



**St. Andrew
Presbyterian Church
of Aptos**

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Worship Bulletin for March 1, 2025

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

Welcome and Announcements

Gathering Song *God Welcomes All* GtG 399

God welcomes all, strangers and friends;
God's love is strong and it never ends.

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

The Lord God keeps us, saves us, and protects us in times of trouble.

Our help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

Even when fear strikes us, we know that we are safe, for we belong to God.

We shall never be shaken or moved,

for we are shadowed by God's almighty hand.

We lift our voices together in thanks and praise.

***Hymn** *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise* GtG # 12

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might:
Thy justice, like mountains high soaring above;
thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.

To all, life thou givest, to both great and small.

In all life thou livest, the true life of all.

We blossom and flourish like leaves on the tree,
then wither and perish; but naught changeth thee.

Thou reignest in glory; thou dwellest in light.
Thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight.
All praise we would render; O help us to see
'tis only the splendor of light hideth thee!

Prayer of Confession (*unison*) by Rev. Scott McKenna

Time for silent reflection.

Hidden God, we bring to this sanctuary and place on this table,
our burdens and brokenness,
our self-image bruised and hurting,
our fears, shame, doubts and anxieties,
the raw materials we ask You to bless and change,
that in our dark tunnels we may begin to see light
and in our desert experiences we may find You. Amen

Assurance of Grace

Friends, hear this Good News: the love of God is beyond measure, and you are included in that love. Know that you are forgiven and thus freed to love and serve. 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.

Passing the Peace

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"*

(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**

Like a Mother Who Has Borne Us

GtG # 44

Like a mother who has borne us,
held us close in her delight,
fed us freely from her body,
God has called us into life.

Like a father who has taught us,
grasped our hand and been our guide,
lifted us and healed our sorrows,
God has walked with us in life.

Though as children we have wandered,
placed our trust in power and might,
left behind our brothers, sisters,
God still calls us into life.

When we offer food and comfort,
grasp our neighbor's hand in love,
tread the path of peace and justice,
God still walks with us in life.

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination *Thy 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:

Psalms 121

OT page #571

I lift up my eyes to the hills—from where will my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth. He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber. He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade at your right hand. The sun shall not strike you by day nor the moon by night. The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life. The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore.

Second Lesson:

John 3:1-17

NT page #93

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person." Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above. Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" Jesus answered him,

“Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? “Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him.

Sermon

Born of Love

The Rev. Anne McAnelly

WE RESPOND IN FAITH

Offering

Doxology

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

Offering Prayer (*unison*)

Faithful God of New Beginnings, you call us to trust in what we cannot yet see, to follow where you lead, even when the road is unclear. In the shadows of our questions, you meet us with grace, not condemnation. As Nicodemus discovered, your love is not earned but freely given. Receive now these gifts we offer—not as payment or proof, but as signs of our belief, our hope, and our gratitude. Use them to share your transforming love with a world still searching in the dark. In the name of your Son, given in love, we pray. Amen.

Anthem

St. Andrew 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

What Wondrous Love Is This

GtG # 215

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,
what wondrous love is this, O my soul!

What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul!

When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down,
when I was sinking down, sinking down,
When I was sinking down beneath God's righteous frown,
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul, for my soul,
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul!

To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing,
to God and to the Lamb, I will sing;
To God and to the Lamb who is the great I AM,
while millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing;
while millions join the theme, I will sing!

And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on;
and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on;
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be,
and through eternity, I'll sing on, I'll sing on;
and through eternity I'll sing on.

Benediction

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

TODAY'S SERVERS

LITURGIST: Pam Arnsberger

GREETER: Al Cheney

COFFEE HOST: Stan Cowan

OFFERING COUNTER: Pam Arnsberger

COMMUNION: Dorothy Glaum, Pam Arnsberger, Shari Gallegos

Unity Candle:

This week we pray for Trinity Presbyterian Church in Santa Cruz and Urban Works

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Tuesday: **Nurture Meeting at 10AM, Zoom**

Enrichment Meeting at 2PM, Zoom

**Bible Study: Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ
at 1PM, Zoom. Please read CH. 5**

Thursday: **Choir at 2PM**

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.