



**St. Andrew
Presbyterian Church
of Aptos**

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Rev. Anne McAnelly, Pastor

Dr. Don Adkins, Music Director

CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

10:30 A.M.

✠ 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time ✠

September 29, 2024

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

** Please stand in body or in spirit.*

A WORD OF WELCOME AND RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP

*We are glad you came to church this morning. Please sign the fellowship pad
and pass it to your neighbor.*

*CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather in this place
seeking to live in faithful community
and asking God to guide us.

Lord, revive our souls,
that we might lift each other up.

Lord, revive our souls,
that we might order our communities
in ways that lead us toward love.

Lord, revive our souls!

*HYMN

When in Our Music God Is Glorified

GtG # 641

When in our music God is glorified, and adoration leaves no room for pride,
it is as though the whole creation cried: Alleluia!

How often, making music, we have found a new dimension in the world of sound,
as worship moved us to a more profound Alleluia!

So has the church, in liturgy and song, in faith and love,
through centuries of wrong, borne witness to the truth in every tongue: Alleluia!

And did not Jesus sing a psalm that night when utmost evil strove against the light?
Then let us sing, for whom he won the fight: Alleluia!

Let every instrument be tuned for praise!
Let all rejoice who have a voice to raise!
And may God give us faith to sing always: Alleluia!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

**God of unity, we do not always live as people bound together in your love.
Forgive us, Holy One: when we do not pray for those who suffer, or care for those who are
sick; when we forget to offer words of gratitude for the many gifts in our lives;
when we judge others and neglect your teaching; when we lose the saltiness of your
teachings, the excitement and energy you offer us on this journey of discipleship.
Flavor us with your love. Knead into our very being your mercy and your grace.
Sprinkle us with the spices of compassion and commitment. Even as we are forgiven,
leaven us with forgiveness for others. In trust of your eternal grace and merciful
forgiveness, we pray. Amen.**

Time for silent reflection.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE (*Responsive*)

Scripture promises: "Anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven."
Friends, no matter how great our sins, or how far we have wandered from the path, the word of
scripture is true.
**In the name of Christ, in Christ's mercy and love,
we are all forgiven and reconciled to God.**

GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the
beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.

ANTHEM

Autumn - Vivaldi

Bell Choir

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Sharing Joys and Concerns

Song of prayer: *Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying (pew song sheet)*

Prayers lifted to God

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

*HYMN

We Come to You for Healing, Lord

GtG #796

We come to you for healing, Lord, of body, mind, and soul, and pray that by your Spirit's touch we may again be whole. As once you walked through ancient streets and reached toward those in pain, we know you come among us still with power to heal again.

You touch us through physicians' skills, through nurses' gifts of care, and through the love of faithful friends who lift our lives in prayer.

Through nights of pain and wakefulness, through days when strength runs low, grant us your gift of patience, Lord, your calming peace to know.

We come to you, O loving Lord, in our distress and pain, in trust that through our nights and days your grace will heal, sustain.

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

If we are uncertain and weary, speak to us, O God. If we are grounded and hopeful, speak to us. If our faith feels solid and steady, speak to us, and if our faith feels shaky and tentative, speak to us. Keep speaking through your holy Word, O God, that we may find our voice in yours. Amen.

FIRST LESSON

James 5:13-20

NT pages #231-232

Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. Elijah was a human being like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the earth yielded its harvest. My brothers and sisters, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and is brought back by another, you should know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save the sinner's soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

John said to him, "Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us." But Jesus said, "Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. Whoever is not against us is for us. For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.

"If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell. And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched.

"For everyone will be salted with fire. Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another."

SERMON

Are We Flavorful?

The Rev. Anne McAnelly

WE RESPOND IN FAITH

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*unison*)

We are a community of faith. We share a vision of God: a God whose spirit is love, accessible to all yet beyond our knowing, the source of all being, the way leading to wholeness, the spirit which pervades everything. We are reborn in the Spirit, followers of that Way shown by Jesus: to love God with our whole being; to love our neighbors as ourselves; to treat others as we would have them treat us; to strive for justice and peace; to have respect and compassion for every person and for the whole of creation; to forgive those who do us harm; to love one another as Christ has loved us. We journey together on this Way towards reconciliation with the whole creation. We break bread together and pray together. We reach out to one another for strength beyond our own. This is our community. This is our faith.

OFFERING

Awesome God

- arr. Peggy Bettcher

Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

OFFERING PRAYER (*unison*)

Lord, as we gather to present our offerings, we do so with joyful hearts. We acknowledge Your goodness and faithfulness in our lives. May these gifts be used to spread Your love and truth. Bless those who give and those who receive. Help us to be generous and cheerful givers. May our offerings be pleasing to You and bring glory to Your name. Thank You for the opportunity to participate in Your work. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

WE LIVE TO SERVE

*HYMN

There Is Now a New Creation

GtG # 774

There is now a new creation through the grace of Jesus Christ,
peace and reconciliation with the God of endless life.
Call the lost and found together; tell the news to everyone:
now the past is gone forever and a new life has begun.
Wrap the prodigal in welcome; run to greet the wayward child.
All is finished and forgiven; let us now be reconciled.
Come and join the celebration; come and join this happy feast;
Jesus makes an invitation to the greatest and the least.
There is now a new creation through the grace of Jesus Christ.
Sing, with thanks and adoration, to the God of endless life!

BENEDICTION (*unison*)

We will not always get this human story right.

But – even in silence – God never abandons us.

We are a people made for delight, and joy, and justice.

We are called very good.

We will walk with integrity.

We will speak with courage.

Blessed by God, we will change this world – and ourselves – for the better.

In the name of God in community, Three-in-One, may it be so. Amen.

The service of worship ends; the service of neighbor and world begins!

Upcoming Events

Monday, September 30	Book Study @ 1:00 PM; pages 178-199 Personnel @ 2:30 PM Bell Choir @ 2:30 PM
Tuesday, October 1	Nurture @ 10 AM Enrichment @ 2 PM
Thursday, October 3	Choir Rehearsal @ 2-3 PM
Monday, October 7	Office closed
October 7 – 11	Pastor Anne at Pastor's Retreat

COFFEE HOST: Janet Maack **GREETER:** Pam Arnsberger
LITURGIST: Pam Arnsberger **COUNTER:** Janet Maack