



**St. Andrew
Presbyterian Church
of Aptos**

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Worship Bulletin for August 31, 2025

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

Welcome and Announcements

***Call to Worship** (responsive)

Gathered to worship God,

We are all right where we belong.

Called to this celebration of worship by God's Spirit,

We approach God with joy in our hearts.

Nourished by the love of Jesus, God's Son,

We gladly feast at this banquet of grace.

***Hymn**

Live into Hope

GtG # 772

Live into hope of captives freed, of sight regained, the end of greed.

The oppressed shall be the first to see the year of God's own jubilee!

Live into hope! The blind shall see with insight and with clarity,
removing shades of pride and fear, a vision of our God brought near.

Live into hope of liberty, the right to speak, the right to be, the right to
have one's daily bread, to hear God's word and thus be fed.

Live into hope of captives freed from chains of fear or want or greed.
God now proclaims our full release to faith and hope and joy and peace.

Prayer of Confession (unison)

Holy God, we compare ourselves with others, wondering if we are better than them. We judge one another, trying to justify ourselves. We seek to establish our superiority by assuming positions of honor. Forgive us, we pray. Free us to see ourselves truthfully and to love one another with humble, gracious spirits. Amen.

Time for silent reflection.

Assurance of Grace

God alone has the authority to judge, and by the grace of Jesus Christ, God has declared that we are forgiven of all our sin.

Thanks be to God!

***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.

Special Music

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-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**

Come and Seek the Ways of Wisdom

GtG # 174

Come and seek the ways of Wisdom, she who danced when earth was new. Follow closely what she teaches, for her words are right and true. Wisdom clears the path to justice, showing us what love must do.

Listen to the voice of Wisdom, crying in the marketplace. Hear the Word made flesh among us, full of glory, truth, and grace. When the word takes root and ripens, peace and righteousness embrace.

Sister Wisdom, come, assist us; nurture all who seek rebirth. Spirit-guide and close companion, bring to light our sacred worth. Free us to become your people, holy friends of God and earth.

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Open our hearts and minds, O God, by your Holy Spirit's power, that as scripture is read and the Gospel announced, we might receive with open hearts whatever you speak to us this day. Amen.

Take away the dross from the silver, and the smith has material for a vessel; take away the wicked from the presence of the king, and his throne will be established in righteousness. Do not put yourself forward in the king's presence or stand in the place of the great, for it is better to be told, "Come up here," than to be put lower in the presence of a noble.

On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the Sabbath, they were watching him closely. When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. "When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host, and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, 'Give this person your place,' and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher'; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted. He said also to the one who had invited him, "When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers and sisters or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. ¹³ But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. And you will be blessed because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

WE RESPOND IN FAITH

***Affirmation of Faith** (eatprayloveliturgy.wordpress.com)

We believe in a world full of riches meant for all to enjoy. We believe in one race, the family of humankind, learning to live together in humility and patience. We believe in one life, exciting and positive, which celebrates all beauty, integrity and science; which uses the disciplines of work to enrich society, and which finds fulfillment in harmony with the life and teaching of Jesus. We believe in one morality, Love; the essential ingredient of all thought and motive; practical, sharing the sorrows and joys of others, bringing people together in true friendship, working to get rid of the causes of poverty, ignorance, fear and injustice; energy springing from God forgiving and accepting us.

We believe in Jesus, and in the Bible's evidence about him; whole life, death and resurrection prove God's permanent love for the world. Jesus, who is himself life, love, truth, humanity and God. Who saves, guides and unites all people who follow his way and makes them confident under his Holy Spirit's inspiration. We believe in purpose; the purpose of God, working through the Spirit in our world to unite everything, spiritual and secular; to bring about constructive revolution in society, individuals and nations, and to consummate world history under his fatherly love.

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

Gracious God, we offer to you these gifts, both as signs of our gratitude and as instruments of your reign. Use these gifts, and us, that your way of love and peace, transformation and hope might flourish in this place. Amen.

WE LIVE TO SERVE

*Hymn

Lord, Speak to Me That I May Speak

GtG # 722

Lord, speak to me that I may speak in living echoes of your tone.

As you have sought, so let me seek your erring children, lost and lone.

O lead me, Lord, that I may lead the wandering and the wavering feet.

O feed me, Lord, that I may feed your hungering ones with manna sweet.

O teach me, Lord, that I may teach the precious truths which you impart.

And wing my words that thy may reach the hidden depths of many a heart.

O fill me with your fullness, Lord, until my very heart o'erflow in kindling
thought and glowing word, your love to tell, your praise to show.

O use me, Lord, use even me, just as you will, and when, and where
until your blessed face I see, your rest, your joy, your glory share.

Benediction

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

TODAY'S SERVERS

LITURGIST: Nancy Samsel

GREETERS: Dorothy Glaum

COFFEE HOST: FFFF Fifth Sunday Meal

OFFERING COUNTER: Kathryn Adkins

Unity Candle: This week we pray for Watsonville Public House

ANNOUNCEMENTS

This Week

Today: FFFF Fifth Sunday Meal in Hubler Hall following worship

Monday, September 1st: Bell Choir at 11AM, Thomas Lounge

Tuesday, September 2nd: Enrichment Meeting at 2PM, Zoom

September 2nd-6th: Pastor Anne on vacation

OFFICE CLOSED September 1st in observance of Labor Day

Upcoming Events

- In **Do I Stay Christian**, by Brian McLaren, we discuss some of the reasons people are leaving the church and many reasons to stay. The focus is on making an honest, ethical decision about religious identity.

September 9th (Tuesday) at 1:00. Note the new day- Tuesday on Zoom.

Please purchase your own book and read the introduction through Ch. 2 for the first class.

- **New Member class.** This is an opportunity to learn about the Presbyterian church, this congregation and to answer any questions. After attending the class, if you decide this is right for you, you will join the church during Sunday Worship.

Sept 14th (Sunday) first class following worship

Sept 16th (Tuesday) at 5:15 meet with Session on Zoom for 15- 20 mins.

Sept 28th (Sunday) second class following worship

October 12 (Sunday) Join the church during worship.

Please let Anne know if you have any questions.