

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 (WiS) begins January 12 from 5-7pm. APC is offering a discipleship ministry called Walking in the Spirit (WiS), 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, WiS is limited to the first 75 people to sign up. 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.

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."

SUNDAY MORNING MINISTRY WORKERS

Hospitality

This Week: Rob and Ruth Fisher, Brian Oviatt

Nursery

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

Next 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

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

Children's Church

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

11am: Ryan and Erin Furgerson

Tech Team

Manuel Bravo, Liz Crowley, Lauren Evans, Abby McGahey, Pete Olsen

Greeters

9am: Lindsay Hutter, Yaovi and Patricia Kodjo, Mason family, Emma and Crissy Stubbs

11am: Maggie Cho, Richard and Melinda Douglass, Chris Nelms, Emma and Crissy Stubbs

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 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—We thank God for the generosity of His people in blessing a senior at Lincolnian. The need for the seniors has been met and the fund is now closed.



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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** | *Becky Mason and Jen Szabo, flutes*

■ **call to worship** | *Mike Powell, Pastoral Associate*
Romans 5:1-5

Leader: ¹ Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. ² Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

All: ³ **Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴ and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵ and hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.**

GOD’S PEOPLE RESPOND

■ **songs of praise**

Of the Father’s Love Begotten (#162, vv. 1-2, 4-5)

Of the Father’s love begotten ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega, He the Source, the Ending He,
of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see, evermore and evermore!

O that birth forever blessed, when the Virgin, full of grace,
by the Holy Ghost conceiving, bore the Savior of our race;
and the Babe, the world’s Redeemer, first revealed His sacred face, evermore and evermore!

O ye heights of heav’n, adore Him; angel hosts, His praises sing;
all dominions, bow before Him, and extol our God and King;
let no tongue on earth be silent, every voice in concert ring, evermore and evermore!

Christ, to Thee, with God the Father, and, O Holy Ghost, to Thee
hymn, and chant, and high thanksgiving, and unwearied praises be,
honor, glory, and dominion, and eternal victory, evermore and evermore!

Words by Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 348-413, trans. by John Mason Neale (1854) and Henry W. Baker (1859); Music DIVINUM MYSTERIUM, 12th cent. plainsong, arr. by Charles Winfred Douglas, 1916; © Public Domain; CCLI Song # 4780029

Eden Is Open

Look at the stars; remember the night when the earth held heaven’s light.
Angels and praise lit up the sky, and the path to paradise.

Glory to God in the highest heaven, peace on the earth among men.
Glory to God in the highest heaven: Eden is open again.

Thorns melt away with sorrow and sin as we walk with God again.
Free from the curse— Your promise has come; glory to the Father’s Son.

Holy is He, holy our King, born in humble majesty.
Image of God restored on this night— hope is here in Jesus Christ!

Words and music by Andrea C. Hunter and Josh Lavender; © 2017 Life Unto Life Music; Josh Lavender Publishing; CCLI Song # 7098841

■ **prayer of adoration**

GOD FEEDS HIS PEOPLE THROUGH HIS WORD

■ **lighting the advent candle of peace**

■ **scripture reading** | *The Popadich family (9am); The Saltsman family (11am)*

Micah 5:2-5 (pg. 730)

² But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah,
who are too little to be among the clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to be ruler in Israel,
whose coming forth is from of old,
from ancient days.

³ Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labor has given birth;
then the rest of his brothers shall return
to the people of Israel.

⁴ And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord,
in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.

And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth.

⁵ And he shall be their peace.

GOD’S PEOPLE RESPOND

■ **song of praise**

The First Noel

The first Noel, earth and heaven embraced as a virgin beheld her newborn babe.
From realms on high to a manger on earth, salvation had dawned in a lowly birth.

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

The Son of God, in kindness He came as a friend to the hopeless, the lost, and the lame.
Our sins He bore, yet His name we despised,
and the hands that brought healing were pierced as He died.

The Author of life, there lifeless He lay, as the grave cast its shadow and darkness reigned.
Then out of death broke forth a great light as He rose up in victory, the glorious Christ!

Now let us all with one accord bring praises to our King:
All glory, power, and honor be forever unto Him!

Original words and music trad. 17th cent. English; Alt. and addt’l words and music by Lacy Hudson and Marc Willerton; © 2020 Sovereign Grace Praise; Sovereign Grace Worship (Admin. by Integrity Music); CCLI Song # 7160124

■ **missions partner update** | *Japan Team*

■ **congregational prayer** | *Elder Chris Weld*

■ **offertory prayer** | *Lynn Streett (9am); Jessica Newman (11am)*

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

Prepare the Royal Highway

Prepare the royal highway, the King of kings is near!
Let every hill and valley a level road appear;
then greet the King of glory foretold in sacred story:
Hosanna to the Lord, for He fulfills God’s Word!

Then fling the gates wide open to greet your promised King;
your King, yet every nation its tribute too shall bring.
All lands will bow before Him; all voices, thus adore him:
Hosanna to the Lord, for He fulfills God’s Word!

His is no earthly kingdom; it comes from heav’n above.
His rule is peace and freedom, and justice, truth, and love.
So let your praise be sounding for kindness so abounding:
Hosanna to the Lord, for He fulfills God’s Word!

Words by Frans Mikael Franzen, 19th cent., trans. 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship; Music 17th cent. Swedish folk tune BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN, arr. by Timothy Shaw; © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, 2014 Augsburg Fortress.

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 49:1-13 (pg. 570)

The Servant of the LORD

¹ Listen to me, O coastlands,
and give attention, you peoples from afar.
The LORD called me from the womb,
from the body of my mother he named
my name.

² He made my mouth like a sharp sword;
in the shadow of his hand he hid me;
he made me a polished arrow;
in his quiver he hid me away.

³ And he said to me, “You are my servant,
Israel, in whom I will be glorified.”

⁴ But I said, “I have labored in vain;
I have spent my strength for nothing
and vanity;

yet surely my right is with the LORD,
and my recompense with my God.”

⁵ And now the LORD says,

he who formed me from the womb to be
his servant,

to bring Jacob back to him;
and that Israel might be gathered to him—
for I am honored in the eyes of the LORD,
and my God has become my strength—

⁶ he says:
“It is too light a thing that you should be
my servant

to raise up the tribes of Jacob
and to bring back the preserved of Israel;
I will make you as a light for the nations,
that my salvation may reach to the end of
the earth.”

⁷ Thus says the LORD,
the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One,
to one deeply despised, abhorred by
the nation,

the servant of rulers:
“Kings shall see and arise;
princes, and they shall prostrate themselves;
because of the LORD, who is faithful,
the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you.”

The Restoration of Israel

⁸ Thus says the LORD:
“In a time of favor I have answered you;
in a day of salvation I have helped you;

I will keep you and give you
as a covenant to the people,
to establish the land,
to apportion the desolate heritages,
⁹ saying to the prisoners, ‘Come out,’
to those who are in darkness, ‘Appear.’

They shall feed along the ways;
on all bare heights shall be their pasture;

¹⁰ they shall not hunger or thirst,
neither scorching wind nor sun shall
strike them,
for he who has pity on them will lead them,
and by springs of water will guide them.

¹¹ And I will make all my mountains a road,
and my highways shall be raised up.

■ **prayer for illumination**

■ **sermon** | *Mike Powell, Pastoral Associate*

“You Are My Servant Israel”

Advent Sermon Series: *Songs of the Servant*

GOD’S PEOPLE RESPOND

■ **song of response**

King of Kings

In the darkness we were waiting without hope, without light,
till from Heaven You came running; there was mercy in Your eyes.
To fulfill the law and prophets, to a virgin came the Word
from a throne of endless glory to a cradle in the dirt.

Praise the Father, praise the Son
Praise the Spirit, Three in One
God of glory, Majesty
Praise forever to the King of Kings

To reveal the kingdom coming, and to reconcile the lost,
to redeem the whole creation, You did not despise the cross;
for even in Your suffering, You saw to the other side;
knowing this was our salvation, Jesus, for our sake You died.

And the morning that You rose, all of heaven held its breath
till that stone was moved for good, for the Lamb had conquered death.
And the dead rose from their tombs, and the angels stood in awe,
for the souls of all who’d come to the Father are restored.
And the Church of Christ was born, then the Spirit lit the flame;
now this Gospel truth of old shall not kneel, shall not faint.
By His blood and in His name, in His freedom I am free
for the love of Jesus Christ, who has resurrected me.

Words and music by Jason Ingram, Brooke Ligertwood & Scott Ligertwood; © 2019 Hillsong Music Publishing Australia (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Fellow Ships Music, So Essential Tunes (Admin. by Essential Music Publishing LLC); CCLI Song # 7127647

■ **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** | *Nick Carter, Intern*

¹² Behold, these shall come from afar,
and behold, these from the north and
from the west,
and these from the land of Syene.”

¹³ Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult,
O earth;
break forth, O mountains, into singing!
For the LORD has comforted his people
and will have compassion on his afflicted.