

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.
- **Translation available • Se ofrece traducción • Traduction disponible •** Hear in Spanish, French, and Farsi 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

This morning, we are pleased to welcome Rev. Nathan Newman to the pulpit. Rev. Nathan Newman is a Teaching Elder in the Presbyterian Church in America and a U.S. Air Force Reserve chaplain based in Washington, D.C. He has served as a pastor and chaplain in the local church, the U.S. government, and the military. Nathan and his wife, Jessica, live on Capitol Hill with their two daughters.

International Worship Service, May 2nd at 5pm. Join us for a night of International Worship - bringing together the nations in a united celebration of Christ. From 5pm-6pm is a Worship Service followed by food and fellowship until 7pm! Childcare is not available. **Volunteers needed! Please sign up in APC sign-ups.**

Matthew Smith and Indelible Grace Concert. On May 3rd at 5pm, Matthew Smith and Indelible Grace will play a concert at APC. This will help us kick-off APC's 40th anniversary year. You can reserve seats and find more details in "APC Sign-Ups." After the concert, we hope you join us for cake in the Fellowship Hall. **We have opened up seat reservations to other churches and organizations in our community. If you do not reserve seats soon, you may not get a seat.**

Seminar. At 3pm before the concert, Matthew Smith will be giving a seminar in Room 201 on emotionally honest worship. Registration not required for seminar, but if you do not reserve a seat to the concert, you will have to wait until 4:40pm to enter the concert.

Newcomer Dinner, May 9th. Whether you have been attending APC for a few weeks or a few months, we invite you to join us for a dinner in the fellowship hall. You'll have the opportunity to meet church officers and staff and ask questions about APC and its ministries. Please sign up in "APC Sign-Ups."

Our next Inquirers Class is June 5th and 6th. If you are interested in membership or in gaining a deeper understanding of APC, we invite you to attend this class. Attending the class does not obligate you to join the church. Sign up in "APC Sign-Ups."

Benefit Recital, May 9th. APC member and flutist Becky Mason invites her APC family and community to "Flute in Flight- A Benefit Recital for The Market Project" on Saturday, May 9th, at 3pm here at APC. Enjoy an afternoon of beautiful and exciting music with a dessert reception to follow, all while supporting this important nonprofit organization that works to create jobs in Uganda that support survivors of domestic violence, armed conflict, and human trafficking. Free to attend; however, donations will be gladly accepted on behalf of The Market Project. Children welcome! RSVP's not required but are encouraged: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/7zjn7en> Email fluterm@yaho.com for more info.

Women's Thursday AM and PM Bible study. Please join us as we study Revelation, once again using Nancy Guthrie's *Blessed*. We meet weekly from 9:45 - 11:30am in the fellowship hall, and it isn't too late to join. Please contact Lynn Streett at lynn.streett79@gmail.com if you need nursery care OR if you'd like to attend the virtual group that meets on Thursday evening.

SUNDAY MORNING MINISTRY WORKERS

Hospitality

This Week: TBD

Nursery

This Week (9am): Drew Black, Nikki Blank, Sarah Field, Erin Furgerson, Evelyn Heil, Kendra Howard, Madison Newman, Tyler Rose

This Week (11am): Christine Brittle, Matti Jamison, Gina Mitchell, Allison Rivera, Rose Shukrallah

Next Week (9am): Shannon, Marc and Sarah Allen, Hannah Davis, Rob Fisher, Lina Gentry, Whitney Klinke, Jeremy Root, Sarah Williams, Brenna Zimmerman

Next Week (11am): Frank Girgenti, Dan Johnson, Candace Kane, Jodie Kirk, Jessica Newman, Bethany Tinev

Children's Church

9am: Nathan and Amanda Leamer, Tom and Amanda Petelik

11am: Madison Johnson and Brenna Zimmerman

Tech Team

Lauren Evans, Hensley Gollopp, Bailey Rolland

Greeters

9am: Shannon and Sarah Allen, Sifa Balagizi, Katie Beth and Zach Hensley, Lindsay Hutter

11am: Sara Eppright, Pierre Jolly, Joe and Joan Leotta, Chris Nelms, Katy Roberts

KEY EQUIPPING

Key Equipping is not meeting this evening.

Spring Key Equipping Opportunities: Sunday Nights from 5pm to 7pm

Covenant Kids Ministry: Children 2 years old - 5th grade, Lower Level (Nursery for 1 & under). Children learn foundational truths about God and the Gospel story. We experience what it looks like to love God and love others in community with our worship, small groups, teaching, games, fellowship, and dinner!

PROTAS Youth Ministry: Teens 6th-12th grade, Upper Level.

Connect each week in community with your peers — the schedule includes games, worship, small group discussions, a short devotion at a teen level, and dinner.

Adults:

Come to learn, study, pray, and be transformed as each class offers opportunities to be equipped as a disciple of Christ. No meals provided for adults.

May 17th - Shepherding Large Group for all APC Shepherds

Announcements cont'd:

Pulpit Nominating Committee Survey. Please check your APC Email sent Wednesday. All ages are invited to participate in the Pulpit Nominating Committee's survey. We ask that you prayerfully read the information and submit your responses to the PNC no later than Wednesday, April 29th. Thank you in advance.

PNC Survey



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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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

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

■ call to worship | Elder Aaron Renenger

Psalm 40:16-17

Leader: ¹⁶ But may all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you; may those who love your salvation say continually, “Great is the LORD!”

All: ¹⁷ As for me, I am poor and needy, but the Lord takes thought for me. You are my help and my deliverer; do not delay, O my God!

GOD’S PEOPLE RESPOND

■ song of praise

Our Great God

Eternal God, unchanging, mysterious, and unknown,
Your boundless love unending in grace and mercy shown.
Bright seraphim in ceaseless flight around Your glorious throne—
they raise their voices day and night in praise to You alone.

Hallelujah! Glory be to our great God! Hallelujah! Glory be to our great God!

Lord, we are weak and frail, and helpless in the storm;
surround us with Your angels, and hold us in Your arms.
Our cold and ruthless enemy, his pleasure is our harm—
rise up, O Lord, and he will flee before our sovereign God.

Let every creature in the sea and every flying bird,
let every mountain, every field and valley of the earth,
let all the moons and all the stars in all the universe
sing praises to the living God, who rules them by His Word.

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■ prayer of adoration

GOD FEEDS HIS PEOPLE THROUGH HIS WORD

■ scripture reading | Rebecca Schad (9am); Austin Swink (11am)

Judges 7:1-15 (pg. 193)

¹ Then Jerubbaal (that is, Gideon) and all the people who were with him rose early and encamped beside the spring of Harod. And the camp of Midian was north of them, by the hill of Moreh, in the valley. ² The Lord said to Gideon, “The people with you are too many for me to give the Midianites into their hand, lest Israel boast over me, saying, ‘My own hand has saved me.’” ³ Now therefore proclaim in the ears of the people, saying, ‘Whoever is fearful and trembling, let him return home and hurry away from Mount Gilead.’” Then 22,000 of the people returned, and 10,000 remained. ⁴ And the Lord said to Gideon, “The people are still too many. Take them down to the water, and I will test them for you there, and anyone of whom I say to you, ‘This one shall go with you,’ shall go with you, and anyone of whom I say to you, ‘This one shall not go with you,’ shall not go.” ⁵ So he brought the people down to the water. And the Lord said to Gideon, “Every one who laps the water with his tongue, as a dog laps, you shall set by himself. Likewise, every one who kneels down to drink.” ⁶ And the number of those who lapped, putting their hands to their mouths, was 300 men, but all the rest of the people knelt down to drink water. ⁷ And the Lord said to Gideon, “With the 300 men who lapped I will save you and give the Midianites into your hand, and let all the others go every man to his home.” ⁸ So the people took provisions in their hands, and their trumpets. And he sent all the rest of Israel every man to his tent, but retained the 300 men. And the camp of Midian was below him in the valley. ⁹ That same night the Lord said to him, “Arise, go down against the camp, for I have given it into your hand. ¹⁰ But if you are afraid to go down, go down to the camp with Purah your servant. ¹¹ And you shall hear what they say, and afterward your hands shall be strengthened to go down against the camp.” Then he went down with Purah his servant to the outposts of the armed men who were in the camp. ¹² And the Midianites and the Amalekites and all the people of the East lay along the valley like locusts in abundance, and their camels were without number, as the sand that is on the seashore in abundance. ¹³ When Gideon came, behold, a man was telling a dream to his comrade. And he said, “Behold, I dreamed a dream, and behold, a cake of barley bread tumbled into the camp of Midian and came to the tent and struck it so that it fell and turned it upside down, so that the tent lay flat.” ¹⁴ And his comrade answered, “This is no other than the sword of Gideon the son of Joash, a man of Israel; God has given into his hand Midian and all the camp.” ¹⁵ As soon as Gideon heard the telling of the dream and its interpretation, he worshiped. And he returned to the camp of Israel and said, “Arise, for the Lord has given the host of Midian into your hand.”

GOD’S PEOPLE RESPOND

■ prayer of devotion

“The Valley of Vision”

**Lord, High and Holy, Meek and Lowly,
Thou hast brought me to the valley of vision,
where I live in the depths but see thee in the heights;
hemmed in by mountains of sin I behold thy glory.**

Let me learn by paradox

**that the way down is the way up,
that to be low is to be high,
that the broken heart is the healed heart,
that the contrite spirit is the rejoicing spirit,
that the repenting soul is the victorious soul,
that to have nothing is to possess all,
that to bear the cross is to wear the crown,
that to give is to receive,
that the valley is the place of vision.**

**Lord, in the daytime stars can be seen from deepest wells,
and the deeper the wells the brighter thy stars shine;**

**Let me find thy light in my darkness,
thy life in my death,
thy joy in my sorrow,
thy grace in my sin,
thy riches in my poverty
thy glory in my valley.**

■ song of praise

Cornerstone

My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus’ blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly trust in Jesus’ name.

*Christ alone, Cornerstone
Weak made strong in the Savior’s love
Through the storm He is Lord, Lord of all*

When darkness seems to hide His face, I rest on His unchanging grace;
in every high and stormy gale, my anchor holds within the veil.

When He shall come with trumpet sound, O may I then in Him be found,
dressed in His righteousness alone, faultless to stand before the throne.

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■ congregational prayer | Elder Aaron Renenger

■ offertory prayer | Cindy Cai (9am); Bryn Elliott (11am)

■ presentation of tithes and offerings

■ song of preparation

Turn Your Eyes

Turn your eyes upon Jesus, look full in His wonderful face,
and the things of earth will grow strangely dim in the light of His glory and grace.

Turn your eyes to the hillside where justice and mercy embraced;
there the Son of God gave His life for us, and our measureless debt was erased.

*Jesus, to You we lift our eyes—Jesus, our glory and our prize.
We adore You, behold You, our Savior ever true, O Jesus, we turn our eyes to You.*

Turn your eyes to the morning and see Christ the Lion awake.
What a glorious dawn; fear of death is gone, for we carry His life in our veins.

Turn your eyes to the heavens—our King will return for His own;
every knee will bow, every tongue will shout, “All glory to Jesus alone!”

Original words and music by Helen H. Lemmel, 1922, addt’l by George Romanacce, Kevin Winebarger, Nathan Stiff, and Nic Trout; © 2019 Sovereign Grace Praise, Sovereign Grace Worship (Admin. by Integrity Music); CCLI License #858976, Song #7120053

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

2 Corinthians 4:1-12 (pg. 907)

¹ Therefore, having this ministry by the mercy of God, we do not lose heart. ² But we have renounced disgraceful, underhanded ways. We refuse to practice cunning or to tamper with God’s word, but by the open statement of the truth we would commend ourselves to everyone’s conscience in the sight of God. ³ And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. ⁴ In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. ⁵ For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus’ sake. ⁶ For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

⁷ But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us. ⁸ We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; ⁹ persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; ¹⁰ always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our bodies. ¹¹ For we who live are always being given over to death for Jesus’ sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. ¹² So death is at work in us, but life in you.

■ prayer for illumination

■ sermon | Rev. Nathan Newman

“Jars of Clay”

GOD’S PEOPLE RESPOND

■ songs of response

Yet Not I, but Through Christ in Me

What gift of grace is Jesus my Redeemer; there is no more for heaven now to give.
He is my joy, my righteousness and freedom,
my steadfast love, my deep and boundless peace.
To this I hold: My hope is only Jesus, for my life is wholly bound to His.
O, how strange and divine; I can sing, “All is mine!” Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

The night is dark, but I am not forsaken, for by my side the Savior He will stay.
I labor on in weakness and rejoicing, for in my need His power is displayed.
To this I hold: My Shepherd will defend me; through the deepest valley He will lead.
O, the night has been won, and I shall overcome! Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

No fate I dread; I know I am forgiven— the future sure, the price it has been paid;
for Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon, and He was raised to overthrow the grave!
To this I hold: My sin has been defeated; Jesus now and ever is my plea.
O, the chains are released; I can sing, “I am free!” Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

With every breath I long to follow Jesus, for He has said that He will bring me home;
and day by day I know He will renew me until I stand with joy before the throne.
To this I hold: My hope is only Jesus; all the glory evermore to Him!
When the race is complete, still my lips shall repeat, “Yet not I, but through Christ in me!”

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■ deacons’ fund offering | Margie Williams (9am); Emily Kinch (11am)

This monthly offering supports the APC diaconate’s sharing of the gospel through the provision of tangible personal needs in our church and community.

■ 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 | Amanda Petelik, Congregational Care and Safety Policy Monitor