



**St. Andrew
Presbyterian Church
of Aptos**

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Worship Bulletin for December 28, 2025

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

Welcome and Announcements

Invitation to Worship (*meditation*)

We come together on this day, beginning in silence, listening. Listen to your breath, hear the wind, the breath of God breathing in you. Take deep, grateful breaths, focusing your awareness on the presence of the Divine, connecting you to all of creation, knowing that your breath is dependent on the breath of the trees. Allow yourself to relax into this welcoming place. You belong here, on this hill, with the redwoods and the owls, with the flowers and the deep loamy soil. Listen to the gurgling of the fountain, the waves pounding on the far-off shore, tasting the salt in the air. The water is the arteries of life flowing throughout the planet, mirroring the arteries of blood flowing through your own body. You are a welcome part of this ecosystem. We come from the same dust, stars exploded millenia ago—we are related, we are truly a kin-dom with all of creation. Take another deep breath of gratitude and be fully present to this moment.

Based on Victoria Loorz, "Church of the Wild, How Nature Invites us into the Sacred"

***Hymn**

Sing Praise to God, You Heavens!

GtG # 17

Sing praise to God, you heavens! Sing praise, each shining light!

Sing, planets in your orbits; sing, stars all burning bright!

Sing praise, you winds and tempests, you driving rain and snow!

Sing, clouds that race and billow and shadow earth below!

Sing praise, O earth, sing praises! Sing praises, hill and plain,
you mountains thrusting skyward, you valleys ripe with grain!

Sing praise, each fragrant flower; your fairest hues display.

Sing praise, you trees of autumn in glowing, glad array!

Sing praises, all you creatures in whom God takes delight:
you whales that roam the oceans, you eagles in your flight!

Sing praise, you sheep on hillsides, you cattle in the stall!

Though wordless, sing your praises to God who made you all!

Sing praises now, God's people; your gift of speech employ
to praise the Lord, your Maker, with thankfulness and joy!
Sing with the whole creation; a cosmic chorus raise:
"To God alone be glory and everlasting praise!"

Opening Prayer (*responsive*)

God of all glory, on this first day you began creation, bringing light out of darkness. On this first day you began your new creation, raising Jesus from the darkness of death. On this Lord's Day grant that we, the people you create by water and the Spirit, may be joined with all your works in praising you for your great glory. Through Jesus the Christ, in union with the Holy Spirit, we praise you now and forever. **Amen.**

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Oh Holy One, we are deeply aware of the many ways that we create separation between ourselves and the rest of your good creation. We place ourselves above others, creating false dichotomies—good/bad, right/wrong, us/them. We are aware of how we have perverted your command to care for creation and for neighbors near and far. We harm those for whom we are called to care, however unintentionally. And then we make excuses for why we can't follow your commands. Help us, O God, to rightly see, to make amends when needed, and to follow you in the path of Love you have set before us. **Amen.**

Time for silent reflection.

Pardon (*responsive*)

Let us not use the mercy of God, and the knowledge of our forgiveness in Christ as an excuse, but as motivation for making better choices. The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. Hallelujah. **Amen.**

Anthem *Song of the Birds by John Jacob Niles*

Kathryn Adkins

Prayers of the People

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

Prayers lifted to God

Lord's Prayer (New Zealand Prayer Book)

Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver, Source of all that is and that shall be, Father and Mother of us all, Loving God, in whom is heaven: make holy your name through the universe! The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world! Your heavenly will be done by all created beings! Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth. With the bread we need for today, feed us. In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us. In times of temptation and testing, strengthen us. From trials too great to endure, spare us. From the grip of all that is evil, free us. For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever. Amen.

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination (*unison*)

Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that as the Scriptures are read and your word proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today.
Amen.

Scripture Reading:

Psalm 8

OT page #492

O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens. Out of the mouths of babes and infants you have founded a bulwark because of your foes, to silence the enemy and the avenger. When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established; what are humans that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them? Yet you have made them a little lower than God and crowned them with glory and honor. You have given them dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under their feet, all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field, the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas. O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Sermon

Seeing and Loving God in All Things

The Rev. Karla Kress

*Hymn

Great is Thy Faithfulness

GtG #39

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
there is no shadow of turning with thee.
Thou changest not; thy compassions they fail not.
As thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

(Refrain)

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning, new mercies I see.
All I have needed thy hand hath provided.
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. **(Refrain)**

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow:
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! **(Refrain)**

WE RESPOND IN FAITH

*Affirmation of Faith

God creates all things, renews all things, and celebrates all things. **This we believe.** Earth is a sanctuary, a sacred planet filled with God's presence, a home for us to share with all creatures. **This we believe.** God became incarnate, a part of Earth, like Adam, a human being called Jesus, who lived and breathed and spoke among us, suffered and died for all human beings and for all creation. **This we believe.** The Risen Jesus is the Christ at the center of creation, reconciling all things to God, renewing all creation, and filling the cosmos. **This we believe.** The Spirit renews life in creation, groans in empathy with a suffering creation, and waits with us for the rebirth of all creation. **This we believe. We believe that with Christ we will rise and with Christ we will celebrate a new creation. Amen.**

(Noman Habel, Seasons of Creation)

Offering

Freely you have received, freely give.

Offertory *Angels We Have Heard on High arr. by Sharon Rogers*

Bell Choir

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*)

Let us return to God the offerings of our life and the gifts of the earth. Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts, our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered in feeding the world with your love; through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. Amen.

WE LIVE TO SERVE

*Hymn

You Shall Go Out with Joy

GtG# 80

You shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace;
the mountains and the hills will break forth before you;
There'll be shouts of joy, and all the trees of the field
will clap, will clap their hands.

And all the trees of the field will clap their hands;
the trees of the field will clap their hands;
The trees of the field will clap their hands
while you go out with joy.

Benediction

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

TODAY'S SERVERS

LITURGIST: Sandy Petznick

GREETER: Janet Maack

COFFEE HOST: Dan Atwell

OFFERING COUNTER: Pat Manning

Unity Candle:

Today we pray for Trinity-San Jose/Gereja Indonesian NCD Presbyterian Church

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY is the last day 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