St. Andrew Presbyterian Church of Aptos
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Worship Bulletin for October 11, 2026

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

Welcome and Announcements

***Call to Worship** *(responsive)*
Holy Love, your presence is our sanctuary.
We gather at your invitation to be in community with you and one another.
Enliven our hearts. Nourish our spirits. Encourage our souls. Expand our minds.
We seek truth and righteousness. We thirst to give and receive compassion and grace.
Let us feast on your word, release our concerns in prayer, and offer our praise in thanksgiving.
Be glorified among us, O God, our Redeemer, Host and Friend. Amen.

***Hymn** *God is Here!* GtG # 409

God is here! As we your people meet to offer praise and prayer,
may we find in fuller measure what it is in Christ we share.
Here, as in the world around us, all our varied skills and arts
wait the coming of the Spirit into open minds and hearts.

Here are symbols to remind us of our lifelong need of grace;
here are table, font, and pulpit; here the cross has central place.
Here in honesty of preaching, here in silence, as in speech,
here, in newness and renewal, God the Spirit comes to each.

Here our children find a welcome in the Shepherd's flock and fold;
here, as bread and wine are taken, Christ sustains us as of old.
Here the servants of the Servant seek in worship to explore
what it means in daily living to believe and to adore.

Lord of all, of church and kingdom, in an age of change and doubt
keep us faithful to the gospel; help us work your purpose out.
Here, in this day's dedication, all we have to give, receive:
we, who cannot live without you, we adore you! We believe!

Prayer of Confession *(unison)*

Holy One, we acknowledge that you have modeled a way of being in the world that we struggle to adopt. You invite us to love the neighbor we do not know and the enemy that we do. You encourage us to prioritize the marginalized and center the oppressed even when our own needs overwhelm us. You invite us into your kingdom, and the cost of discipleship sometimes seems to be more than we can afford. Holy One, we need your strength and hope for the journey. Let your surpassing peace enable us to pursue a worthy and pleasing life. Amen.

Time for silent reflection.

Assurance of Grace

Siblings in Christ, the Holy One is near and responds to your prayer. Remember, "Whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. As for the things that you have learned and received and heard and noticed in me, do them, and the God of peace will be with you." (Phil. 4:8-9)

***Gloria Patri**
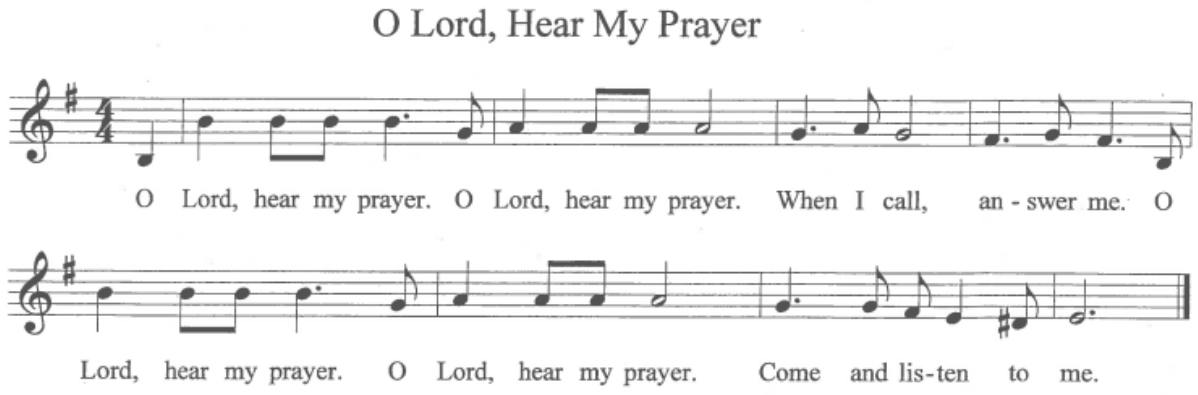
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.

Anthem *Praise God, Ye Servants of the Lord* arr. by Larry Sue St. Andrew Bells

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Sharing Joys and Concerns

Song of prayer



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** ` *There is a Place of Quiet Rest* GtG # 824

There is a place of quiet rest, near to the heart of God,
a place where sin cannot molest, near to the heart of God.

(Refrain)
O Jesus, blest Redeemer, sent from the heart of God,
hold us, who wait before thee, near to the heart of God.

There is a place of comfort sweet, near to the heart of God,
a place where we our Savior meet, near to the heart of God. **(Refrain)**

There is a place of full release, near to the heart of God,
a place where all is joy and peace, near to the heart of God. **(Refrain)**

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination *(unison)*
Holy One, your Word itself tells us that you inspire all Scripture, that everyone who belongs to you may be equipped for every good work. As we hear your Word read and proclaimed, inspire us through your Holy Spirit that we may be ready to worship you and serve others, with the love and grace of Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. Amen.

First Testament Lesson: Exodus 32:1-14 OT page #78

When the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people gathered around Aaron and said to him, "Come, make gods for us, who shall go before us; as for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him." Aaron said to them, "Take off the gold rings that are on the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters and bring them to me." So all the people took off the gold rings from their ears and brought them to Aaron. He took the gold from them, formed it in a mold, and cast an image of a calf, and they said, "These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt! " When Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it, and Aaron made a proclamation and said, "Tomorrow shall be a festival to the Lord." They rose early the next day and offered burnt offerings and brought sacrifices of well-being, and the people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to revel. The Lord said to Moses, "Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it and said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!' " The Lord said to Moses, "I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. Now let me alone so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them, and of you I will make a great nation." But Moses implored the Lord his God and said, "O Lord, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? Why should

the Egyptians say, 'It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains and to consume them from the face of the earth'? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, 'I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.' " And the Lord changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

Gospel Lesson: **Matthew 22:1-14** **NT page #24**

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests. "But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

Sermon **Accepting God's Invitation** The Rev. Karla Kress

WE RESPOND IN FAITH

*Affirmation of Faith *(from a Declaration of Faith)*

We are certain that Jesus lives. He lives as God with us, touching all of human life with the presence of God. He lives as one of us with God. Because he shares our humanity and has bound us to himself in love, we have an advocate in the innermost life of God. We declare that Jesus is Lord. His resurrection is a decisive victory over the powers that deform and destroy human life. His lordship is hidden. The world appears to be dominated by people and systems that do not acknowledge his rule. But his lordship is real. It demands our loyalty and sets us free from the fear of all lesser lords who threaten us. We maintain that ultimate sovereignty now belongs to Jesus Christ in every sphere of life. Jesus is Lord. He has been Lord from the beginning. He will be Lord at the end. Even now he is Lord.

Invitation to Offering

Generosity serves as a response to the Holy One's abundant creation, trustworthy provision, and compassionate care. When we give, we accept that God has given more than enough for us to share, all have a place of belonging in God's realm, and making room affirms our commitment to God's reign. Let us give in faith, trust, gratitude and love.

Offertory

***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)*

Generous God, receive our offerings as acceptance to your invitation to the kingdom life. May they be used to spread abundance, generate hope, and meet needs. Bless us as we give to grow in generosity, gratitude, and grace. We give thanks for this opportunity to participate in your kingdom come and your will be done in our communities and world. Amen.

WE LIVE TO SERVE

***Hymn** *I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me* GtG # 700

I'm gonna live so (live so) God can use me anywhere,
Lord, anytime! (anytime!) I'm gonna live so (live so)
God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime! (anytime!)

I'm gonna work so (work so) God can use me anywhere,
Lord, anytime! (anytime!) I'm gonna work so (work so)
God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime! (anytime!)

I'm gonna pray so (pray so) God can use me anywhere,
Lord, anytime! (anytime!) I'm gonna pray so (pray so)
God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime! (anytime!)

I'm gonna sing so (sing so) God can use me anywhere,
Lord, anytime! (anytime!) I'm gonna sing so (sing so)
God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime! (anytime!)

Benediction

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

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TODAY'S SERVERS

LITURGIST: Gwen Yeo GREETER: Jan Maack

COFFEE HOST: Lori Burkett ACCOMPANIST: Christian Stallard

OFFERING COUNTERS: Jan Maack and Judy Zscheile

Unity Candle: This week we pray for Westview Presbyterian Church in Watsonville.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

It's almost time to nominate for Elders and Deacons.
If you have suggestions, please see Pat Manning after worship.

Monday-Friday

- Anne out of the Office

Wednesday

- Outreach at Noon, Zoom

Thursday – Office Closed

- Choir at 2PM
- Bells at 3PM

<u>Upcoming Events</u>

- **Oct. 18th:** Lunch Cluster #1: Seascape Golf Club (610 Clubhouse Dr., Aptos) after worship hosted by Connie Friel
- **Oct.** 24th: Home Cluster at 4:30PM, Bill and Nancy Samsel's home
- **Nov.** 15th: St. Andrew Day