



**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.

✠ Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time ✠

February 23, 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*)

How blessed we are that God forgives us and loves us!

For all those times when we have fallen short of what God would have us be, we have been forgiven.

God makes us new in God's Spirit!

Now is the time to joyfully accept the newness of life which God offers to us.

Come, let us worship and be thankful.

Let us open our hearts to the peace and joy of God. AMEN.

*HYMN

God Is Calling through the Whisper

GtG #410

God is calling through the whisper of the Spirit's deepest sighs,
through the thrill of sudden beauties that can catch us by surprise.
Flash of lightning, crash of thunder; hush of stillness, rush of wonder:
God is calling—can you hear? God is calling—can you hear?

God is calling through the voices of our neighbors' urgent prayers,
through their longing for redemption and for rescue from despair.
Place of hurt or face of needing; strident cry or silent pleading:
God is calling—can you hear? God is calling—can you hear?

God is calling through the music of sublime and human arts,
through the hymns of earth and angels, and the carols of our hearts.
Lift of joy and gift of singing; days and nights our praises bringing:
God is calling—and we hear! God is calling—and we hear!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(responsive)*

Temptation is to want a rulebook of laws which lead to salvation - not Grace.

The rules mean "we can do it". Grace means "God does it".

We are closed, O God. Open us to you.

It isn't being faithful, or even contrite, which is the most important thing. It is being "open". Open to acceptance of God's forgiveness, open to letting go of self, open to letting God just happen.

We are closed, O God. Open us to you.

We all work hard to be "perfect before God". In the meantime, we forget that once we have accepted Jesus the work is already done. We have nothing left to do but be ourselves, accept ourselves, and let the Holy Spirit do the rest of the "perfecting".

We are closed, O God. Open us to you.

Lord Jesus Christ, you know our faults and have heard our prayers. You have ripped apart the barriers that separate us from God and opened us to the grace of God through your sacrifice of love on a cross, and your resurrection from the dead. Promise of God, fill your people and give us peace.

The peace of the Lord be with you.

And also with you. (All share a greeting of peace.)

ANTHEM

St. Andrew Choir

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

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

God, How Can We Forgive

GtG #445

God, how can we forgive when bonds of love are torn?

How can we rise and start anew, our trust reborn?

When human loving fails and every hope is gone,
your love gives strength beyond our own to face the dawn.

When we have missed the mark, and tears of anguish
flow, how can you still release our guilt, the debt we owe?

The ocean depth of grace surpasses all our needs.

A priest who shares our human pain, Christ intercedes.

Who dares to throw the stone to damn another's sin,
when you, while knowing all our past, forgive again?
No more we play the judge, for by your grace we live.
As you, O God, forgive our sin, may we forgive.

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (*unison*)

Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that as the scriptures are read and your Word is proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us this day. Amen.

FIRST LESSON

Psalms 37:1-8

OT page# 510

Do not fret because of the wicked; do not be envious of wrongdoers,
for they will soon fade like the grass, and wither like the green herb.
Trust in the Lord, and do good; so you will live in the land, and enjoy security.
Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.
Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him, and he will act.
He will make your vindication shine like the light, and the justice of your cause like the noonday.
Be still before the Lord, and wait patiently for him; do not fret over those who prosper in their
way, over those who carry out evil devices.
Refrain from anger, and forsake wrath. Do not fret—it leads only to evil.

SECOND LESSON

Luke 6:27-38

NT page #64

"But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. Do to others as you would have them do to you. "If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. "Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back."

WE RESPOND IN FAITH

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH - *Song of Faith of the United Church of Canada (2006)*

We sing of God the Spirit,

who from the beginning has swept over the face of creation,
animating all energy and matter
and moving in the human heart.

We sing of God the Spirit,

faithful and untamable,
who is creatively and redemptively active in the world.

The Spirit challenges us to celebrate the holy

not only in what is familiar,
but also in that which seems foreign.

We sing of the Spirit,

who speaks our prayers of deepest longing
and enfolds our concerns and confessions,
transforming us and the world.

We offer worship

as an outpouring of gratitude and awe
and a practice of opening ourselves
to God's still, small voice of comfort,
to God's rushing whirlwind of challenge.

Through word, music, art, and sacrament,

in community and in solitude,
God changes our lives, our relationships, and our world.

OFFERING

Offering Music

Don Adkins

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 (*unison*)

Merciful God, who calls us to love beyond measure, we offer these gifts as a sign of
our commitment to your teachings. Help us love our enemies, do good to those who
hate us, and bless those who curse us. May our offerings bring healing and hope,
reflecting your boundless grace in our community. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

WE LIVE TO SERVE

*HYMN

For the Healing of the Nations

GtG #346 (Alt. tune Kingdom)

For the healing of the nations, Lord, we pray with one accord;
for a just and equal sharing of the things that earth affords;
to a life of love in action help us rise and pledge our word.

Lead us forward into freedom; from despair your world release,
that, redeemed from war and hatred, all may come and go in peace.
Show us how through care and goodness fear will die and hope increase.

All that kills abundant living, let it from the earth be banned:
pride of status, race, or schooling, dogmas that obscure your plan.
In our common quest for justice may we hallow life's brief span.

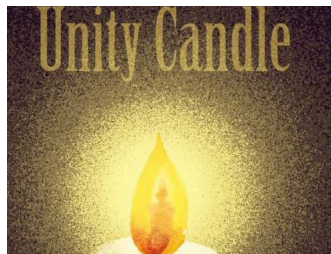
You, Creator God, have written your great name on humankind;
for our growing in your likeness, bring the life of Christ to mind,
That by our response and service earth its destiny may find.

BENEDICTION

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

TODAY'S WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

- **LITURGIST:** Pam Arnsberger
- **GREETER:** Pam Arnsberger
- **COFFEE HOSTS:** Sharon and David Allshouse
- **OFFERING COUNTER:** Pat Manning



Unity Candle: Today we pray for First Presbyterian Church of Monterey.
Prayer is a way we take action on the connectional aspect of our church.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday, February 24th

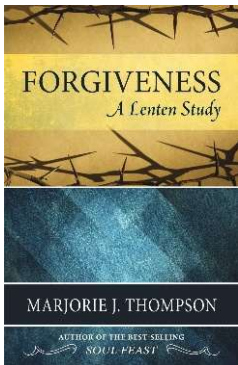
Bible Study @ 1 pm

Bell Choir @ 2:30 pm

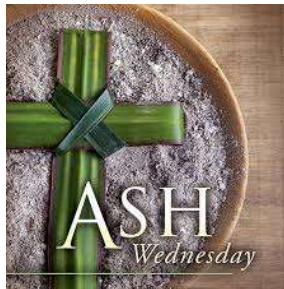
Friday, February 28th

Chili Cookoff!!! 6 pm at Twin Lakes Church

Join us each Monday at 1 pm for Bible Study. This Monday we will be contemplating Climate Justice, Lessons 6 and 7. On March 3rd we will finish our study with Lessons 8 and 9. 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.



Lenten Study on Forgiveness. "Forgiveness is the healing stream flowing out from the crucified Christ over a world that does not know how desperately it needs the healing" - a quote from Marjorie Thompson's study on Forgiveness. You are invited to join us during Lent to explore forgiveness in our lives. Starting March 10 at 1:00 on Zoom we will reflect on self-examination, honesty, repentance and forgiveness. You can purchase the book online.



Ash Wednesday, March 5th. Lent starts with Ash Wednesday. Historically we have joined with the Catholics on this holy day. But this year we are partnering with two churches to give you a choice as to when you want to mark this day and begin your Lenten journey. Join Pastor Anne at noon at Aptos Methodist church for imposition of ashes. Or if you would like a later service, join our fellow Christians at Christ Lutheran at 7:00 pm. We will be inviting these two communities to join us for our Maundy Thursday service.

The Great Chili Cook Off Is Coming! On **February 28** we will be hosting our **Chili Cook Off** once again! We will have great chili to taste, live music, and a great time of fellowship. If you have never been, churches compete for who has the best chili. The tickets are \$20.00 you can buy them after church. All proceeds go to support and maintain the shower ministry, Shower the People! This year we will be having the event at **Twin Lakes** (7000 bldg.) from 6:00 to 8:30. **Tickets are available here:** <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/8th-annual-great-chili-cook-off-twin-lakes-church-tickets-1224366576389>. Or you may purchase tickets at the door.