



**St. Andrew
Presbyterian Church
of Aptos**

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Worship Bulletin for December 14, 2025

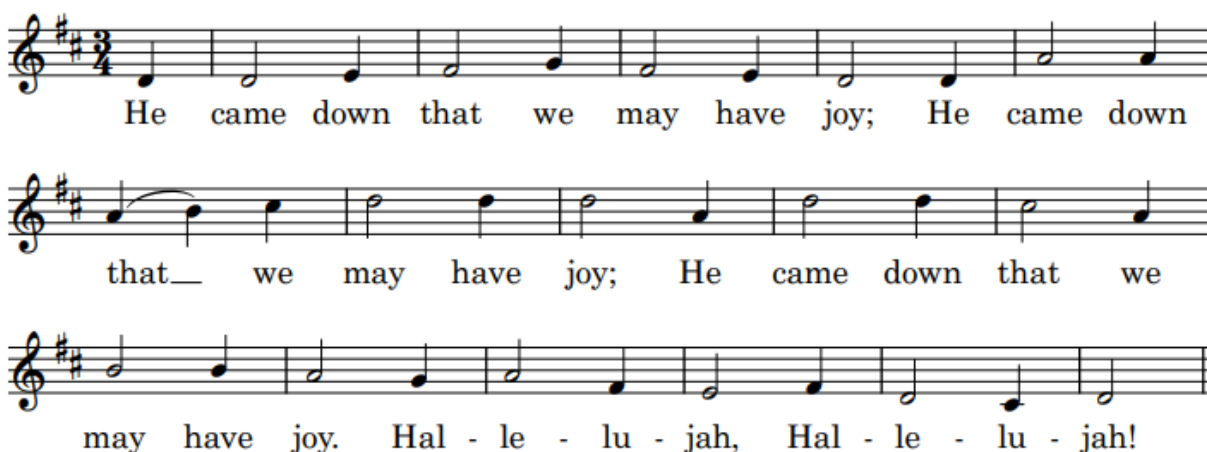
WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting the Advent Candle

Gwen Yeo and Al Cheney

He Came Down (Joy)



Prayer

Loving God, we open ourselves to you,
trusting that this is how you made us:
you created us for joy-filled hearts and lives.
Show us the creative power of hope.
Teach us the peace that comes from justice.
Fill us with the kind of joy that cannot be contained, but must be shared.
Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you,
That we may walk in the light of Christ. Amen.

*Call to Worship (responsive)

Be patient! Wait and Watch for the Lord is drawing near to us.

We have gathered to hear the good news and to gather strength for the times to come.

Be at peace with one another.

Let love and wisdom prevail.

Open your hearts and souls to God's healing word.

Lord, touch our hearts. Teach us to patiently listen for your words of love. AMEN.

Awake! Awake, and greet the new morn, for angels herald its dawning.
Sing out your joy, for soon he is born, behold! the Child of our longing.
Come as a baby weak and poor, to bring all hearts together,
he opens wide the heavenly door and lives now inside us forever.

To us, to all in sorrow and fear, Emmanuel comes a-singing;
his humble song is quiet and near, yet fills the earth with its ringing;
Music to heal the broken soul and hymns of loving-kindness.
The thunder of his anthems rolls to shatter all hatred and violence.

In darkest night his coming shall be, when all the world is despairing,
as morning light so quiet and free, so warm and gentle and caring.
Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in wonder,
the weak be raised above the strong, and weapons be broken asunder.

Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night. Though dark the winter and cheerless,
the rising sun shall crown you with light; be strong and loving and fearless.
Love be our song and love our prayer and love our endless story;
may God fill every day we share and bring us at last into glory.

Prayer of Confession (unison)

Patient Lord, forgive our lack of faith in your loving power. We look around us and all that we see is what we don't have. We fail to notice the daily blessings you lavish upon us. Clear our blindness to the needs of others. Strengthen us and move us from lame excuses for not serving you. Help us to truly listen to one another, not with our pat answers ready, but with loving and generous hearts. Heal us and make us ready to truly be your disciples. In Jesus' Name, we pray. AMEN.

Time for silent reflection.

Assurance of Grace

Behold and believe in the wondrous power and love of God! It is poured out for you and for God's beloved world. Rejoice in this good news, for it is given especially to you. AMEN.

***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

(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 *Come and Fill Our Hearts with your JOY* (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, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* GtG # 82

Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king,
born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination (*unison*)

Speak to us, Lord. Speak to us in the waiting, the watching,
the hoping, the longing, the sorrow, the sighing, the rejoicing.
Speak to us by your Word in these Advent days,
and walk with us until the day of your coming. Amen

First Lesson: Psalm 146:5-10 OT page #581

Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord their God, who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them; who keeps faith forever; who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry. The Lord sets the prisoners free; the Lord opens the eyes of the blind. The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous. The Lord watches over the strangers; he upholds the orphan and the widow, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin. The Lord will reign forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the Lord!

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with a skin disease are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me." As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What, then, did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' "Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist, yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

Sermon

Are You the One?

The Rev. Anne McAnelly

WE RESPOND IN FAITH

*Affirmation of Faith by Bruce Prewer (*unison*)

I believe in the Living God who is directly involved in the affairs of the world.

I believe that God chooses the meek and the poor to shame the proud and the rich.

I believe in the incarnate Word, leaping in a woman's womb, cradled in poverty.

I believe in Jesus, true son of Mary, true Son of God, who came among us in weakness, that we might come to know the profound strength available to common people who turn to God in trust and with love. Yes, my friends, this I truly believe.

Offering

Offertory

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 (responsive)

Gracious God of deep joy, even when storms rage and doubts rise, you call us to see with kingdom eyes—to look for healing, hope, and signs of your grace breaking in. In this Advent season of expectation and weariness, we bring these gifts as expressions of joy, rooted not in ease but in trust. May our giving bear witness to your good news: that the blind still see, the lame still walk, and the poor still receive care. Use these offerings and us as signs of your coming reign, lights in the storm, and carriers of joy. In the name of Jesus, our hope and our Redeemer. **Amen**

WE LIVE TO SERVE

***Hymn**

Joy to the World

GtG# 134

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her king; let every heart
prepare him room, And heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven
and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ, while fields and floods,
rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
Far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
And wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

Benediction

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

TODAY'S SERVERS

LITURGIST: Myles Billheimer

GREETER: Janet Maack

COFFEE HOST: Janet Maack

OFFERING COUNTER: David Allshouse

Unity Candle: Today we pray for Westminster Presbyterian Church in San Jose

ANNOUNCEMENTS

This Week

Monday: Bell Choir at 9AM, Thomas Lounge
Operations Meeting at 10AM

Tuesday, Session Meeting at 4PM, Zoom
Walking Backwards bible study at 1PM, Zoom. Read Ch. 9-11

Wednesday, Deacons Meeting is cancelled

Thursday, Choir Practice at 2PM

Let the Office know if you would like to sign-up for bible study by Jan. 4th. Book costs \$15 and begins Feb. 3rd. **Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ by Rhashell D. Hunter**

Next Week

- **Wednesday, Dec. 24th:** Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 5:30PM
- **Office Closed:** December 25 ~ January 3
- **Joanna is OUT:** January 2-18, 2026

We are completing January bulletins in December. Please let the office know if you have any announcements you would like to have included.