



St. Andrew Presbyterian Church of Aptos

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

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CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

10:30 A.M.

✠ Communion ✠

May 4, 2025

Guest Preacher: Rev. Karla Kress

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*)

We glorify you, O Lord, for you have lifted us up.

O Lord, our God, we cried out to you, and you healed us.

Sing praises to the Lord, O faithful ones, and praise God's holy name.

For God's anger is but for a moment, but God's favor is for a lifetime.

Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes with the morning.

O God, you have turned our mourning into dancing! Let us worship God!

*HYMN

Open My Eyes, That I May See

GtG # 451

Open my eyes, that I may see glimpses of truth thou hast for me.

Place in my hands the wonderful key that shall unclasp and set me free.

Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.

Open my eyes; illumine me, Spirit divine!

Open my ears, that I may hear voices of truth thou sendest clear.

And while the wave notes fall on my ear, everything false will disappear.

Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.

Open my ears; illumine me, Spirit divine!

Open my mouth, and let me bear gladly the warm truth everywhere.

Open my heart, and let me prepare love with thy children thus to share.

Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.

Open my heart; illumine me, Spirit divine!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(responsive)*

Risen from the dead, Jesus Christ longs for us to know life in all of its fullness, offering us renewal and refreshment, hope and forgiveness. Let us trust in the promise of Easter as we make our confession.

Generous God, in Jesus you have shown us love—love that seeks, love that suffers, love that survives all things. You call us, even command us, to show that love in our lives. Yet we turn away from what you would have us do. We confess that the ways of love are not our ways. We deny and ignore, hurt and hate, despise and reject. Have mercy on us. Help us to receive your love so that we can love others. Help us to receive your love so that we can love ourselves.

Time for silent reflection.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE *(responsive)*

The resurrection of Jesus shows us the grace of God is stronger than death and the love of God has no boundary. This is good news! **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!**

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

PASSING OF THE PEACE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Sharing Joys and Concerns

Song of prayer: *Come and Fill (pew song sheet)*

Prayers lifted to God *(responsive)*

Rejoicing in God's promise of new creation, let us pray to the Maker of heaven and earth, saying: **God of new life, hear our prayer.**

We pray for the church: Give us glad hearts and full voices to sing glory and honor and blessing to you with all the saints around your throne.

God of new life, hear our prayer.

We pray for the world: Protect those who are the victims of violence, threats, and persecution. Convert oppressors to your way of peace.

God of new life, hear our prayer.

We pray for this community: Help us to feed, tend, and care for those you have entrusted to us. Let our love show your love.

God of new life, hear our prayer.

We pray for loved ones: Remember all who suffer or grieve. Turn their mourning into dancing and their sorrow into joy.

God of new life, hear our prayer.

Gracious God, keep us working and praying for the coming of your holy realm of peace, when we will share abundant life with you; through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. **Amen.**

*HYMN

Be Thou My Vision

GtG #450

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art;
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true Word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
Thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tower;
raise thou me heavenward, O Power of my power.

Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise; thou,
mine inheritance, now and always;
Thou and thou only, first in my heart,
High King of Heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of Heaven, my victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (*responsive*)

In the reading and hearing of your Word, O God, remove the scales from our eyes that we may see your works and know your ways. **Amen.**

FIRST LESSON

Acts 9:1-20

NT page #127-128

Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest ² and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. ³ Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. ⁴ He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" ⁵ He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting." But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." ⁷ The men who were traveling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. ⁸ Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so

they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. ⁹ For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." He answered, "Here I am, Lord." ¹¹ The Lord said to him, "Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, ¹² and he has seen in a vision^a a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight." ¹³ But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem; ¹⁴ and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name." ¹⁵ But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; ¹⁶ I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name." ¹⁷ So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." ¹⁸ And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, ¹⁹ and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, ²⁰ and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God."

SECOND LESSON

John 21:1-19

NT page #115-116

After these things Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and he showed himself in this way. ² Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will go with you." They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. ⁵ Jesus said to them, "Children, you have no fish, have you?" They answered him, "No." ⁶ He said to them, "Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. ⁷ That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the sea. ⁸ But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off.

When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. ¹⁰ Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught." ¹¹ So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred fifty-three of them; and though there were so many, the net was not torn. ¹² Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, "Who are you?" because they knew it was the Lord. ¹³ Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the

fish. ¹⁴ This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

¹⁵ When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." ¹⁶ A second time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep." ¹⁷ He said to him the third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" And he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep. ¹⁸ Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go."

SERMON

On the Road Again

The Rev. Karla Kress

WE RESPOND IN FAITH

OFFERING

As God gave us Christ, the first fruit of creation, let us humbly offer the substance of our lives in thanksgiving to our God.

Doxology Alternative words (*unison*)

GtG #607

D A D

Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow. Praise God, all crea-tures

Bm A D G D Bm E A D

high and low. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise

D

God, in Je - sus ful - ly known: Cre - a - tor, Word, and Spir - it

G A D Em A Bm

one. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -

Em D G A Em G A D

lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Offering Prayer (*unison*)

Eternal God, take and use these gifts for your purpose in the world—giving food to the hungry, hope to the despairing, and new life to the dead. Teach us to live each day for you, so that future generations will know your goodness and praise your glory; in the name of Christ our Lord. Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION

All are welcome at Christ's table. Belief in Christ, not membership, offers you this loving invitation.

INVITATION

Brothers and sisters in Christ, the gospels tell us that on the first day of the week, the day on which our Lord rose from the dead, he appeared to some of his disciples and was made known to them in the breaking of bread.

O taste and see that the LORD is good; happy are those who take refuge in him.

Come, then, to the joyful feast of our Lord.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

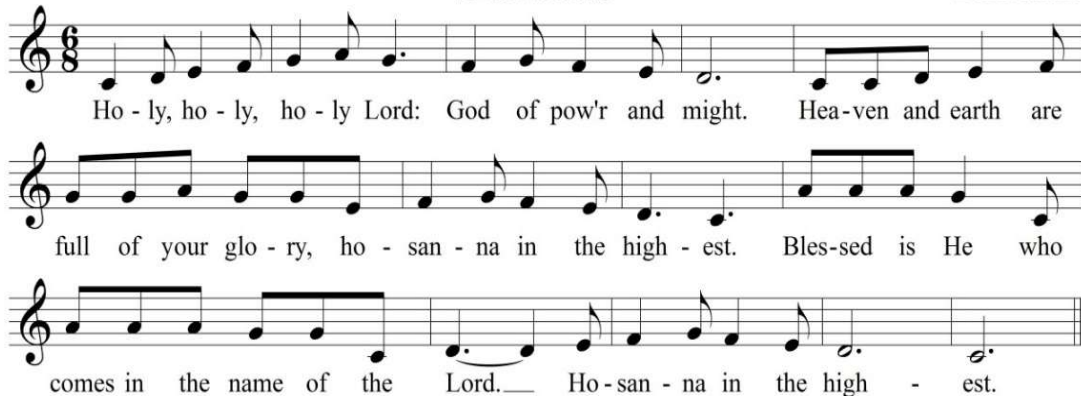
It is right for us to give thanks and praise.

It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise. At your word the earth was made and spun on its course among the planets. Your hand formed us from the dust of the earth and set us among your creatures to love and serve you. When we were unfaithful to you, you kept faith with us, your love remained steadfast. When we were slaves in Egypt, you broke the bond so oppression, brought us through the sea to freedom and made covenant to be our God. You spoke love and justice in the prophets, and in the Word made flesh you lived among us, manifesting your glory. He died that we might live, and is risen to raise us to new life.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with angles and archangels and with all the faithful of every time and place singing:

Sanctus

Don Adkins



You are holy, O God of majesty, and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, whom you sent to save us. He came with healing in his touch, and was wounded for our sins. He came with mercy in his voice, and was mocked as one despised. He came with peace in his heart, and met with violence and death. By your power he broke free from the prison of the tomb, and at his command the gates of death were opened. The one who humbled himself is raised to rule over all creation, the Lamb upon the throne.

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and wine, that our sharing of the bread we break and the cup we bless may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ. Nourished at this table, O God, may we know Christ's redemptive love and live a new life in him. Help us who recognize our Lord in the breaking of the bread to see and serve him in all whose lives are broken. Give us who are fed at his hand, grace to share our bread with the hungry and the hungry of heart. Keep us faithful in your service until Christ comes in final victory and we shall feast with all your saints in the joy of your eternal realm. Following Christ's example let us join in praying his prayer (**The Lord's prayer**)

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

DISTRIBUTION OF THE BREAD AND THE CUP *{Let us retain the elements so we may partake together. While the elements are being served, the congregation is invited to sing:*

Eat This Bread

I Am the Bread of Life

CLOSING PRAYER

As Christ burst forth from the tomb, may new life burst forth from us and show itself in acts of love and healing to a hurting world. And may that same Christ, who lives forever and is the source of our new life, keep your hearts rejoicing and grant you peace this day and always. Amen.

WE LIVE TO SERVE

*HYMN

Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness

GtG #314

Longing for light, we wait in darkness. Longing for truth, we turn to you.

Make us your own, your holy people, light for the world to see.

Refrain:

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.

Longing for peace, our world is troubled. Longing for hope, many despair.

Your word alone has power to save us. Make us your living voice. (Refrain)

Longing for food, many are hungry. Longing for water, many still thirst.

Make us your bread, broken for others, shared until all are fed. (Refrain)

Longing for shelter, many are homeless. Longing for warmth, many are cold.

Make us your building, sheltering others, walls made of living stone. (Refrain)

Many the gifts, many the people, many the hearts that yearn to belong.

Let us be servants to one another, making your kingdom come. (Refrain)

BENEDICTION

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

Thanks to "Call to Worship Journal" for elements of liturgy May 4, 2025, Office of Theology and Worship, PC (USA)

TODAY'S WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

- LITURGIST: David Allshouse
- GREETER: Janet Maack
- COFFEE HOST: Linda Walker
- COMMUNION: Pat Manning, Janet Maack, Pam Arnsberger
- OFFERING COUNTER: Janet Maack

THIS WEEK AT ST. ANDREW

Monday, May 5th

Bell Choir @ 2:30 pm

Thursday, May 8th

Choir Rehearsal @ 2 pm

Saturday, May 10th

Men's Breakfast 9 am (see ad)

Mom's Favorite Dessert

Sunday, May 18th



Remember when you were a kid and your Mom made the world's greatest dessert?

It's time to dust off that ancient recipe if you have it (or are able to Google it), make it and share it with some of your favorite people.

On Sunday May 18th, bring your Mom's specialty, the one you haven't made in years, and we'll all gather after church to taste the magic and share some fellowship.

If yours is a masterpiece and you haven't pledged secrecy, bring a copy of the recipe so that others can recreate it. Whether you bring a creation or not, stay and enjoy the fun!



NEW Book Study! Starting May 12th we will discuss Richard Rohr's newest book, *The Tears of Things*. From Penguin Random House website: *How do we live compassionately in a time of violence and despair? What can we do with our private disappointments and the anger we feel in such an unjust world? In his most personal book yet, Richard Rohr turns to the writings of the Jewish prophets, revealing how some of the lesser-read books of the Bible offer us a crucial path forward today.* Join us Mondays at 1 pm via Zoom.

