



**St. Andrew
Presbyterian Church
of Aptos**

Rev. Anne McAnelly, Pastor
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CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

10:30 A.M.

✠ Third Sunday in Lent ✠

March 23, 2025

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

** Please stand in body or in spirit.*

A WORD OF WELCOME AND RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP

A MINUTE FOR MISSION

Shari Gallegos

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*)

Wrap yourselves in the healing love of God!

We seek God's presence in our lives.

Know that God continually surrounds us with patience and persistence.

Even though we have not produced the "fruits" of hope that God seeks, yet God forgives and heals our weakness.

Rejoice! Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised!

We will turn our lives again to the Lord, to serve and seek God's presence. AMEN.

***PRAYER**

***HYMN**

God of Grace and God of Glory

GtG # 307

God of grace and God of glory, on thy people pour thy power; crown thine ancient church's story; bring its bud to glorious flower.

Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the facing of this hour, for the facing of this hour.

Lo! the hosts of evil round us scorn thy Christ, assail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us free our hearts to faith and praise.

Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the living of these days, for the living of these days.

Cure thy children's warring madness; bend our pride to thy control; shame our wanton, selfish gladness, rich in things and poor in soul.

Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, lest we miss thy kingdom's goal, lest we miss thy kingdom's goal.

Save us from weak resignation to the evils we deplore. Let the gift of thy salvation be our glory evermore.

Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, serving thee whom we adore, serving thee whom we adore.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

**A broken and contrite heart
is the acceptable sacrifice to you, O God.**

**And so we come before you today,
as sinners in need of your mercy.**

Grant us your forgiveness, O God.

Help us turn from our old ways.

**Lead us into newness of life,
that our actions may be found pleasing
in your sight. Amen.**

Time for silent reflection. AMEN.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

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 *Leaning on the Everlasting Arms* - arr. by Larry Sue St. Andrew Bell 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

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

Just as I Am, without One Plea

GtG # 442

Just as I am, without one plea but that thy blood was shed for me,
and that thou biddest me come to thee, O Lamb of God, I come; I come!

Just as I am, though tossed about with many_a conflict,
Many-a doubt, fightings and fears within, without, O Lamb of God, I come; I come!

Just as I am, thou wilt receive, wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse,
relieve; because thy promise I believe, O Lamb of God, I come; I come!

Just as I am, thy love unknown has broken every barrier down;
now to be thine, yea, thine alone, O Lamb of God, I come; I come!

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God of mercy, you promised never to break your covenant with us. In the midst of the multitude of words in our daily lives, speak your eternal Word to us, that we may respond to your gracious promises with faithfulness, service and love. Amen.

FIRST LESSON

Psalms 63:1-8

OT page# 527

O God, you are my God, I seek you, my soul thirsts for you;
my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding your power and glory.

Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you.

So I will bless you as long as I live; I will lift up my hands and call on your name.

My soul is satisfied as with a rich feast, and my mouth praises you with joyful lips
when I think of you on my bed, and meditate on you in the watches of the night;

for you have been my help, and in the shadow of your wings I sing for joy.

My soul clings to you; your right hand upholds me.

SECOND LESSON

Luke 13:1-9

NT page #76

At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of

Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.”

Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’ He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’”

SERMON **What Does Repentance Have to Do with Bearing Fruit?** The Rev. Anne McAnelly

WE RESPOND IN FAITH

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*unison*) - Patmos Abbey, The Order of Saint Columba

**We believe that our lives are held within the encircling love of God,
who knows our names and recognizes our deepest needs.**

**We believe that Christ is the divine Child of the living God,
and that his grace is like living waters that can never be exhausted.**

**We believe in the birthing, renewing, enabling Spirit of God
who yearns over our welfare as a mother yearns for her child.**

**We believe that God is in the arid desert as well as in green pastures,
and that hard times and disciplines are also loving gifts.**

**We believe that our journey has a purpose and a destination,
and that our path leads to a human glory we cannot yet imagine.**

**We believe that in the church we are fellow pilgrims on the road,
and that we are called to love one another as God loves us.**

This is our faith, and we are humbled to profess in Jesus the Christ. Amen

OFFERING

Offertory *Singing I Go* - arr. by Larry Sue St. Andrew Bell Choir

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

Amazing Grace

GtG # 649

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me!

I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved.
How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!
Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come.
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
The Lord has promised good to me; his word my hope secures.
He will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.
When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first begun.

BENEDICTION

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

TODAY'S WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

- LITURGIST: Pam Arnsberger
- GREETER: Stan Cowan
- COFFEE HOST: Janet Maack
- OFFERING COUNTER: Pat Manning



Unity Candle: Today we pray for Lincoln Avenue Presbyterian Church in Salinas

This congregation is over 100 years old consisting of families from all walks of life, and provides Children's Bible study conducted in both Japanese and English.

Our Presbytery has asked all churches and worshiping communities to pray for the host of the Unity Candle each week.

This afternoon: Lunch Cluster #2 will be gathering at 12 noon at **The Hideout**. Please note the change of location.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday, March 24th	Bible Study @ 1 pm, read Chapter 3 Bell Choir @ 2:30 pm
Thursday, March 20 th	Choir @ 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 24th at 1:00 on Zoom (same link as worship) we will be discussing Chapter 3.

Rev. Dr. Neal Presa, the Executive Presbyter (EP) of San Jose Presbytery, will be **preaching on March 30** at St. Andrew Church. Neal is an author, Seminary professor, past General Assembly Moderator and a wonderful human being. When I was Co-Chairing the committee to find our new EP, Neal impressed us greatly. He brings compassion, theology, presence and a wonderful mind to our Presbytery. He serves on the World Council of Churches representing PCUSA and yet is so approachable and welcoming. His new book is called, *Worship, Justice, and Joy: A Liturgical Pilgrimage*.



The Nurture Committee is hosting the first of three 2025 FFFFs (Food, Fund, Fellowship on the Fifth Sunday) Luncheons on **March 30** after Worship in Hubler. Lasagna, salad and dessert are on the menu. Bring your appetite, meet the Reverend Dr. Neal Presa, the Executive Presbyter of San Jose, and enjoy food and fellowship with your fellow parishioners. A \$10 donation would be much appreciated.

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.

