



**St. Andrew
Presbyterian Church
of Aptos**

Rev. Anne McAnelly, Pastor
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CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

10:30 A.M.

✠ Baptism of The Lord ✠

January 12, 2025

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

** Please stand in body or in spirit.*

A WORD OF WELCOME AND RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP

*CALL TO WORSHIP (*responsive*)

The voice of the Lord is over the waters.

The God of glory thunders over mighty waters.

Hear the waters of baptism calling and inviting us to be renewed by this sign of God's love.

We answer the call to be God's people, living in the ways of Christ.

Hear the Spirit of God among us reminding us that we are beloved children of God.

We are God's children living in love. Alleluia!

*HYMN

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

GtG #475

Come, thou Fount of every blessing; tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.

Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above;
praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of God's unchanging love!

Here I raise my Ebenezer; hither by thy help I'm come;
and I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be!
Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;
here's my heart; O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

God who meets us and loves us fully, we gather at the river of your grace. Some of us are close and expectant and others of us are far away and uncertain. Meet us wherever we are and gently embrace us with your love so that we are drawn ever nearer to you. Renew us with the flowing waters of baptism and may we hear your voice say to each of us, "You are mine. I know you. I love you forever." Time for silent reflection. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

Our God draws us out of the waters of baptism and says:

Here is my servant, my chosen child, in whom my soul delights.

I have put my spirit upon you.

I have taken you by the hand and kept you.

You will be mine forevermore.

Believe this glad news and live as a baptized child of 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.

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 (*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.

*HYMN

I Will Come to You

GtG # 177

"I will come to you in the silence;

I will lift you from all your fear. You will hear my voice;

I claim you as my choice. Be still and know I am here.

Refrain:

Do not be afraid, I am with you. I have called you each by name.

Come and follow me, I will bring you home; I love you and you are mine."

"I am hope for all who are hopeless;
I am eyes for all who long to see. In the shadows of the night,
I will be your light. Come and rest in me. (Refrain)

"I am strength for all the despairing,
healing for the ones who dwell in shame.
All the blind will see; the lame will all run free,
and all will know my name. (Refrain)

"I am the Word that leads all to freedom;
I am the peace the world cannot give.
I will call your name, embracing all your pain.
Stand up, now walk and live! (Refrain)

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (*unison*)

Send your Spirit among us, O God, as we meditate on your love. Prepare our minds to hear your Word, move our hearts to embrace what we hear, and strengthen our will to follow your way. This we pray through Christ, our Savior. Amen.

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 43:1-7

OT page# 672

But now thus says the Lord,
 he who created you, O Jacob,
 he who formed you, O Israel:
Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
 I have called you by name, you are mine.
When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
 and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,
 and the flame shall not consume you.
For I am the Lord your God,
 the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour.
I give Egypt as your ransom,
 Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.
Because you are precious in my sight,
 and honoured, and I love you,
I give people in return for you,
 nations in exchange for your life.
Do not fear, for I am with you;
 I will bring your offspring from the east,

and from the west I will gather you;
I will say to the north, 'Give them up',
and to the south, 'Do not withhold;
bring my sons from far away
and my daughters from the end of the earth—
everyone who is called by my name,
whom I created for my glory,
whom I formed and made.'

SECOND LESSON

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

NT page #60

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

SERMON

Baptism of Love

The Rev. Anne McAnelly

WE RESPOND IN FAITH

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*unison*)

**We believe in one God, creator of all life,
maker of past, present and future.**

Lord of all people and of all memories and hopes.

We believe in Jesus Christ,

**God's Word of grace, and love made flesh,
who came to declare good news to those in despair,
to liberate both the oppressed and the oppressor,
to proclaim God's mercy as our hope.**

We believe in God's Holy Spirit,

**who takes our shattered dreams and makes us whole again,
who lifts our dying spirits and gives us courage,
who resurrects us to new life.**

**We believe that the Church is of God
and will endure to the end of time,**

and calls us into a life of love and service.

OFFERING

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*)

In the name and in the spirit of Jesus, we bring our gifts to you, O God. Help us to give with them a ready mind, a willing spirit, and a joyful heart. Amen.

WE LIVE TO SERVE

*HYMN

Go, My Children, with My Blessing

GtG #547

"Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone.

Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own.

In my love's baptismal river I have made you mine forever.

Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own."

"Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.

Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.

Here you heard my dear Son's story; here you touched him, saw his glory.

Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure."

"Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me.

Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.

Here my Spirit's power filled you; here my tender comfort stilled you.

Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free."

BENEDICTION

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

TODAY'S WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

LITURGIST: Pam Arnsberger

GREETER: Janet Maack

COFFEE HOSTS: Nancy and Bill Samsel

OFFERING COUNTER: Kathryn Adkins

Upcoming Events

Monday, January 13th

Operations Meeting @ 10 am

Bible Study @ 1 pm

Bell Choir @ 2:30 pm

Tuesday, January 14th

Deacons Meeting @ 10 am

Thursday, January 16th

Choir Rehearsal @ 2 pm

Join us each Monday at 1 pm for Bible Study. This PW/Horizons Bible study is an invitation to explore and to act, with all our hearts, in responding to an issue that impacts all life on God's earth. Readers will learn about ecological systems, and explore theological questions that point us to act and engage, in large and small ways.



Join us for our Annual Congregational Meeting, January 26, 2025, after service. Learn about all the wonderful activities our congregation has been up to, and the ways in which we are looking ahead!

2025 Per Capita Fees - The amount we are charged by the Presbytery is based on our total membership, and is due every year in February. It really helps our budget when our members contribute their share. The costs per member for 2025 follows:

General Assembly	\$10.85
Synod of the Pacific	\$ 5.22
Presbytery of San Jose	\$27.93
Approximate Insurance	<u>\$11.00</u>
TOTAL	\$55.00 per member WE THANK YOU!!!



A message from your Nurture Committee

Calling All Cluster Fans! St. Andrew members and friends sign up each year to share meals together to deepen connections and friendships. Anyone can sign up for Clusters. We have two kinds of Clusters: **Home Clusters, and Lunch Clusters.** Home Clusters are where we meet in people's home for a potluck meal, and Lunch Clusters are where we go to a local restaurant after Sunday worship. (Home Clusters is the new name for Brunch Clusters which seemed to cause some confusion as to time.) Clusters meet monthly, starting in March. Please see Janet Maack for more information.

Fun, Fellowship and Food (3F)! The Nurture Committee is starting something new, Fun Fellowship and Food. When we have a **Fifth Sunday in a month** - March, June and August of this year, we will provide a meal in Hubler Hall. We hope this will expand fellowship opportunities. Please Save the Fifth Sundays of the month for Fellowship in Hubler Hall with your church family. (Please do not schedule Lunch Clusters on fifth Sundays, thank you!)

And...coming on the first Sunday in May, the Nurture Committee will host **"Your Mom's Favorite Dessert,"** a chance to share family-favorites. Details to come!