



**St. Andrew
Presbyterian Church
of Aptos**

Rev. Anne McAnelly, Pastor
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CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

10:30 A.M.

✠ Annual Congregational Meeting ✠

January 26, 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*)

Children of God, we gather to worship, to sing and proclaim with joy the good works God is doing in our midst.

We gather to worship, as is our custom.

We also gather today to pray for our families, our community, and our world. To name the challenges that press in around us, to lament the suffering in our world, to declare our trust in God amid hardship.

We gather to worship, as is our custom.

We, like those in Nazareth, gather to hear and receive the Word of God proclaimed among us. To encounter the life-giving message of God's love which redeems us to be bearers of love and freedom in this world.

We gather to worship, as is our custom.

Children of God, listen. Pay attention. Ready your hearts. God is here. Jesus has come among us. The Spirit brings the Word to life in our midst. Are you ready?

We gather to worship, as is our custom. Thanks be to God! Amen.

*HYMN

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

GtG #39

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
there is no shadow of turning with thee.

Thou changest not; thy compassions they fail not.

As thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

Refrain:

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning, new mercies I see.
All I have needed thy hand hath provided.
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. (*Refrain*)

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow:
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! (*Refrain*)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

God, we do not understand Jesus, the prophet. We do not want to get our hands dirty with the poor, the oppressed, the prisoners. Forgive us for being insulated and isolated. Open our hearts to the poor and help us to love them as you love them, working to bring in the good news of the reign of God. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen. *Time for silent reflection.*

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

Our God fulfils his promises and is true to his word. We have confessed our sins.
God has forgiven us, because Christ died for us. **Amen.**

GLORIA PATRI (*unison*)

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.

SPECIAL MUSIC

How Can I Keep From Singing

by Lani Smith

Carolyn Crocker on Recorder; Eileen Mihm on Piano

recorder part written by E. Mihm

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.

Live into hope of captives freed, of sight regained,
the end of greed. The oppressed shall be
the first to see the year of God's own jubilee!

Live into hope! The blind shall see with insight
and with clarity, removing shades of pride and fear,
a vision of our God brought near.

Live into hope of liberty, the right to speak,
the right to be, the right to have
one's daily bread, to hear God's word and thus be fed.

Live into hope of captives freed from chains
of fear or want or greed. God now proclaims
our full release to faith and hope and joy and peace.

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

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

OT page# 436

...all the people gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the Lord had given to Israel. Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people answered, 'Amen, Amen', lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshipped the Lord with their faces to the ground. So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, 'This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn or

weep.' For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. Then he said to them, 'Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our Lord; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.'

SECOND LESSON

Luke 4:14-21

NT page #61

Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,

because he has anointed me

to bring good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives

and recovery of sight to the blind,

to let the oppressed go free,

to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.'

And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, 'Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.'

SERMON

Jesus' Inaugural Address

The Rev. Anne McAnelly

WE RESPOND IN FAITH

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH from the Brief Statement of Faith (*unison*)

In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve. We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. In a broken and fearful world, the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples. even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, Come, Lord Jesus! With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Carolyn on Alto Recorder; Eileen on Soprano Recorder

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*)

As we offer our gifts to you, Holy God, may we remember those who are forgotten by us too many times – the hungry, the lonely, the homeless, the vulnerable – yet are important citizens in your kingdom of grace, justice, and hope. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

WE LIVE TO SERVE

*HYMN

O Lord My God

GtG #625

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder consider
all the worlds thy hands have made,
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
thy power throughout the universe displayed:

Refrain:

Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee:
How great thou art! How great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee:
How great thou art! How great thou art!

When through the woods and forest glades I wander and hear
the birds sing sweetly in the trees,
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur and hear the brook
and feel the gentle breeze: (*Refrain*)

And when I think that God, his Son not sparing, sent him to die,
I scarce can take it in,
That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,
he bled and died to take away my sin: (*Refrain*)

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation and take me home,
what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration, and there proclaim,
"My God, how great thou art!" (*Refrain*)

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

BENEDICTION

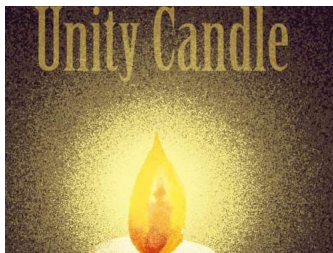
The service of worship ends, the service of neighbor and world begins!

TODAY'S WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

- LITURGIST: Sharon Allshouse
- GREETER: Keith McKenzie
- COFFEE HOSTS: Sharon and David Allshouse
- OFFERING COUNTER: Janet Maack



At the conclusion of worship today, we will hear reports from all our committees about the activities of the life of the church. You were emailed a packet during the week. There are a few printed packets on the Narthex table. If you have read the packets online, you can pick up a printed budget and Pastor's Terms of Call.



Unity Candle: Today we pray for the congregation of Westview Presbyterian Church. On January 19th we hosted the Presbytery Unity Candle as we Ordained and Installed our new Elders and Deacons. Our presbytery asked members from all the churches to pray for us that week. We now have the opportunity to do the same for the congregation hosting it this Sunday, Westview Presbyterian Church. Prayer is a way we take action on the connectional aspect of our church.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday, January 27th

Bible Study @ 1 pm

Bell Choir @ 2:30 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.

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!!!



Once again, St. Andrew is happy to provide the opportunity to **donate non-perishable food items and/or cash to Second Harvest Food Bank of Santa Cruz County.** A donation bin can be found in the narthex, and monetary donations can be put in the plate with "Second Harvest" written on the memo line. The collection will be delivered on February 9th!

SAVE THE DATE: Chili Cookoff hosted by Twin Lakes Church coming February 28th! More details to come.