



**St. Andrew
Presbyterian Church
of Aptos**

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Worship Bulletin for December 21, 2025

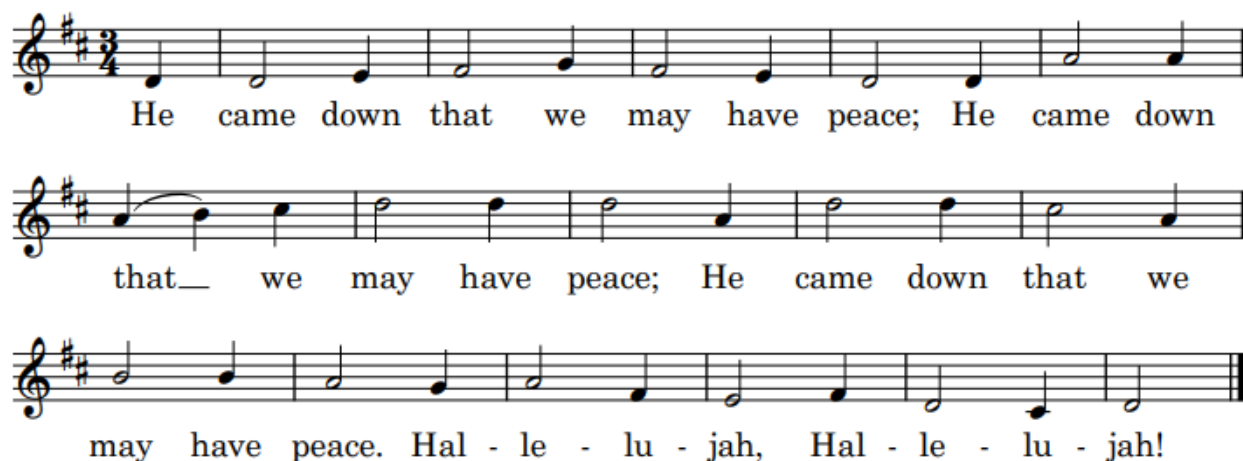
WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting the Advent Candle

Eileen Mihm and Jennifer Power

He Came Down, 2x (Peace)



Prayer (*unison*)

Prince of Peace, Light of the World, as we light this candle, we open our hearts to your love. Bring peace to our homes, our communities, and our world. Teach us to be bearers of your love wherever there is hatred or hurt. May your love shine through us until your kingdom comes and peace reigns forever. Amen.

*Call to Worship (*responsive*)

Stop. Listen. Pay attention. Love is coming near.

We wait in the love of the coming Messiah that transforms us.

The Hope Bringer, Peace Maker, Joy Sustainer grows in a womb, preparing to be born among us.

We wait in the love of the coming Messiah that transforms us.

So let us join our voices and our lives in magnifying God, our Savior!

We come to wait and to declare the coming of the Love that transforms us! Amen.

Advent Prayer *written by Fr. Henri J. M. Nouwen*

***Hymn**

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

GtG # 88 (v.1, 4, 5, 6, 7)

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.

(Refrain)

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Root of Jesse, free
thine own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell thy people save
and give them victory o'er the grave. **(Refrain)**

O come, thou Key of David, come,
and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery. **(Refrain)**

O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight. **(Refrain)**

O come, Desire of nations, bind
all peoples in one heart and mind;
bid envy, strife, and discord cease;
fill the whole world with heaven's peace. **(Refrain)**

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Holy God, we aspire to love and trust you, But so often we get in the way of ourselves.
We see only the deep sadness of the world, and do not notice your people at work amid
the sorrow. We assume that things will never get better, And do not see all that is good
right now. We close our eyes and complain about the darkness, Rather than see the light
that shines all around us. Help us, Holy One. Help us to grow in love and trust, in
compassion and hope, so that as the Christ Child comes to us once again,
We will see him, and know him, and rejoice. Amen.

Time for silent reflection.

Assurance of Grace

Even now—yes, even in this very moment, God comes to us,
bringing hope, bringing forgiveness,
bringing grace as freely offered gifts to us.

May we open our hearts to the God who is with us,
and receive the gifts which have been offered to us.
Thanks be to God. 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.

Anthem

Now Come, O Promised One

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 *Come and Fill Our Hearts with your PEACE* *(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**

People Look East

GtG # 105

People, look east. The time is near
of the crowning of the year.

Make your house fair as you are able;
trim the hearth and set the table.

People, look east and sing today:

Love, the Guest, is on the way.

Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,
one more seed is planted there.

Give up your strength the seed to nourish,
that in course the flower may flourish.

People, look east and sing today:

Love, the Rose, is on the way.

Birds, though you long have ceased to build,
guard the nest that must be filled.

Even the hour when wings are frozen
God for fledging time has chosen.

People, look east and sing today:

Love, the Bird, is on the way.

Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim
one more light the bowl shall brim,
shining beyond the frosty weather,
bright as sun and moon together.

People, look east and sing today:

Love, the Star, is on the way.

Angels, announce with shouts of mirth
Christ who brings new life to earth.
Set every peak and valley humming
with the word, the Lord is coming.

People, look east and sing today:

Love, the Lord, is on the way.

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination *(responsive)*

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:

Isaiah 7:10-14

OT page #636

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, "Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test." Then Isaiah said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel.

Second Lesson:

Matthew 1:18-25

NT page #1

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

WE RESPOND IN FAITH

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

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)

Holy One, this Advent season we wait with love,

And we give with love.

Love for you, our God;

Love for your beautiful people.

Receive these generous offerings,

And use them for your works of love in our world. Amen.

WE LIVE TO SERVE

***Hymn**

O Little Town of Bethlehem

GtG# 121

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!

Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.

Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;

the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary and, gathered all above,

while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.

O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,

and praises sing to God the king, and peace to all on earth.

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!

So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.

No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,

where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.

O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us; abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

Benediction

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

TODAY'S SERVERS

LITURGIST: Erik Ottem

GREETER: Dorothy Glaum

COFFEE HOST: Stan Cowan

OFFERING COUNTER: Janet Maack

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

This Week

Monday: **Bell Choir at 2:15PM, Thomas Lounge**

Wednesday, **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 5:30PM**

Saturday, **Showers Ministry at St. John's Church, Aptos from 11-2PM**

REMINDER: Dec. 28th is the last Sunday to make contribution for 2025.

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.**

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.