



**St. Andrew
Presbyterian Church
of Aptos**

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

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CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

10:30 A.M.

✠ Fourth Sunday in Lent ✠

March 30, 2025

Guest Worship Leader: Rev. Dr. Neal Presa

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

** Please stand in body or in spirit.*

A WORD OF WELCOME AND RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP

CENTERING SONG

My Faith Looks Up to Thee

GtG # 829 (v. 1)

My faith looks up to Thee, Thou Lamb of Cal - va - ry, Sav - ior de - vine!

Now hear me while I pray; take all my guilt a - way; O let me

from this day be whol - ly thine!

***CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)** written by Joanna Rarader

We are branches, rooted in the vine of Christ.

We come because we seek to abide in Christ.

The branches that remain in the vine bear much fruit.

We come because we long to be spiritually vibrant, alive, productive.

If we abide in Christ, then Christ's words will abide in us.

We come because we strive to be faithful disciples.

We gather for worship now to the glory of the One God:

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer.

May we grow wildly as God tends us lovingly.

***PRAYER**

Praise ye the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!

O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation!

All ye who hear, now to his temple draw near; join me in glad adoration!

Praise ye the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,

shelters thee under his wings, yea, so gently sustaineth!

Hast thou not seen how thy desires e'er have been granted in what he ordaineth?

Praise ye the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!

All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before him!

Let the amen sound from his people again; gladly for aye we adore him.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

We carry our fears around with us like so much pocket lint, Compassionate Heart, when you would take them and toss them aside, spent and useless. You invite us to sit and chat with someone who wants to know more about you, but we are busy running errands. You give us a simple command—to love—and we complicate it with rules, worries, and doubts.

Forgive us, Vine Grower. You have planted those seeds of mercy, of hope, of grace deep within us, so we might bear rich and nourishing fruit for others. May we not get in the way of your Gardener, Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior, who will use the Holy Spirit to bring forth an abundant crop.

Time for silent reflection. AMEN.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE (responsive)

God abides in you! God is breathing, living, forgiving, restoring you in this moment, and in the days to come. This is the good news for us!

As God is in us, so we can live, work, care for others, so that love, hope and joy might touch all people. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven. 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.

ANTHEM

St. Andrew Choir

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Those with prayer requests worshipping online, please text Anne the day before so your request can be lifted-831-345-6324

Sharing Joys and Concerns

Song of prayer *O Lord, Hear My Prayer* (*pew song sheet*)

Prayers lifted to God and 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 Christ Be Our Light (4th & 5th stanzas only) GtG # 314

Longing for shelter, many are homeless. Longing for warmth, many are cold. Make us your building, sheltering others, walls made of living stone.

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.

Many the gifts, many the people, many the hearts that yearn to belong. Let us be servants to one another, making your kingdom come.

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION from N. Presa, *Worship, Justice, and Joy* (p. 45, 2025)

Alpha and Omega, Your speech was the first, and from You came light and all of creation, and Your speech will be the last. Speak to us in a way that only You can. Declare to us Your truth that transforms hearts, that conforms wills to Your own, that forms and sustains faith, that convicts us of our need of Your mercy and grace in Christ, that reassures us that we belong to You. You alone are our joy, so when You speak, faithful Lord, You make us glad for there is no other Word but Yours. So, beckon us continually on life's pilgrimage lest we fall or wander way. When we do, pursue us, call us, and never let us go. Teach us Your way and set our path to follow You, the One, and the same, Jesus the Christ. Amen.

FIRST LESSON Psalm 51:10-12 OT page#520

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.

Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me.

Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit.

SECOND LESSON John 15:1-11 NT page #109

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If

you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples. As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

SERMON

The Root and Fruit of Joy

The Rev. Dr. Neal D. Presa

WE RESPOND IN FAITH

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (unison) from the Brief Statement of Faith (1991)

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. . . In a broken and fearful world, the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

OFFERING

Doxology (*unison*)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;

Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Offering Prayer

WE LIVE TO SERVE

*HYMN

For Everyone Born

GtG # 769

For everyone born, a place at the table, for everyone born, clean water and bread,

A shelter, a space, a safe place for growing, for everyone born, a star overhead,

Refrain:

And God will delight when we are creators of justice and joy, compassion and peace:

Yes, God will delight when we are creators of justice, justice and joy!

For woman and man, a place at the table, revising the roles, deciding the share,

With wisdom and grace, dividing the power, for woman and man, a system that's fair, (refrain)

For young and for old, a place at the table, a voice to be heard, a part in the song,

The hands of a child in hands that are wrinkled, for young and for old, the right to belong,
(refrain)

For just and unjust, a place at the table, abuser, abused, with need to forgive,
In anger, in hurt, a mindset of mercy, for just and unjust, a new way to live, (refrain)

For everyone born, a place at the table, to live without fear, and simply to be,
To work, to speak out, to witness and worship, for everyone born, the right to be free, (refrain)

BENEDICTION

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

TODAY'S WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

- LITURGIST: Rev. Anne McAnelly
- GREETERS: Lori and Jack Burkett
- COFFEE HOSTS: Lori and Jack Burkett
- OFFERING COUNTER: Sandy Petznick

Join us after service as the Nurture Committee hosts the first of three 2025 FFFFs (Food, Fund, Fellowship on the Fifth Sunday). Lasagna, salad and dessert are on the menu. Bring your appetite, meet the Reverend Dr. Neal Presa.



Unity Candle

Today we pray for Gilroy Presbyterian Church, and Rev. Trevor Van Laar.
This Church was established in 1860, only 11 years after the Gold Rush of 1849 and just
six months before the start of the Civil War.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday, March 31st	Bible Study @ 1 pm, read Chapter 4
	Bell Choir @ 2:30 pm
Thursday, April 3 rd	Choir Rehearsal @ 2 pm

Lenten Study: You are invited to join us during Lent to explore forgiveness in our lives through Marjorie Thompson's book, "Forgiveness: A Lenten Study". On Monday, March 31st at 1:00 on Zoom (same link as worship) we will be discussing Chapter 4.

St. Andrew Spring Cleaning

Saturday April 12 from 9:00 am to 12:00

It is that time again to give the sanctuary its yearly cleaning! Come and help us wash the windows, clean the woodwork on the pews, dust the bibles and hymnals, vacuum and clean the fabric, etc. Please bring your favorite cleaning tools such as towels, squeegees, buckets, hand vacuums, and small step ladders to reach those tall windows.

Cleaning solution for the windows will be provided.

