



**St. Andrew
Presbyterian Church
of Aptos**

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Worship Bulletin for December 7, 2025

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

Moment for Mission – Christmas Joy

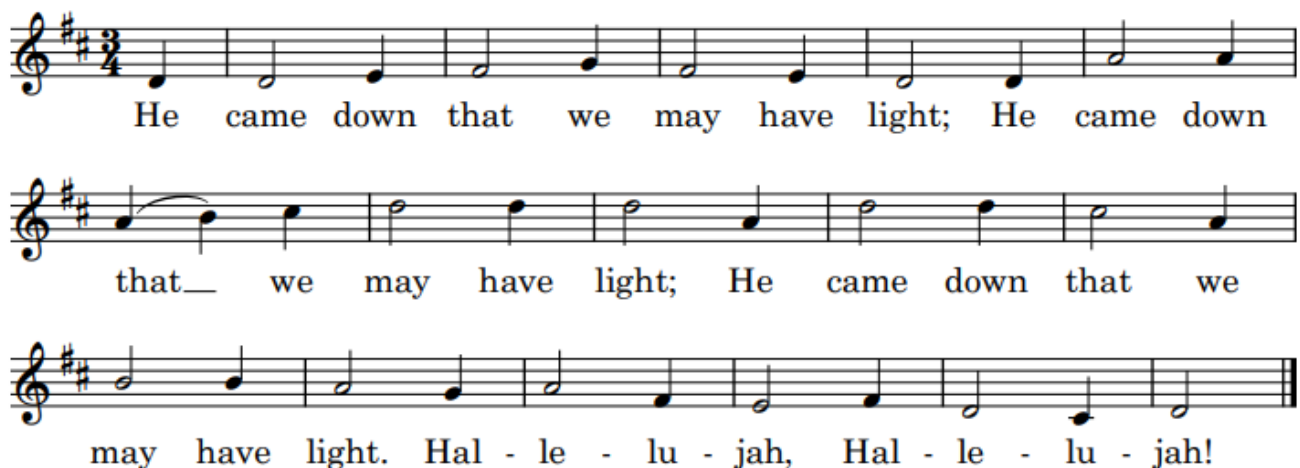
Michele Pomroy

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting the Advent Candle

Alexandra Gonzales and Roxanne Darling

He Came Down 2x (Light)



All: Loving God, in this time of preparation and planning,
We thank you for the hope and peace you unfailingly offer us.
Show us the creative power of hope.
Teach us the peace that comes from justice.
Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you,
That we may walk in the light of Christ.

***Call to Worship** (responsive)

(from Is. 11:1-11)

A shoot shall come forth from Jesse's stump,

And the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him.

He will judge the poor with righteousness, and the meek with equity;

He will be clothed with righteousness and faithfulness.

The wolf and the lamb will live peacefully together,

The leopard and the kid will lie down side by side.

The cow and the bear will graze together; the lion will eat straw like the ox,
And a little child will lead them all.
They will neither hurt nor destroy on God's holy mountain,
For the earth will be full of the knowledge of God, as the waters fill the sea.

***Hymn**

Prepare the Way, O Zion

GtG # 106

Prepare the way, O Zion, your Christ is drawing near!
Let every hill and valley a level way appear.
Greet One who comes in glory, foretold in sacred story.
O blest is Christ who came in God's most holy name.
He brings God's rule, O Zion; he comes from heaven above.
His rule is peace and freedom, and justice, truth, and love.
Lift high your praise resounding, for grace and joy abounding.
O blest is Christ who came in God's most holy name.
Fling wide your gates, O Zion; your Savior's rule embrace,
and tidings of salvation proclaim in every place.
All lands will bow rejoicing, their adoration voicing.
O blest is Christ who came in God's most holy name.

Prayer of Confession (unison)

God of Grace, we confess that we are not ready for you to come into our world — not quite yet. We cling to the known and familiar, afraid of the transformation your grace will bring. Yet you are always a step ahead of us, a voice crying out in the wilderness, inviting us into bold new ways of being disciples. Humble us, O God, and teach us to do the work of repentance so that, fully reliant on your grace, we may know the richness of restored relationship with you and one another.

Time for silent reflection.

Assurance of Grace (Responsive)

Friends, hear the good news: God's mercy is from everlasting to everlasting. Before we repent and change our ways, God's love has already claimed us as God's own. Proclaim with me the good news of the gospel:

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! 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.

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 LIGHT* (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

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

GtG# 96

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry announces that the Lord is nigh;
awake and hearken, for he brings glad tidings of the King of kings!

Then cleansed be every life from sin; make straight the way for
God within, and let us all our hearts prepare for Christ to come and enter there.

We hail you as our Savior, Lord, our refuge and our great reward;
without your grace we waste away like flowers that wither and decay.

Stretch forth your hand; our health restore, and make us rise to fall no more.
O let your face upon us shine and fill the world with love divine.

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

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 11:1-4b

OT page #640

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see or decide by what his ears hear, but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor and decide with equity for the meek of the earth.

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.' " Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, and do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor,' for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. "I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

Sermon**Prepare the Way****The Rev. Anne McAnelly**

WE RESPOND IN FAITH

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)**

We give you thanks, Holy One, for all good things; for this universe and for Earth itself, for creatures and plants, for water and food, for light and darkness; for Jesus our brother, who enlarged our vision, setting himself before us as the bread and wine of abundant life; and for the Holy Spirit, who comes to us in baptism and moves in our midst with the power to lead us to you. Turn our offerings to your good will and turn us always to you in gratitude. **Amen.**

Communion

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right for us to give thanks and praise.

Sanctus Don Adkins

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord: God of pow'r and might. Hea-ven and earth are
full of your glo - ry, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bles-sed is He who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

CLOSING RESPONSE

Christ's food in our souls,

Our food shared like his.

Christ's life in our hands,

Our lives shaped by his.

Christ's love in our hearts,

Our love warmed through his.

Christ's peace on our way,

Our way following his. Amen.

WE LIVE TO SERVE

***Hymn**

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

GtG # 129

Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung,
of Jesse's lineage coming, by faithful prophets sung.

It came, a floweret bright, amid the cold of winter,
when half spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the rose I have in mind;
with Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright she bore for us a Savior,
when half spent was the night.

This flower, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air,
dispels with glorious splendor the darkness everywhere.
Enfleshed, yet very God, from sin and death he saves us
and lightens every load.

Benediction

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

TODAY'S SERVERS

LITURGIST: Sharon Allshouse

GREETER: Stan Cowan

COFFEE HOST: Christmas Luncheon in Hubler Hall

OFFERING COUNTER: Kathryn Adkins

COMMUNION: Myles Billheimer, Eileen Mihm, David Allshouse

Unity Candle: Today we pray for Stone Church of Willow Glen in San Jose

ANNOUNCEMENTS

This Week

Today: **Christmas Luncheon. All are welcome!**

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

Tuesday, **Walking Backwards bookstudy at 1PM, Zoom. Please read Ch. 6-8**

Wednesday, **Outreach Meeting at Noon, Zoom**

Thursday, **Choir Practice at 2PM**

The next book study sign-up, **Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ** by **Rhashell D. Hunter** will begin in a couple of weeks.