



**St. Andrew
Presbyterian Church
of Aptos**

Rev. Anne McAnelly, Pastor
Dr. Don Adkins, Music Director

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10:30 A.M.

✠ Third Sunday of Advent ✠
Nazareth: A Place of Simplicity

December 15, 2024

WE SET OFF

** Please stand in body or in spirit.*

*GATHERING SONG

My Soul Gives Glory to My God

GtG 99

My soul gives glory to my God; my heart pours out its praise.
God lifted up my lowliness in many marvelous ways.

My God has done great things for me: yes, holy is God's name.
All people will declare me blessed, and blessings they shall claim.

From age to age to all who fear, such mercy love imparts,
dispensing justice far and near, dismissing selfish hearts.

Love casts the mighty from their thrones, promotes the insecure, leaves hungry spirits satisfied;
the rich seem suddenly poor.

Praise God, whose loving covenant supports those in distress,
remembering past promises with present faithfulness.

A WORD OF WELCOME AND RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP

LIGHT FOR THE JOURNEY (*Sung by all*)

Led by Sandy Petznick

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.

The journey continues, and this candle will help light our way.

We are on our way to more joy.

Life can be so complicated and filled with distractions.

We are a people who simply want Good News.

We need a marker on the journey to tell us to stop and notice
the wonder of the moments along the way.

God's light goes before us, we are not alone.

We re on our way
We re on our way
Dream of the day
When joy holds sway
With all the earth
In all our hearts
We re on our way
This is the day.

OPENING PRAYER AND WORDS OF ASSURANCE

THE PEACE

*HYMN

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

GtG #611

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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Sharing Joys and Concerns

Song of prayer: Prepare the Way of the Lord (GtG 95 2x)

Travel the way of the Lord. Prepare the way of the Lord.

And all people will see the salvation of our God.

Prayers lifted to God

The Lord's Prayer (*unison*)

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.

ANTHEM

Breath of Heaven

Choir

THE PLACE AND ITS MESSAGE

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (*unison*)

Speak to us, Lord.

Speak to us in the waiting, the watching, the hoping, the longing,
the sorrow, the sighing, the rejoicing.

Speak to us by your Word in these Advent days,
and walk with us until the day of your coming. Amen.

FIRST LESSON

Romans 15:12-13

NT page #164

Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope." May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

VIDEO JOURNEY

SECOND LESSON

Luke 1:26-38

NT page# 56

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

WHAT WE SEE CHANGES US

OFFERING: Gifts along the way

Doxology (unison) Tune, Away in a Manger

Praise God for these gifts that we offer today
and bless them for good in the world, this we pray.
Praise Jesus, the Christ-Child, our Hope and our Stay,
the Spirit, our Keeper, our Guide on the Way.

MOVING ON

*HYMN

People Look East

GtG#105

People, look east. The time is near of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able; Trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the Guest, is on the way.

Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is planted there.
Give up your strength the seed to nourish, that in course the flower may flourish.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the Rose, is on the way.

Birds, though you long have ceased to build, guard the nest that must be filled.
Even the hour when wings are frozen God for fledging time has chosen.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the Bird, is on the way.

Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim one more light the bowl shall brim,
shining beyond the frosty weather, Bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the Star, is on the way.

Angels, announce with shouts of mirth Christ who brings new life to earth.
Set every peak and valley humming with the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the Lord, is on the way.

BENEDICTION

Choral response after Benediction (*unison*)

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us we pray,
cast our out fear, and draw us near; 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.

We're on our way
We're on our way
Dream of the day
When joy holds sway
With all the earth
In all our hearts
We're on our way
This is the day.

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

Our Advent series was written by Dr. Marcia McFee from Worship Design Studios. It is based on On the Way to Bethlehem, by Rev. Rob Fuquay.

TODAY'S WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

LITURGIST:	Sandy Petznick
GREETER:	Pam Arnsberger
COFFEE HOST:	Pam Arnsberger
COUNTER:	Linda Walker



Lessons and Carols

Tuesday, December 24th at 5:30 pm

Our St. Andrew Community invites family and friends to participate in this festive evening of music and worship.

Advent Book Study- On the Way to Bethlehem by Rob Fuquay. Please purchase the book online, and join us for our book study Dec 16. at 1:00 on Zoom. Please read Chapter 3, Chapter Nazareth: A Place of Simplicity.

We will be starting our next study on January 6 at 1:00 on Zoom. We will be looking at the Horizon's study on Justice. The title is Let Justice Roll Down God's Call to Care For Neighbors and All Creation. The Cost is \$10. Please contact the office to sign up for a Book. I hope you can join us in the new year as we look at ways to care for our world and each other.