



St. Andrew Presbyterian Church of Aptos

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

9850 Monroe Avenue
Aptos CA 95003
Phone 831 688-4211
aptospres@gmail.com
www.aptospresbyterianchurch.org

10:30 A.M.

✦ Second Sunday of Advent ✦
Jerusalem a Place of Waiting

December 8, 2024

WE SET OFF

** Please stand in body or in spirit.*

*GATHERING SONG

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

GtG# 93

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates; behold the King of glory waits;
the King of kings is drawing near; the Savior of the world is here.

Fling wide the portals of your heart; make it a temple, set apart
from earthly use for heaven's employ, adorned with prayer and love and joy.

Redeemer, come! I open wide my heart to thee; here, Lord, abide.
Let me thy inner presence feel; thy grace and love in me reveal.

A WORD OF WELCOME AND RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP

BELL INTROIT

Let All Mortal Flesh -arr. Eileen Mihm

Bell Choir

LIGHT FOR THE JOURNEY (*Sung by all*)

Led by Al Cheney

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 peace.

Life is full of expectations and waiting for the right time,
the right answer, the right opportunity.

We are a people who wait for Good News.

It is hard to wait, but there are milestone moments
when we get a glimpse of what true peace feels like.

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 hope 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

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

GtG#88

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel. *(Refrain)*

O come, thou Wisdom from on high, who orderest all things mightily:
to us the path of knowledge show; and teach us in her ways to go. *(Refrain)*

O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times didst give the law in cloud and majesty and awe. *(Refrain)*

O come, thou Root of Jesse, free thine own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell thy people save and give them victory o'er the grave. *(Refrain)*

O come, thou Key of David, come, and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery. *(Refrain)*

O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight. *(Refrain)*

O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind;
bid envy, strife, and discord cease; fill the whole world with heaven's peace. *(Refrain)*

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

Come to Us, O Promised One -by Lloyd Larson

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 12:9-18

NT page #162

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

VIDEO JOURNEY

SECOND LESSON

Luke 1:5-17

NT page# 56

In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was a descendant of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years. Once when he was serving as priest before God and his section was on

duty, he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord and offer incense. Now at the time of the incense offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified; and fear overwhelmed him. But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He must never drink wine or strong drink; even before his birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit. He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. With the spirit and power of Elijah he will go before him, to turn the hearts of parents to their children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

SERMON

Jerusalem Peace

The Rev. Anne McAnelly

WHAT WE SEE CHANGES US

OFFERING: Gifts along the way

Bell Offertory *Come Thou Long Expected Jesus* -arr. by Larry Sue

Bell Choir

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 *We Wait the Peaceful Kingdom* (Alt Tune, Aurelia)

GtG#378

**We wait the peaceful kingdom, when wolf and lamb shall lie
in gentleness and friendship without a fear or sigh,
When lion shall be grazing, when snake shall never strike;
a little child shall lead us both strong and weak alike.**

**Where is the peaceful kingdom? When will this new day start?
We long for peace and comfort to reign within each heart.
Yet not in our lives only, nor simply in our home:
we pray that all creation will one day find shalom.**

**When wars of desolation and hate come to an end,
when nation meets nation and calls the other "friend,"
Still peace in all its fullness will only have begun:**

shalom for all creation begins with justice done.

That little child shall lead us to walk the chosen way,
to share the peaceful kingdom, to greet God's newborn day.
The child born in a stable is sent to break our chains,
to bring through word and table the day when justice reigns.

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 hope 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:	Al Cheney
GREETER:	
COFFEE HOST:	Sharon Allshouse
COUNTER:	Kathryn Adkins

Upcoming Events

Monday, December 9	Bell Choir @ 10 am Operations @ 11:00pm Book Study @ 1:00 pm
Wednesday, December 11	Outreach Meeting @ noon
Thursday, December 12	Dick Yeo Celebration of Life 10 am No Choir Rehearsal

Advent Book Study- On the Way to Bethlehem by Rob Fuquay. Please purchase the book online, and join us for our book study Dec. 9, at 1:00 on Zoom. Please read Chapter 2, Jerusalem A Place of Waiting

Christmas Luncheon, today following worship. Please bring salad or dessert to share. Come as our guest even if you did not bring anything. We have lots of food! All are welcome! We are singing Christmas Carols to get into the beloved spirit of our Lord's birth.

