

WELCOME TO ALEXANDRIA PRESBYTERIAN

We are glad you’re here!
APC is a church of sinners. It’s that simple. But we are bound together by the Gospel that saves us and transforms us — UNCHANGING TRUTH, CHANGING LIVES. The transformation is, however, a process. God isn’t through with us yet. Everyone in this church is struggling with something. If you are currently struggling with greed, gossip, drugs, alcohol, sexual brokenness, eating disorders, anger, pride, complacency, etc — you are not alone. More importantly, God does not intend for you to struggle alone. That’s why He made the Church. **If you would like to learn how your brothers and sisters at APC might be able to encourage you, pray with you, and struggle alongside you, we encourage you to visit our blue welcome desk, scan our “Connect with APC” QR code, and/or contact one of our pastors, officers, or staff.**

- To assist you as part of our church family gathering today, we want you to know that we offer:
- Prayer after the worship service.** For personal prayer, come to the front of the sanctuary where at least one elder is available to pray with you. Please don’t continue struggling alone!
 - Worship for children.** Our Nursery is downstairs, available for newborn to age 4. Ages 5 through 2nd grade are welcome to attend Children’s Church following the offertory.
 - Simulcasts of the worship service in the Main Level Adult Education Room (Room 112) and Nursing Mothers Room downstairs (Room 009, near the Fellowship Hall).** As you or your family have the need, please feel free to use these areas to continue your worship!
 - Large-Print Bulletins.** For assistance, see one of our greeters.
 - Assistive Listening Devices.** For assistance, see one of our audio technicians.
 - 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 available every Sunday during the 9am service. For more details, see one of our ushers.
 - Ministry Information.** Please visit our ‘information’ table in the lobby for more info.

As you are able, please help us to serve people arriving after you by sitting toward the front of the sanctuary, moving to the middle of your row, and closing empty chairs between you and those next to you.
To help focus our attention on Jesus during worship, please silence all electronic devices.

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today is the last day to make a deaconess suggestion. For questions, ask an elder or pastor.

Lessons and Carols at APC. Join us this evening for a special service of song and scripture, as we celebrate the fulfillment of God’s promises through His Son, Jesus (2 Corinthians 1:20). The prelude will begin at 4:45pm. Nursery is available for ages 0-4. After the service, please bring cookies to share for a time of fellowship.

Christmas Eve at APC. In anticipation of the Lord bringing many to this service as He has in the past few years, we are having two family-friendly Christmas Eve services at 4:30 and 6:30pm! We hope you and your family join us at either service as we celebrate the birth of Jesus. This service will include candle lighting, with battery operated candles for young children. No childcare will be offered during these services.

December 28th Worship Service. Please know that we will only offer one service at 10am on Sunday, December 28th. The pre-service prayer meeting will be at 9:15am. Nursery will be offered, but there will be no children’s church. The service time of 10am only applies to December 28th, 2025.

Call to Prayer— January 2026. As we embark on a New Year, the elders invite you to join them in APC-wide prayer opportunities: Sunday, January 4 at 5pm; Wednesday, January 7 at 7:30pm; and Saturday, January 10 at 9am. All ages are welcome! Nursery is only provided on Sunday, January 4th.

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 15th. Parents, please talk with your child/teen and prayerfully consider whether or not they are ready to join the church as a communicant member. To find out more information or preview the workbook, please contact Elder Mark Adams at mark.philip.adams@gmail.com. Sign-up in “APC Sign-Ups.”

GIVING AT A GLANCE

We give thanks to God for the outpouring of generous giving which has enabled us to pay off our smaller mortgage loan and hire a church plant pastor. Remaining ahead of our budget allows us to pursue these and other Vision 2026 initiatives.

July 1 - November 30, 2025

Giving: \$1,566,240.
Budget: \$1,130,000.
Difference: \$436,240

SUNDAY MORNING MINISTRY WORKERS

Hospitality	<i>This Week:</i> the Flores family
Nursery	<i>This Week (9am):</i> Sifa Balagizi, Amber Cookey, Alex Gesch, Candance Kane, Patricia Kodjo, Issa Makima, Will Marks, Joe and McKinzie Newman, Nathan Newman, Susanna Root <i>This Week (11am):</i> Rob Fisher, Erin Furgerson, Frank Girgenti, Jodie Kirk, Gina Mitchell, Rose Shukrallah <i>Next Week (9am):</i> Mark Adams, Jon Blank, Blake Bruce, Gus and Woodrow Coombs, Lisa Fleischaker, Matti Jamison, Christian Poole, Lynn Streett, Justin Wells-Morgan, Brenna Zimmerman <i>Next Week (11am):</i> Matt and Carrie Brown, Beth Disselkoen, Tiffany Easter, Bailey Rolland, Margaret Veenstra
Children’s Church	<i>9am:</i> Owen and Lina Gentry; Tom and Amanda Petelik <i>11am:</i> Phoebe Drybola and Madison Staten
Tech Team	Ben Crowley, Lauren Evans, Brittany Payton, Justin Root
Greeters	<i>9am:</i> Graeme Furgerson, Lindsay Hutter, Lynn Streett, Emma and Crissy Stubbs, Clayton Thompson <i>11am:</i> Pierre Jolly, Joe and Joan Leotta, Chris Nelms, Ariel Sanchez, Clayton Thompson

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 28. Gifts received in the mail the first week of January—if dated and postmarked in 2025—will be included in your 2025 year-end giving statement. You may also make your year-end gifts through APC’s online giving portal thru December 31, 2025. 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 70½ or older and have an IRA, federal law permits you to make a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) from your retirement account up to \$108,000. This allows individuals aged 70½ and older to donate directly to a public charity and exclude the distribution from their gross income. Married couples where both spouses are eligible can each contribute up to the \$108,000 limit from their own IRAs, for a combined total of \$216,000. 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 consider giving to the “Missions Christmas Fund” via the Give to APC QR.

WALKING IN THE SPIRIT

Walking in the Spirit (WitS) begins January 11 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 11 and runs through March 22, with a break on February 15. 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 29. More details will be forthcoming on the banquet. Space is limited. ***Sign up in “APC Sign-Ups” by December 21st.***

Connect with APC	APC Sign-Ups	Give to APC	Vision 2026 Webpage
			
Sign-ups for all events can be found in the QR Code above titled, “APC Sign-Ups.”			
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Holy Worship Service

GOD INVITES HIS PEOPLE TO WORSHIP

prelude
We encourage you to find a seat to prepare your heart and mind for worship.

call to worship | *Josh Diack, Pastor of Congregational Life and Missions*
Psalms 130:5-8
Leader: ⁵ I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in his word I hope; ⁶ my soul waits for the LORD more than watchmen for the morning, more than watchmen for the morning.
All: ⁷ **O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love, and with him is plentiful redemption.**⁸**And he will redeem Israel from all his iniquities.**

GOD’S PEOPLE RESPOND

song of lament
Glory in the Darkest Place
Out of the depths of silent night, Immanuel, come hear our cry.
Our grief is strong, our burdens great; the night is long and hope is faint.
You came to set the captives free, a Morning Star of joy and peace.
Why does this darkness feel so deep? Why can’t our weary spirits see

Glory, glory, glory in the darkest place
Glory, glory, glory, let Your mercy reign

Out of the depths of silent night, a Savior born, a mother’s sigh;
the darkness trembled at this Star, a beam of hope for troubled hearts.
You came to make Your blessings known, and bear our curse of death alone;
You came to share our suffering, so in our sorrow we could sing

Words and music by Brittany Born; © 2016 Sovereign Grace Praise (Admin. by Integrity Music); CCLI License #858976, Song #7077597

prayer of adoration

GOD FEEDS HIS PEOPLE THROUGH HIS WORD

lighting the advent candle of joy

scripture reading | *Lindsay Hutter (9am); the Cookey family (11am)*

Zephaniah 3:14-19 (pg. 742)

Israel’s Joy and Restoration
¹⁴ Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel!
Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem!
¹⁵ The LORD has taken away the judgments against you; he has cleared away your enemies.
The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall never again fear evil.
¹⁶ On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: “Fear not, O Zion; let not your hands grow weak.
¹⁷ The LORD your God is in your midst,

a mighty one who will save;
he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love;
he will exult over you with loud singing.
¹⁸ I will gather those of you who mourn for the festival, so that you will no longer suffer reproach.
¹⁹ Behold, at that time I will deal with all your oppressors.
And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth.

GOD’S PEOPLE RESPOND

songs of praise
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.

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King of Kings
Lyrics on screen.

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congregational prayer | *Elder Ryan Furgerson*

offertory prayer | *Nathan Fleischaker (9am); Chelsea Swink (11am)*

presentation of tithes and offerings

offertory | *Adult Choir (9am)*

Bethlehem Carol
O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie;
above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is giv’n!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heav’n.
No ear may hear His coming, but in this world of sin,
where humble souls will receive Him still, the dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great, glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.

Words by Phillips Brooks, 1868; Music by Dan Boone; © 2024 Hal Leonard Corporation.

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

Genesis 3:8-24 (pg. 2)

⁸ And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹ But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?” ¹⁰ And he said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.” ¹¹ He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?” ¹² The man said, “The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate.” ¹³ Then the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this that you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

¹⁴ The LORD God said to the serpent,

“Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life.

¹⁵ I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.”

¹⁶ To the woman he said,

“I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you.”

¹⁷ And to Adam he said,

“Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, ‘You shall not eat of it,’ cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; ¹⁸ thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. ¹⁹ By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

²⁰ The man called his wife’s name Eve, because she was the mother of all living. ²¹ And the LORD God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them.

²² Then the LORD God said, “Behold, the man has become like one of us in knowing good and evil. Now, lest he reach out his hand and take also of the tree of life and eat, and live forever—” ²³ therefore the LORD God sent him out from the garden of Eden to work the ground from which he was taken. ²⁴ He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life.

prayer for illumination

sermon | *Tom Holliday, Senior Pastor*

“Because I Was Naked”
Series: Where Are You?

GOD’S PEOPLE RESPOND

song of response

Come to Jesus (Rest in Him)
Are you weary, heavy laden? Come and lay your burdens down.
Jesus calls you, Jesus draws you; rest in Him.
He is gentle, He is lowly, He delights to bring us peace;
tender Shepherd, mighty Savior; rest in Him.

How sure His compassion for us, O how deep is His love, so come, come to Jesus and rest in Him.

Are you hopeless, are you guilty, caught in shame for all your sin?
He pursues you to forgive you; rest in Him.
He has paid for every failure, mercy flows in endless streams;
come and follow, freedom calls you; rest in Him.
Are you waiting in your sorrows for this broken world to heal?
He is coming, soon returning; rest in Him.

We will see Him, we will know Him, O what heights of grace revealed:
from His kindness, every promise then fulfilled.
Trust in Jesus; He will keep us to the end.

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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

announcements | *Matt Coombs, Executive Director of Ministries*