



**St. Andrew
Presbyterian Church
of Aptos**

Rev. Anne McAnelly, Pastor
Dr. Don Adkins, Music Director

9850 Monroe Avenue
Aptos CA 95003
Phone 831 688-4211
aptospres@gmail.com
www.aptospresbyterianchurch.org

Worship Bulletin for January 4, 2026

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

Welcome and Announcements

***Call to Worship (responsive)**

Let us kneel in the darkness,

Until we see God's light emerge.

Let us wait with hope filled hearts,

As Christ's image grows within us and shows us life.

Let him speak to us and teach us love,

Until we open our hearts to be his home.

***Hymn**

Come, Behold! The Feast of Heaven

GtG#511

Come, behold! the feast of heaven Alleluia!

has to mortal flesh been given. Alleluia!

Hear the Word of God declared: Alleluia!

"Come! the banquet is prepared." Alleluia!

All is ready, come attend Alleluia!

as the Lord's invited friend; Alleluia!

Come from north, west, south, and east; Alleluia!

celebrate the joyful feast. Alleluia!

All who trust in God belong Alleluia!

at this banquet with this throng. Alleluia!

Share the mystic holy food; Alleluia!

taste and see: the Lord is good. Alleluia!

As the Lord our God has willed, Alleluia!

here the hungry soul is filled; Alleluia!

Here the weary are refreshed. Alleluia!

All who share God's feast are blessed. Alleluia!

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Holy God, Author of life and Source of all hope, hear our prayer. We know that the blank slate of a new year seems so promising – We haven't done anything too awful, not yet. And we know that the blank slate of a new year is also an illusion; Time continues, and our lives flow from one day to the next, from one year to the next. In this time, we know we are sometimes remarkable and generous, bearing light to the shadows, and we know we are sometimes full of despair and selfishness, hoarding light and goodness for ourselves. We invite you on our journeys, O God. We seek your presence with us in the darkness and the light, In our remarkable moments and our awful ones. We seek your presence, and bask in your love, through Christ. Amen.

Time for silent reflection.

Assurance of Grace (Responsive)

Jesus knows our every weakness and loves us still. Awaken to the promise of Christ's amazing grace. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

*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-831-345-6324)

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

Jesus, Light of Joy

GtG # 673

Jesus, light of joy, surround us; let your splendid glory shine:
source of every earthly blessing, heaven's everlasting sign.
Alleluia, alleluia, we adore you, light divine.

Now the shadows fall around us; now the evening has begun:
still your gracious light is with us, brighter than the morning sun.
Alleluia, alleluia, God of glory, Three-in-One.

With the saints we lift our voices, God of power, God of might.
All creation shines with glory, singing praises day and night:
alleluia, alleluia, holy, holy, holy light.

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination (*unison*)

Light of the world, shine on us today. As your Word is read, illumine what we have not yet seen. Draw us toward your grace and send us out with your glory. Amen.

First Lesson:

Isaiah 60:1-6

OT page #690

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth and thick darkness the peoples, but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light and kings to the brightness of your dawn. Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together; they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried in their nurses' arms. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you; the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

Second Lesson:

Matthew 2:1-12

NT page #2

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet: And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah, for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'" Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Sermon

Wonder Upon Wonder

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 (unison)

Radiant God, the light of your wisdom and love shines for all who seek you, guiding us not with force, but with grace. Like the magi, we come bearing gifts, not to earn your favor, but in response to the gift of Christ you've given us. Use these offerings to reflect your light into dark places, so that others might be drawn to your love, your justice, and your joy. Amen.

Anthem

The Whisper

Choir

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.

WE LIVE TO SERVE

*Hymn

We Three Kings of Orient Are

GtG # 151

We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.

(Refrain)

O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never over us all to reign. **(Refrain)**

Frankincense to offer have I; incense owns a deity nigh;
prayer and praising gladly raising, worshiping God Most High. **(Refrain)**

Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone-cold tomb. **(Refrain)**

Glorious now behold him arise, King and God and Sacrifice:
Alleluia! Alleluia! sounds through the earth and skies. **(Refrain)**

Benediction

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

TODAY'S SERVERS

LITURGIST: Stan Cowan

GREETERS: Vibeke Orsini & Dan Atwell

COFFEE HOST: Jan Maack

OFFERING COUNTER: Janet Maack

COMMUNION: Myles Billheimer, Janet Maack, David Allshouse

Unity Candle: Today we pray for Presbyterian Church of Los Gatos

ANNOUNCEMENTS

This Week

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

Tuesday, Nurture Meeting at 10AM, Zoom

Enrichment Meeting at 2PM, Zoom

LAST DAY to sign-up for bible study. Book costs \$15 and begins Feb. 3rd.

Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ

Annual Congregation Meeting January 25th following worship

- Receive the budget
- Committee reports
- Approve pastor's terms of call

Joanna is OUT: January 2-18, 2026