St. Andrew Presbyterian Church of Aptos
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## Worship Bulletin for October 25, 2026  Stewardship

## WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

**Welcome and Announcements**

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

We gather today not out of obligation, but in joyful response to a generous God.
**God has blessed us with breath, with community, and with an abundance of grace.**
We bring our varying gifts—our time, our energy, our resources, and our love—to be woven together for a purpose greater than ourselves.
**Open our hearts to recognize how richly we are provided for, and free us from the chains of scarcity and fear.**
Let us worship the Creator who calls us to be faithful stewards of all we have been given.
**Together, let us offer our praise, our service, and our lives to God.**

***Hymn** *Great God of Every Blessing* GtG # 694

Great God of every blessing, of faithful, loving care,
you are the fount of goodness, the daily bread we share.
How can we hope to thank you? Our praise is but a start:
sincerely and completely I offer you my heart.

Your Word is our salvation, the source of endless grace,
in death and life extending your covenant embrace.
In Christ we are one body; each member has a part:
sincerely and completely I offer you my heart.

Your Spirit is our teacher, the light that guides our search,
transforming broken people into the holy church.
For feeding us with mercy, for wisdom you impart:
sincerely and completely I offer you my heart.

**Prayer of Confession**

**We are hesitant to confess, Holy God, how hard it is to love as you wish. It is easy to love you with all that we are, except when you ask us to love our neighbor with all that we have. We find it hard to love our neighbor, when it is linked to the way we love ourselves. And it is difficult to love anyone—even You—more than we love ourselves. Forgive us, Love Eternal. As you took a risk in creating us, help us to take risks to love others compassionately, to love ourselves genuinely, and to love you as completely as you love us in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.** *(Silent Confession)*

**Assurance of Grace** *(responsive)*

In God's Kingdom, all are loved for who they are, not what they do;

In God's Kingdom, all are forgiven for what they do, and don't;

in God's Kingdom, all are welcomed and fed by God's grace and hope.

**Forgiven, loved, sent forth— we are not far from God's Kingdom!**

**Thanks be to God. 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.**
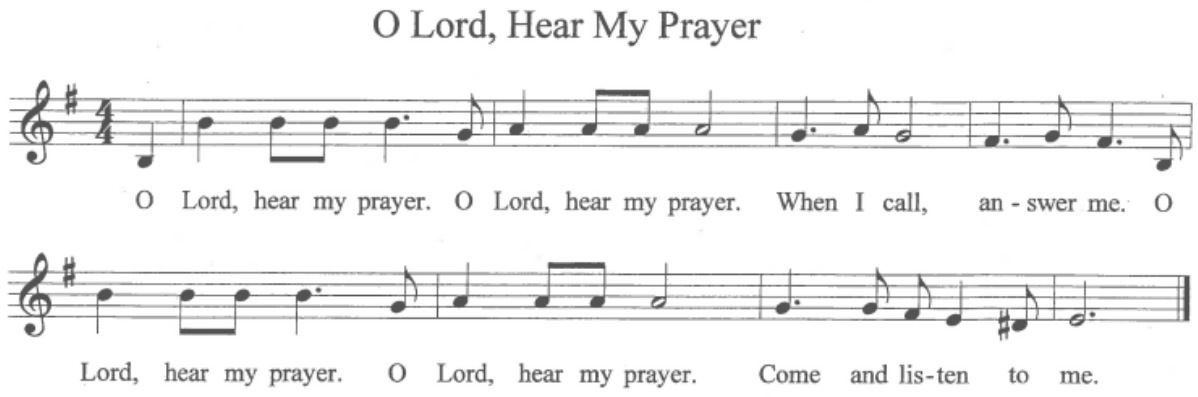
**Anthem** *O Lord, My God, You Are My Refuge arr. by Hal Hopson* St. Andrew Choir

**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




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** *How Happy Are the Saints of God* GtG #457

How happy are the saints of God who do not heed the wicked way;
delighting in the holy Word they seek God's wisdom night and day.

Like deeply rooted trees, they stand beside an ever-flowing stream.
Their fruit is plentiful and good; their leaves are always growing green.

While wicked ones are whisked away like straw before the driving wind,
the saints are firmly planted still, and God will keep them to the end.

## WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

**Prayer for Illumination**

Gracious God, give us humble, teachable, and obedient hearts, that we may receive what you have revealed, and do what you have commanded. Amen.

**First Lesson:** **Psalm 1:1-3** **OT page #489**

Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked or take the path that sinners tread, or sit in the seat of scoffers, but their delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law they meditate day and night. They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither. In all that they do, they prosper.

**Second Lesson:** **Matthew 22:34-46** **NT page #25**

When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He said to him, " 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets." Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: "What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?" They said to him, "The son of David." He said to them, "How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying, 'The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet" '? "If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?" No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

**Sermon** **Planted in Love** **The Rev. Anne McAnelly**

## WE RESPOND IN FAITH

*Affirmation of Faith *(Allen & Sara Ewing-Merrill)*

We believe in God, Creator of the universe, Giver of every good gift, Author of life itself. We believe in Jesus Christ, who reminded us of the coming of God's kingdom, who commanded us to care for those in need, who taught us to store up treasures in heaven, not on earth, and who gave us the example of self-giving love. We believe in the Holy Spirit, who inspires us to faithful stewardship of God's gifts, in whom we live and move and have our being, by whom all things are possible. We believe that God has given us gifts to be shared freely and generously, in a spirit of love and joy. We acknowledge that we are merely stewards of all that is God's, caretakers of God's home. We believe that faithful stewardship is an act of worship, a means of praising God who has blessed us so abundantly.

Offering

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)*

Eternal God, we pray that we will make stewardship a way of Life. We acknowledge you as the source of all we have and all we are. Help us to place you, our loving Creator, first in our lives by becoming more prayerful, more focused on loving and caring for our families and our neighbors in need, and by becoming less preoccupied with material things. Help us to hear your call to be good stewards, caretakers, and managers of all your gifts by sharing them for your purposes. Help us make your priorities our priorities and put our faith into action, by giving back the talents, treasures and time with which we have been blessed. May we serve you and pray with a joyful spirit of mind and heart. *Amen.*

## WE LIVE TO SERVE

*Hymn *Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love* GtG # 203

**(Refrain)**

Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love; show us how to serve
the neighbors we have from you.

Kneels at the feet of his friends, silently washes their feet,
Master who acts as a slave to them. **(Refrain)**

Neighbors are wealthy and poor, varied in color and race;
neighbors are near us and far away. **(Refrain)**

These are the ones we should serve; these are the ones we should love;
all these are neighbors to us and you. **(Refrain)**

Loving puts us on our knees, willing to wash others' feet;
this is the way we should live like you. **(Refrain)**

**Benediction**

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

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## TODAY'S SERVERS

**LITURGIST:** Sharon Allshouse **GREETER:** Judy Zscheile

**COFFEE HOST:** Nancy Samsel **ACCOMPANIST:** Barbara Lopez

**OFFERING COUNTERS:** Shari Gallegos and Pat Manning

**Unity Candle:** This week we pray for El Estero Presbyterian Church.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

*Tuesday*

- Bible Study at 1PM, Zoom. ***Pastrix, The Cranky, Beautiful Faith of a Sinner and Saint by Nadia Bolz-Weber*** . Please read Ch.12 - Ch.14

*Thursday*

- Choir at 2PM
- Bells at 3PM

<u>Upcoming Events</u>

- **Nov. 1st:** Daylight Savings Time Ends. Time to turn your clocks back one hour.
- **Nov. 15th:** St. Andrew Day

<u>New Accompanist at St. Andrew</u>

**Welcome Barbara Lopez to our worshiping community. She will be our new Accompanist for worship and choir, along with our two students, Christian and Matthew. Barbara plays both piano and organ and has been a church musician for many years. She teaches both piano and voice and has taught Jazz Piano and Music Theory at Cabrillo College. We feel blessed to have Barbara leading us in worship. Let's give her a warm welcome.**