St. Andrew Presbyterian Church of Aptos
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Worship Bulletin for November 22, 2026

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

Welcome and Announcements

Minute for Mission **A San Ardo Christmas** **Al Cheney**

***Call to Worship** (Psalm 100 adapted from Psalms for Praying) *(responsive)*

Sing a joyful noise to the Holy One all peoples of the earth!
Serve the God of Love with a glad heart!
Join hands in the great Dance of Life!
Know that the Love of your heart is the Divine Presence!
Love created us and we belong to the Most High;
We are born to be loving, expressions of the Creator's Divine Plan.
Open the gates of your heart with gratitude and enter the God of Love's court with praise!
ALL: For Love is of God, and lives in your heart forever
With faith, truth, and joy, now and in all that is to come. Alleluia! Amen!

***Hymn** *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee* GtG #611

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love!
Hearts unfold like flowers before thee, opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the dark of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.

All thy works with joy surround thee; earth and heaven reflect thy rays;
stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird and flowing fountain, call us to rejoice in thee.

Mortals, join the happy chorus which the morning stars began.
Love divine is reigning o'er us, joining all in heaven's plan.
Ever singing, march we onward, victors in the midst of strife.
Joyful music leads us sunward in the triumph song of life.

Prayer of Confession *(unison)*

We confess, O God, that we have failed to see Jesus in the strangers that surround us or the people who are in a different political party. We have been doubtful that we have any power to help those in detention centers, a prison of its own. We have tended to worship money and power over compassion. We sometimes blame the sick and hungry and homeless for their condition...Yet we too have been needy and weak and afraid. We walk through the travails of life just like they do. Forgive our self-concern that shuts out others and cuts us off from you, Amen

Time for silent reflection

Assurance of Grace

We are all made alive in Christ. May we live in the reign of Christ and as we do, life becomes fulfilling and purposeful! Christ is our Good Shepherd, and we have each known Christ's care. Our cups overflow. Let us give thanks for the goodness and mercy God has so abundantly given.

Special Music *My House by Leonard Bernstein* Kathryn Adkins

Make the floor of faith, Make the walls of truth, Put a roof of peace above (lyrics)

***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.

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** *Christ Be Beside Me* GtG #702

Christ be beside me; Christ be before me;
Christ be behind me, King of my heart.
Christ be within me; Christ be below me;
Christ be above me, never to part.

Christ on my right hand, Christ on my left hand,
Christ all around me, shield in the strife.
Christ in my sleeping, Christ in my sitting,
Christ in my rising, Light of my life.

Christ be in all hearts thinking about me;
Christ be on all tongues telling of me.
Christ be the vision in eyes that see me;
in ears that hear me Christ ever be.

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination *(responsive)*
God of Mercy, grant that the Word you speak through this reading may take root in our hearts and bear fruit in our living. **Amen**

First Lesson: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24 OT page #803

For thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out. As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries and will bring them into their own land, and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice. Therefore, thus says the Lord God to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. Because you pushed with flank and shoulder and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged, and I will judge between sheep and sheep. I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them; he shall feed them and be their shepherd. And I, the Lord, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the Lord have spoken.

Second Lesson: **Ephesians 1:15-23** **NT page #192**

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Sermon **King or Shepherd?** **Rev. Nan Swanson**

WE RESPOND IN FAITH

Affirmation of Faith (from a declaration of faith) *(unison)*

We acknowledge God is at work here and now when people show personal concern for each other and work to make helping agencies, including the church itself, more compassionate. We believe God sends us to risk our own peace and comfort in compassion for our neighbors. We are to give to them and receive from them, accepting everyone we meet as a person; to be sensitive to those who suffer in body or mind to help and accept help in ways that affirm dignity and responsibility. We must not limit our compassion to those we judge deserving, for we ourselves do not deserve the compassion of God. God sends us to work for peace.

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)*

For feeding us and strengthening us, even as you watch over us, we give you our praise. For health, advice, warmth and guidance, we pour out our gratitude. Because you have invited us into your presence, we would share our joy, in person and through these gifts we present to you. Amen

WE LIVE TO SERVE

***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.

Benediction

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

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TODAY'S SERVERS

LITURGIST: Stan Cowan **GREETER:** Janet Maack

COFFEE HOST: Lori Burkett **ACCOMPANIST:** Barbara Lopez

OFFERING COUNTERS: David and Sharon Allshouse

Unity Candle: This week we pray for St. Philips United Presbyterian Church in Salinas

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today

- **Cluster #1 meeting at Erik's DeliCafe (102 Rancho Del Mar, Aptos) hosted by Shari Gallegos.**

Thursday

- **Choir at 2PM**

<u>Upcoming Events</u>

- **Nov. 15th-Dec. 2nd:** A San Ardo Christmas (donations can be dropped off in the Office) – see below
- **Nov. 26th-27th:** Office Closed for Thanksgiving
- **Nov. 29th:** Congregational Meeting: Elect new officers and approve pastor's housing allowance.
- **Nov. 29th:** Last day to donate to help raise $850 to purchase gift cards for CASA – see below

- **Dec. 1st:** Advent Bible Study- ***Right Here, Right Now, the Practice of Christian Mindfulness, by Amy G. Oden***. Please purchase the book online and join us starting on December 1st, at 1:00 on Zoom. Please read Ch. 1.

New Choir Director at St. Andrew

Please welcome Gail Swain, our new Choir/Music Director. She will be soloing during a service for us on Nov 29th as we welcome Advent. Gail was responsible for the music program, Choir Director, and Song Leader for the Unitarian Church in Aptos, from 2008-2025. Gail has many years' experience with liturgical vocal music. She looks forward to serving this Congregation and sharing her love of singing with you.

Give Back This Holiday Season! 🎁

Looking for ways to make a difference this holiday season? There are two meaningful ways you can give back and help bring joy and comfort to others:

1. CASA Court Appointed Special Advocates FOR CHILDREN OF SANTA CRUZ COUNTY — **SHARE THE LOVE – GIFT CARD DONATION DRIVE**

Help Us Spread Holiday Cheer!

Our goal is to raise $850 to purchase 17 gift cards valued at $50 each for the older children at CASA. Your generosity will help make the holiday season a little brighter by offering encouragement, support, and a reminder that our community cares.

How to Donate: Please drop off your check during worship or mail it to the church office. **Be sure to note "CASA Stocking" in the memo line.**

Donation Deadline: November 29th. Thank you for your kindness and generosity! Together, we can make a difference and be a blessing to these young people this holiday season.



2. **JOIN WITH VETERANS TO SUPPORT A SAN ARDO CHRISTMAS**

For 23 years, the Marine Corps League of Monterey Bay has helped make Christmas special for the approximately 90 students at San Ardo School (Grades 1–8), a community where many families face financial hardship.

This Christmas, we invite our St. Andrew congregation to share the spirit of giving by donating new or gently used adult or children's clothing, bedding, and towels. These items are greatly needed and deeply appreciated by local families.

Please bring donations to the church office by **Wednesday, December 2nd**. Al Cheney will deliver them to San Ardo for the Christmas celebration on Friday, December 18th.

Your generosity will help bring warmth, comfort, and Christmas joy to families who truly need it. Thank you for sharing the true meaning of Christmas! ~ Al Cheney