



**St. Andrew
Presbyterian Church
of Aptos**

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Worship Bulletin for July 20, 2025

** Please stand in body or in spirit.*

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

Welcome and Announcements

***Call to Worship** (*responsive*)

God calls us here to worship. We carry many worries and are distracted by many things, but here, in this time and place, we are invited to set them aside, to be fully present. Let's pause and take a deep breath.

We remember who we are:

We are the body of Christ.

We remember whose we are:

We are God's beloved children.

We remember our chief purpose:

To glorify and enjoy God forever.

Let us worship God!

***Hymn**

The Church is One Foundation

GtG # 321

The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord.

She is his new creation by water and the word.

From heaven he came and sought her to be his holy bride.

With his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.

Elect from every nation, yet one o'er all the earth, her charter of salvation:
one Lord, one faith, one birth.

One holy name she blesses, partakes one holy food,
and to one hope she presses, with every grace endued.

Though with a scornful wonder this world sees her oppressed,
by schisms rent asunder, by heresies distressed,

Yet saints their watch are keeping; their cry goes up: "How long?"
And soon the night of weeping shall be the morn of song.

Mid toil and tribulation, and tumult of her war,
she waits the consummation of peace forevermore:

Till with the vision glorious her longing eyes are blest,
and the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.

Yet she on earth has union with God, the Three in One,
and mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won:

O happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we, like them,
the meek and lowly, may live eternally.

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Holy God, we are pulled in many different directions. We are distracted by the news, quick to point fingers and pass judgment, but reluctant to examine the ways we benefit from the injustice in our world. We are distracted by our tasks, by calendars that shape our priorities, leaving us with less time and energy for what is most important. We confess our distraction, even as we acknowledge that sometimes we embrace it because it's easier than sitting at Jesus's feet, learning what it means to follow him. We confess that distraction is easier than discipleship. Forgive us. Help us discern and choose the better path as we seek to follow Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Time for silent reflection.

Assurance of Grace

This good news will not be taken away: We are seen as God's beloved children, holy and blameless, reconciled to God through Jesus Christ. Let us live into this good news: we are forgiven!

***Gloria Patri**

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.

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Please text Anne prayer requests the day before so your request can be lifted-831345-6324

Sharing Joys and Concerns

Song of prayer "Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying" (*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

Christ Be Beside Me

GtG # 702

Christ be beside me; Christ be before me; Christ be behind me, King of my heart.

Christ be within me; Christ be below me; Christ be above me, never to part.

Christ on my right hand, Christ on my left hand, Christ all around me, shield in the strife.

Christ in my sleeping, Christ in my sitting, Christ in my rising, Light of my life.

Christ be in all hearts thinking about me; Christ be on all tongues telling of me.

Christ be the vision in eyes that see me; in ears that hear me Christ ever be.

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

God of Wisdom, still our hearts and silence our distractions so that we can be fully present to your Word. Through the power of your Holy Spirit, let us hear what you have to say to us today, and give us the courage to listen and respond to your call. In Jesus' name, Amen.

First Lesson:

Genesis 18:1-10a

OT page #14

The Lord appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them and bowed down to the ground. He said, "My lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your servant. Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant." So they said, "Do as you have said." And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah and said, "Make ready quickly three

measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes.” Abraham ran to the herd and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared and set it before them, and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

They said to him, “Where is your wife Sarah?” And he said, “There, in the tent.” Then one said, “I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son.” And Sarah was listening at the tent entrance behind him.

Second Lesson:

Colossians 1:15-28

NT page #200

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation, for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

And you who were once estranged and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his fleshly body through death, so as to present you holy and blameless and irreproachable before him, provided that you continue securely established and steadfast in the faith, without shifting from the hope promised by the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven. I, Paul, became a minister of this gospel.

I am now rejoicing in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am completing what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church. I became its minister according to God's commission that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, the mystery that has been hidden throughout the ages and generations but has now been revealed to his saints. To them God chose to make known how great among the gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. It is he whom we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone in all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ.

Sermon

In Christ

The Rev. Anne McAnelly

WE RESPOND IN FAITH

***Affirmation of Faith** (from A Declaration of Faith)

We believe Christ gives us and demands of us personal lives that are centered in God and open to God's reality and rule. Christ teaches us to put obedience to God above the interests of self, family, race or nation; to offer God joyously our money, ability, and time. It is part of our discipline to observe a day of worship and rest, setting aside our own working to enjoy God's work, celebrating with our family in Christ the Lord's goodness. We need constantly to search out God's way in Scripture, not expecting detailed directions for every decision, but relying on the Word to tell us who God is, to press God's present claim on us, and to assure us of God's grace and comfort.

Offering

Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ, all people here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore; Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

Offering Prayer (unison)

Abundant God, we give thanks for your grace and provision in our lives. Use these gifts to meet the physical and spiritual needs of our community and the world. May they witness to your love and care for all people, as we offer our time and energy to do the same. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

WE LIVE TO SERVE

***Hymn** God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me GtG # 543

God, be the love to search and keep me; God, be the prayer to move my voice;

God, be the strength to now uphold me:

O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me.

Bind to myself the Name of Holy, great cloud of witnesses enfold;

Prophets, apostles, angels witness:

O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me.

Brightness of sun and glow of moonlight, flashing of lightning, strength of wind,

Depth of the sea to soil of planet: O Christ, surround me;

O Christ, surround me.

Walking behind to hem my journey, going ahead to light my way,
And from beneath, above, and all ways:
O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me.

Christ in the eyes of all who see me, Christ in the ears that hear my voice,
Christ in the hearts of all who know me:
O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me.

Benediction

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

TODAY'S SERVERS

LITURGIST: Carolyn Crocker

GREETER: Eileen Mihm

COFFEE HOSTS: Bill and Nancy Samsel

OFFERING COUNTER: Pam Arnsberger

Unity Candle: This week we pray for Covenant Presbyterian Church in Palo Alto, and the Rev. Jack Cabaness.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Book Study: Join us to discuss our final chapters of Richard Rohr's, *The Tears of Things*. On Monday at 1 pm via Zoom, we will discuss chapters 9 and 10. Look for our next Book Study to begin in September!

On July 27, Lunch Cluster #2 with Michele Pomroy will meet at Sanderlings following worship.