



**St. Andrew
Presbyterian Church
of Aptos**

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Worship Bulletin for February 22, 2026

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

Welcome and Announcements

***Call to Worship** *(responsive)*

Leader: A Wilderness.

Women: **A journey.**

Men: **A temptation.**

Leader: A Wilderness.

Women: **An encounter.**

Men: **A renewing**

We set the space for the thinning of light, a space for wilderness and renewal. Come and meet God, who calls us beyond where we are now, to where love will find itself to be. Welcome to Lent.

***Hymn** *Lord, Who throughout These Forty Days*

GtG # 166

Lord, who throughout these forty days for us did fast and pray,
teach us with you to mourn our sins and close by you to stay.

As you with Satan did contend and did the victory win,
O give us strength to persevere, in you to conquer sin.

And through these days of penitence, and through this Passiontide,
yes, evermore, in life and death, O Lord, with us abide.

Abide with us, till when this life of suffering shall be past,
an Easter of unending joy we may attain at last.

Prayer of Confession *(unison)*

Loving God, help us. When we have run away, when we have turned our backs on love, when we have sought immediate satisfaction and not long-term healing, help us. Merciful God, forgive us. When we have been selfish, when we have been mean, when we have closed our ears to the cries of others, forgive us. Give us the courage, the strength, and the hope to accept your grace and hear your call in Christ. Amen.

Assurance of Grace *(responsive)*

Even as Adam and Eve faced the consequences of their sin, our God prepared a way for them still to be connected to the earth and to the living presence of God. So it is with all of us: in Christ's life, ministry, death and resurrection, we are made able to persist, upright and strong, for our sins 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.

***Hymn**

When We Are Tested

GtG #783

When we are tested and wrestle alone,
famished for bread when the world offers stone,
Nourish us, God, by your word and your way,
food that sustains us by night and by day.

When in the desert we cry for relief,
pleading for paths marked by certain belief,
Lift us to love you beyond sign and test,
trusting your presence, our only true rest.

When we are tempted to barter our souls,
trading the truth for the power to control,
Teach us to worship and praise only you,
seeking your will in the work that we do.

When we have struggled and searched through the night,
sorting and sifting the wrong from the right,
Savior, surround us with circles of care,
angels of healing, of hope, and of prayer.

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

O Lord, Hear our Prayer

(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.

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Musical Prayer

The Word Is a Lamp unto My Feet (Refrain)

GtG #458

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

First Lesson:

Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7

OT page #2

The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die." Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?'" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die, for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was a delight to the eyes and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked, and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

Second Lesson:

Matthew 4:1-11

NT page #3

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." But he answered, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'" Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'" Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

Sermon

Famished Choice

The Rev. Anne McAnelly

WE RESPOND IN FAITH

***Affirmation of Faith** *(by Lisa Frenz on Lisa's Liturgies)*

In a time before all knowing, God is, and God's breathe fills the emptiness, creating: a universe, a world, an ecology, a biology and us, humankind. All humankind, no exceptions, no imperfections; and all of us beloved just as we are.

In a time before all knowing, Christ Jesus watches the creating, and steps out into creation: becoming, living, dying, and rising, all for us. All humankind, no exceptions, no reservations; all of us just as we are, God's beloved.

In a time before all knowing the Spirit is, and moves through every part of creation: consoling, interceding, leading, and refreshing all the world, including us. All humankind, no exceptions, no differentiations; all of us just as we are, God's beloved.

Offering

Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Offering Prayer *(unison)*

God, we give thanks for your presence in our lives. Bless these offerings, so they may be used to advance your kingdom and glorify your name. And may our faith continue to grow stronger each day, bringing us closer to you. Amen.

WE LIVE TO SERVE

***Hymn**

Be Still, My Soul

GtG # 819

Be still, my soul: the Lord is on thy side.

Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain.

Leave to thy God to order and provide,

Who through all changes faithful will remain.

Be still, my soul: thy best, thy heavenly Friend
through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.

Be still, my soul: thy God doth undertake
to guide the future surely as the past.

Thy hope, thy confidence let nothing shake;

All now mysterious shall be bright at last.

Be still, my soul: the waves and winds still know
his voice who ruled them while he dwelt below.

Be still, my soul: the hour is hastening on
when we shall be forever with the Lord;
when disappointment, grief, and fear are gone,
Sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored.
Be still, my soul: when change and tears are past
all safe and blessed we shall meet at last.

Benediction

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

TODAY'S SERVERS

LITURGIST: David Allshouse

GREETER: Judy Zscheile

COFFEE HOST: Lori Burkett

OFFERING COUNTERS: Shari Gallegos & Pam Arnsberger

Unity Candle: This week we pray for First Presbyterian Church of Palo Alto.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Tuesday: **Bible Study: Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ
at 1PM, Zoom. Please read CH. 4**

Thursday: **Choir at 2PM**

Saturday: **Marsha Gonzales Memorial at 11AM, Sanctuary**

Upcoming Events

- **Lunch & Home Clusters – Coming Back in 2026**

Clusters are a great way to get to know people and have fellowship. Share a meal at a local restaurant, after church (Lunch cluster), or share a potluck in someone's home (Home cluster). Each group meets monthly. See Pat Manning or Janet Maack for more information and sign-up after worship.

- **2026 Per Capita Fees** - The amount charged by the Presbytery is based on our total membership, and is due every year in February. It really helps our budget when our members contribute their share. The cost per member for 2026 is \$55. WE THANK YOU!!!
- **Pie Day is coming (Pi π 3.15)! Start thinking now about what you'd like to bring for our Pie Day gathering on **March 15 (3.15)**. Sweet pies, savory pies, old fashion pies, ice cream pies ~ all are welcome to share. Let's make it delicious! Every slice counts!**

- **Church Clean Up on March 21 from 9:00 to noon.** We'll be cleaning windows and woodwork in the sanctuary, deep cleaning Hubler, and freshening up our campus. Please bring buckets, rags, squeegees, step stools, things that might assist in our cleaning efforts. We will provide the window cleaner. Let's make our campus sparkle as we prepare for Easter!
- **SAVE the DATE:** June 2nd - Red Cross Blood Drive, Hubler Hall, starts at 8:30AM by appointment only using the Red Cross app.