

Dial- 669 900 9128
Meeting ID 831 688 4211
Password 9850
Use *6 to unmute your phone

Meeting Time
Sunday at 10:30 Worship

We are glad that you are worshipping online with us this morning and pray that your experience here is a blessing to you. If you are a visitor and want to know more about the church, please visit our website for more information and to contact us: www.aptospresbyterianchurch.org

Welcome and Announcement

*Call to Worship (Responsive)

We are a holy tapestry of mystery and meaning,
A fine garment of divine blessing and human care,
A gentle weave of deep sighs and fervent prayers,
A piece of art woven with whispers and exclamation points.
We are God's tapestry—
Touched with mystery and filled with meaning.
Together, let us worship the Living God!

*Hymn 611

"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"

*Joyful, joyful, we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love!
Hearts unfold like flowers before thee, opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the dark of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.
All thy works with joy surround thee; earth and heaven reflect thy rays;
stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird and flowing fountain, call us to rejoice in thee.
Mortals, join the happy chorus which the morning stars began.
Love divine is reigning o'er us, joining all in heaven's plan.
Ever singing, march we onward, victors in the midst of strife.
Joyful music leads us sunward in the triumph song of life.*

Call to Confession

Confession is not a recital of shortcomings and failures; an abdication of responsibility for the results of our deeds, words and attitudes; or a ritual-magic incantation of purification. Confession is choosing a stance of vulnerability with integrity before God, one another, and ourselves. Sometimes we do so with words.

Let us pray:

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

O Lord, we come out of the routines and confusions of yet another week into the calm peace of your house of worship. May we not use this as a hiding place or come out of habit, but as an opportunity to set things right in our minds, to have our hearts strengthened and our spirits challenged that we might be your servants and witnesses in the week ahead. Take from us now all that hinders our closeness to you as we make our confessions known to you in silent prayer.

Assurance of Pardon

Our prayers are accepted even as we are stilled in the presence of God and quieted in the peace of Christ. With awe we recognize our incredible value in the graciousness of God's mercy and love for each one of us. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Response: *Gloria Patri*

*Hymn 12

"Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"

*Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,*

*Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.*

*Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might:*

*Thy justice, like mountains high soaring above;
thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.*

*To all, life thou givest, to both great and small.
In all life thou livest, the true life of all.*

*We blossom and flourish like leaves on the tree,
then wither and perish; but naught changeth thee.*

*Thou reignest in glory; thou dwellest in light.
Thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight.*

*All praise we would render; O help us to see
'tis only the splendor of light hideth thee!*

Prayer of Illumination

Gracious God, we call upon you to open our eyes and hearts to your Word and your Spirit today, so that we may be able to discern your guiding voice and to seek to be your faithful servants. Stir our imaginations and help us to be your creative stewards, in sharing your Good News, in word and in deed. *Amen.*

Scripture

Genesis 38:1-27

It happened at that time that Judah went down from his brothers and settled near a certain Adullamite whose name was Hirah. ² There Judah saw the daughter of a certain Canaanite whose name was Shua; he married her and went in to her. ³ She conceived and bore a son, and he named him Er. ⁴ Again she conceived and bore a son whom she named Onan. ⁵ Yet again she bore a son, and she named him Shelah. She was in Chezib when she bore him. ⁶ Judah took a wife for Er his firstborn; her name was Tamar. ⁷ But Er, Judah's firstborn, was wicked in the sight of the Lord, and the Lord put him to death. ⁸ Then Judah said to Onan, "Go in to your brother's wife and perform the duty of a brother-in-law to her; raise up offspring for your brother." ⁹ But since Onan knew that the offspring would not be his, he spilled his semen on the ground whenever he went in to his brother's wife, so that he would not give offspring to his brother. ¹⁰ What he did was displeasing in the sight of the Lord, and he put him to death also. ¹¹ Then Judah said to his daughter-in-law Tamar, "Remain a widow in your father's house until my son Shelah grows up," for he feared that he too would die, like his brothers. So Tamar went to live in her father's house.

¹² In course of time the wife of Judah, Shua's daughter, died; when Judah's time of mourning was over, he went up to Timnah to his sheepshearers, he and his friend Hirah the Adullamite. ¹³ When Tamar was told, "Your father-in-law is going up to Timnah to shear his sheep," ¹⁴ she put off her widow's garments, put on a veil, wrapped herself up, and sat down at the entrance to Enaim, which is on the road to Timnah.

She saw that Shelah was grown up, yet she had not been given to him in marriage. ¹⁵ When Judah saw her, he thought her to be a prostitute, for she had covered her face. ¹⁶ He went over to her at the roadside and said, “Come, let me come in to you,” for he did not know that she was his daughter-in-law. She said, “What will you give me, that you may come in to me?” ¹⁷ He answered, “I will send you a kid from the flock.” And she said, “Only if you give me a pledge until you send it.” ¹⁸ He said, “What pledge shall I give you?” She replied, “Your signet and your cord and the staff that is in your hand.” So he gave them to her and went in to her, and she conceived by him. ¹⁹ Then she got up and went away, and taking off her veil she put on the garments of her widowhood.

²⁰ When Judah sent the kid by his friend the Adullamite to recover the pledge from the woman, he could not find her. ²¹ He asked the townspeople, “Where is the prostitute who was at Enaim by the wayside?” But they said, “No prostitute has been here.” ²² So he returned to Judah and said, “I have not found her; moreover, the townspeople said, ‘No prostitute has been here.’” ²³ Judah replied, “Let her keep the things as her own, otherwise we will be laughed at; you see, I sent this kid, and you could not find her.”

²⁴ About three months later Judah was told, “Your daughter-in-law Tamar has prostituted herself; moreover, she is pregnant as a result of prostitution.” And Judah said, “Bring her out, and let her be burned.” ²⁵ As she was being brought out, she sent word to her father-in-law, “It was the owner of these who made me pregnant.” And she said, “Take note, please, whose these are, the signet and the cord and the staff.” ²⁶ Then Judah acknowledged them and said, “She is more in the right than I, since I did not give her to my son Shelah.” And he did not lie with her again.

²⁷ When the time of her delivery came, there were twins in her womb.

Sermon

“Risky Righteousness”

Guest Speaker, Jim Bender

Affirmation of Faith (*Unison*)

“God’s sovereign love is a mystery beyond the reach of the human mind. Human thought ascribes to God superlatives of power, wisdom and goodness. But God reveals God’s love in Christ by showing power in the form of a servant, wisdom in the folly of the cross, and goodness in receiving sinful humanity. The power of God’s love in Christ to transform the world discloses that the Redeemer is the Lord and Creator who makes all things to serve the purpose of love.”
(The Confession of 1967)

Offertory

Doxology

Offering Prayer (*Unison*)

Most giving and forgiving God, you provide for our every need. You open our lips to offer you praise. You strengthen our hands to respond to Christ’s call. With hearts, hands and voices renewed by your Spirit, we bring now to you our commitment to serve. Use us in ways that will benefit others, and accept what we offer as a sign of our faith. In Christ’s name we pray. Amen.

*Hymn 157

“I Danced in the Morning”

***I danced in the morning when the world was begun,
and I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun,***

***And I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth.
At Bethlehem I had my birth.***

Refrain:

***Dance, then, wherever you may be; I am the Lord of the Dance, said he,
And I’ll lead you all, wherever you may be, and I’ll lead you all in the dance, said he.***

***I danced for the scribe and the Pharisee,
but they would not dance and they would not follow me.***

*I danced for the fishermen, for James and John.
They came with me and the dance went on.*

Refrain

*I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame.
The holy people said it was a shame.*

*They whipped and they stripped and they hung me high,
and left me there on a cross to die.*

Refrain

*I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black.
It's hard to dance with the devil on your back.*

*They buried my body and they thought I'd gone,
but I am the dance and I still go on.*

Refrain

*They cut me down and I leapt up high.
I am the life that will never, never die.*

*I'll live in you if you'll live in me,
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.*

Refrain

Benediction