



**St. Andrew
Presbyterian Church
of Aptos**

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Worship Bulletin for July 19, 2026

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

Welcome and Announcements

Minute for Mission

General Assembly (see last page)

Sally Griffin

***Call to Worship (responsive)**

We gather today to worship the One who created us,

The One who calls us,

The One who adopts us,

The One who loves us without end.

With joyful hearts, let us worship God.

***Hymn**

All Creatures of Our God and King

GtG # 15

All creatures of our God and King, lift up your voice

and with us sing, Alleluia! Alleluia!

O brother sun with golden beam, O sister moon with silver gleam,

Sing praises! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

O brother wind with clouds and rain,

you nurture gifts of fruit and grain. Alleluia! Alleluia!

O sister water, flowing clear, make music for your Lord to hear.

Sing praises! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

O brother fire, so warm and bright,

chase off the shadows of the night. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Dear mother earth, who day by day unfolds such blessings on our way,

Sing praises! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

All who for love of God forgive,

all who in pain or sorrow grieve, Alleluia! Alleluia!

Christ bears your burdens and your fears; so, even in the midst of tears,

Sing praises! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

And you, most gentle sister death,
waiting to hush our final breath: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Since Christ our light has pierced your gloom,
fair is the night that leads us home.
Sing praises! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

O sisters, brothers, take your part, and worship God
with humble heart. Alleluia! Alleluia!
All creatures, bless the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
Three in One! Sing praises! Alleluia!

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

We live in a broken world God; a world that too often ignores you, a world that too often judges too quickly, a world of impatience and mistrust. It is a world more concerned with self-satisfaction than with serving others and serving you. And we confess that often we are part of the problem and not the solution. Forgive us. Transform us. Bring us to new birth as your people, empowered to proclaim your presence and your truth.

Time for silent reflection.

Assurance of Grace

Hear what comfort God offers us! We are God's own children, made in God's image, forgiven and freed to start anew.

*Gloria Patri

GtG #581

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.

Special Music

Prelude Op. 28, No. 6 by Chopin

Eileen Mihm

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



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**

Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine!

GtG # 839

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!

O what a foretaste of glory divine!

Heir of salvation, purchase of God,

born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

(Refrain)

This is my story; this is my song,

praising my Savior all the day long;

this is my story; this is my song,

praising my Savior all the day long.

Perfect submission, perfect delight,

visions of rapture now burst on my sight;

angels descending, bring from above

echoes of mercy, whispers of love. **(Refrain)**

Perfect submission, all is at rest;

I in my Savior am happy and blest,

watching and waiting, looking above,

filled with his goodness, lost in his love. **(Refrain)**

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination (*unison*)

God, whom we know through the scriptures and creation, speak to us now. Show us the wisdom and joy of your ways that we may know what is good and do what is right, through Jesus Christ your Word. Amen.

First Lesson:

Genesis 28:10-19a

OT page #25

Jacob left Beer-sheba and went toward Haran. He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. And the Lord stood beside him and said, "I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring, and

your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south, and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go and will bring you back to this land, for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you." Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, "Surely the Lord is in this place—and I did not know it!" And he was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven." So Jacob rose early in the morning, and he took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. He called that place Bethel.

Second Lesson:

Romans 8:12-25

NT page #158

So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—for if you live according to the flesh, you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs: heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ— if, in fact we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him. I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God, for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Sermon

Creation and Adoption

The Rev. Anne McAnelly

WE RESPOND IN FAITH

***Affirmation of Faith** (Brief Statement of Faith)

In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, whom alone we worship and serve. We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community. God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. In gratitude to God, empowered by the

Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, Come, Lord Jesus! With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

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)*

Gracious God, you are the giver and provider of all things. As we bring our offerings before you, we ask for your guidance in fine-tuning our faith. Help us to trust you more deeply, to step out in faith, and to follow where you lead. May our giving today be an expression of our growing faith in you. Amen.

WE LIVE TO SERVE

*Hymn

Lord, the Light of Your Love Is Shining

GtG # 192

Lord, the light of your love is shining,
in the midst of the darkness, shining;
Jesus, Light of the World, shine upon us;
set us free by the truth you now bring us.
Shine on me; shine on me.

(Refrain)

Shine, Jesus, shine; fill this land with the Father's glory.
Blaze, Spirit, blaze; set our hearts on fire.
Flow, river, flow; flood the nations with grace and mercy.
Send forth your word, Lord, and let there be light.

Lord, I come to your awesome presence,
from the shadows into your radiance;
by the blood I may enter your brightness.
Search me; try me; consume all my darkness.
Shine on me; shine on me. **(Refrain)**

As we gaze on your kingly brightness,
so our faces display your likeness;
Ever changing from glory to glory,
mirrored here may our lives tell your story.
Shine on me; shine on me. **(Refrain)**

Benediction

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

TODAY'S SERVERS

LITURGIST: Sandy Petznick

GREETER: Janet Maack

COFFEE HOSTS: Bill and Nancy Samsel

ACCOMPANIEST: Eileen Mihm

OFFERING COUNTERS: Sharon and David Allshouse

Unity Candle: This week we pray for Trinity-San Jose/Gereja Indonesian NCD

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Saturday

- **July 25th:** Tom Schmida Memorial at 1PM, Sanctuary, reception to follow in Hubler

Upcoming Events

- **July 26th:** Santa Cruz al-Salvador fundraiser luncheon at Noon at Trinity Presbyterian Church (420 Melrose Ave., off Morrissey Blvd.)
- **Aug. 22th:** Homeless Showers at St. John Church in Aptos from 11-2PM. Please let Joanna know if you can help.
- **Aug. 30th:** FFFF Luncheon, Hubler
- **Sept 19th:** Autumnal Potluck (Progressive Dinner) at Keith McKenzie home at 4PM

PERSEVERING *toward* WHOLENESS

The 227th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, addressed constitutional governance, racial justice, gender justice, denominational finances and the direction of the church, laying groundwork for work continuing through the next assembly.

Co-moderators elected, GA228 to be held in Puerto Rico

Commissioners elected the **Rev. Marta Pumroy-Cordero**, border ministry coordinator for the Tres Rios Border Foundation in Tres Rios Presbytery, and the **Rev. Dr. Kristopher D. Schondelmeyer**, pastor and head of staff at First Presbyterian Church in Davenport, Iowa, as co-moderators. They will preside at GA228, June 11-22, 2028, in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Commissioners also **approved full, in-person assemblies**, including an exhibit hall, beginning in 2030.

Budget and per capita

Commissioners approved a **balanced \$188.4 million unified budget** for Presbyterian Life & Witness (PL&W) and the A Corporation for the 2027–2028 biennium, about \$5.8 million more than the previous budget: \$90.45 million for 2027 and \$97.92 million for 2028. Per capita rates were set at \$13.04 in 2027 and \$12.72 in 2028.

General Assembly Relationships

The GAR Committee approved the new Organization for Mission, the structure for the General Assembly as the denomination's highest council, and **established PL&W** and its governing board.

Israel/Palestine

Commissioners approved RIW-04, declaring that the **Israeli government has violated international law** prohibiting genocide in its war in Gaza. As amended, RIW-04 directs the denomination's Office of Public

Witness to advocate against U.S. military sales to Israel and purchases from Israel. It also encourages members to avoid products from Israeli companies linked to violations of international law.

Constitutional interpretation, missiology, and mission co-worker dismissals

Following testimony on staff dismissals during **World Mission's closure**, the assembly approved CON-02, directing PL&W and the A Corporation to revise employment policies to prohibit nondisclosure covenants for employees, with a report due to the 2028 assembly. RIW-01 calls for review of the processes that terminated mission co-worker positions and World Mission. RIW-02 directs the development of a new missiological statement for global engagement.

Pastors will now be required to complete **boundary and abuse-prevention training** at least every three years. An overture to remove the Board of Pensions' medical coverage requirements was rejected.

Commissioners referred CON-10, which seeks an authoritative interpretation of monogamy, for discussion within the theological framework proposed in GEN-09, "Beyond Changing Families."

Gender and Sexuality Justice

The Constitutional Interpretation Committee **rejected a call for a special study of the Olympia Overture amendments**, citing



related proposals GEN-06 and GEN-09. GEN-06 directs the development of a mechanism that would allow congregations to indicate their openness and readiness to call an LGBTQIA+ candidate on their Ministry Discernment Profiles. Candidates would be allowed to view congregational responses. GEN-09, "Beyond Changing Families: Flourishing Relationships and Belonging," seeks a theological framework and a study guide on human sexuality and gender that reflect the PC(USA)'s commitment to full inclusion.

The assembly reaffirmed support for **access to medically necessary gender-affirming healthcare** and approved development of a survey collecting non-identifying information about sexual misconduct in church settings.

Climate and Environmental Justice

The Climate Justice Committee approved CLJ-02, "Changing Course for a Green Future," **directing divestment from more than 50 companies** by 2030 and barring new investments in them. All CLJ items were placed on the consent agenda, including a call for education on regenerative farming and prioritizing responses to the climate crisis.

White Christian nationalism

Commissioners voted overwhelmingly to declare White Christian nationalism and similar ideologies **"a theological error"** incompatible with the teachings of Jesus Christ; language changes in the *Book of Order* require presbytery ratification. Commissioners rejected an amendment that would have removed references to White Christian nationalism from the Special Committee on the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and Race report.

Racial justice

The Racial Justice Committee advanced several recommendations **strengthening**

the denomination's anti-racism work, including RAC-04, "The Report from the Special Committee on the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) on Race," directing "PL&W to create a tracking system that displays the progress/completion of all GA business... related to race, racism, and White supremacy ..."

RAC-01 calls for PC(USA) entities to report to the 228th GA on implementation of RGJ-13, the 2022 Report from the Disparities Experienced by Black Women and Girls Task Force. RAC-03, the "Resolution on Liberia Project 180," explores establishing theological learning and repair, and developing **acknowledgment and apology for Presbyterian involvement** in and support of the American Colonization Society and its lasting effects on Indigenous Liberians.

Ordered ministry

The Theological Education and Ordination Committee approved changes **modernizing preparation for ministry** while preserving Presbyterian ordination standards. ORD-02 clarifies that ministry preparation in G-2.06 and G-2.07 of the *Book of Order* applies to those training for the ministry of Word and Sacrament; it requires a two-thirds presbytery vote. ORD-03, addressing collaborative ministry teams, was approved; ORD-04, seeking removal of the time-of-service requirement for ruling elders in mid council roles, was not.

A new confession

A newly appointed special committee will continue **considering a new confession**. The draft seeks to articulate Christian faith in response to contemporary challenges including racism, economic inequality, environmental degradation, violence and political polarization.



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