields abiding, watching o’er your flocks by night, God with man is now residing, yonder shines the infant Light:

Sages, leave your contemplations; brighter visions beam afar; seek the great Desire of nations; ye have seen His natal star:

Saints before the altar bending, watching long in hope and fear, suddenly the Lord, descending, in His temple shall appear:

All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son; evermore your voices raising to th’eternal Three in One:

Words by James Montgomery, 1825; Music REGENT SQUARE by Henry Smart, 1867; © Public Domain; CCLI Song # 31669

■ prayer of adoration

GOD FEEDS HIS PEOPLE THROUGH HIS WORD

■ lighting the advent candle of love

■ scripture reading | *the Kodjo family (9am); Benton Gordon (11am)*

Galatians 4:1-7 (pg. 915)

Sons and Heirs

¹ I mean that the heir, as long as he is a child, is no different from a slave, though he is the owner of everything, ² but he is under guardians and managers until the date set by his father. ³ In the same way we also, when we were children, were enslaved to the elementary principles of the world. ⁴ But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, ⁵ to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. ⁶ And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” ⁷ So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

GOD’S PEOPLE RESPOND

■ advent prayer

King Jesus, we bring You our thanks, marveling at how low You stooped in order to become our Brother. You humbled Yourself to raise us into Your family; You became poor to make us heirs of riches; You were born of a virgin that we might be born of God.

Spirit of Jesus, like wayward children, our hearts are still slow to accept these precious gifts, and slowest of all to accept Your true presence. Please convict us for the ways that we attempt to hide and maneuver, rather than repent of our own unrighteousness. We draw near to You now, not in high places far from reach, but at the street level of our hurts, fears, and failures.

Abba! Father! How could we ever refuse Your loving heart? Please forgive us when we are unfaithful. Thank you for the family fellowship that we have in Your Son. By Your Spirit, would You further clothe us with Your likeness and love, for with them You have bound Yourself to us.

In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

■ song of praise

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

■ congregational prayer

■ offertory prayer | *Elder Aaron Renenger (9am); Elder Rob Fisher (11am)*

■ presentation of tithes and offerings

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 52:13-53:12 (pg. 574)

He Was Pierced for Our Transgressions

¹³ Behold, my servant shall act wisely; he shall be high and lifted up, and shall be exalted.

¹⁴ As many were astonished at you— his appearance was so marred, beyond human semblance, and his form beyond that of the children of mankind—

¹⁵ so shall he sprinkle many nations.

Kings shall shut their mouths because of him, for that which has not been told them they see, and that which they have not heard they understand.

^{53:1} Who has believed what he has heard from us?

And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?

² For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground;

he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him.

³ He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief;

and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

⁴ Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows;

yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.

⁵ But he was pierced for our transgressions;

he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.

⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way;

and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

⁷ He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth;

like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth.

⁸ By oppression and judgment he was taken away; and as for his generation, who considered that he was cut off out of the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people?

⁹ And they made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death,

although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth.

¹⁰ Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him; he has put him to grief;

when his soul makes an offering for guilt, he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the Lord shall prosper in his hand.

¹¹ Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied;

by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities.

¹² Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong,

because he poured out his soul to death and was numbered with the transgressors;

yet he bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors.

■ prayer for illumination

■ sermon | *Tom Holliday, Senior Pastor*

“Savoring the Suffering Servant”

Advent Sermon Series: *Songs of the Servant*

GOD’S PEOPLE RESPOND

■ songs of response

Jerusalem

See Him in Jerusalem, walking where the crowds are.

Once these streets had sung to Him; now they cry for murder.

Such a frail and lonely Man, holding up the heavy cross— see Him walking in Jerusalem, on the road to save us.

See Him there upon the hill; hear the scorn and laughter.

Silent as a lamb, He waits, praying to the Father.

See the King who made the sun, and the moon, and shining stars

let the soldiers hold and nail Him down, so that He could save them.

See Him there upon the cross, now no longer breathing;

dust that formed the watching crowds takes the blood of Jesus.

Feel, the earth is shaking now; see, the veil is split in two—

and He stood before the wrath of God, shielding sinners with His blood.

See the empty tomb today: Death could not contain Him!

Once the servant of the world, now in vict’ry reigning.

Lift your voices to the One who is seated on the throne;

see Him in the new Jerusalem—praise the One who saved us!

Words and music by Jonny Robinson, Rich Thompson, and Tiarne Tranter; © 2014 CityAlight Music (Admin. by Integrity Music); CCLI Song # 7003218

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.

Words and music by Kate DeGraide and Rebecca Elliott; © 2014 Sovereign Grace Praise, Sovereign Grace Worship (Admin. by Integrity Music); CCLI Song # 7031870

■ deacons’ fund offering

■ 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