St. Andrew Presbyterian Church of Aptos
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Worship Bulletin for November 8, 2026

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

Welcome and Announcements

***Call to Worship** *(responsive)*
Are you awake? Are you alert?
Christ is coming into our lives in a new way.
Are you watching the signs?
Are you interpreting what is happening today?
Christ is coming into our lives in a new way.
Do you see opportunities for ministry?
Do you see the poor, the homeless, the hungry, the needy?
Christ is coming into our lives in a new way.
Come, let us worship and let us work toward the reign of God.
Christ has extended the invitation:
let us work together in the reign of God on earth.

***Hymn** *The Days Are Surely Coming* GtG # 357

The days are surely coming, says God to all the earth,
when you will see my promise: salvation come to birth.
My righteousness and justice will spread throughout the land
and you will be delivered by my almighty hand.

The days are surely coming, says Christ, the promised one,
when you will read my warning in moon and stars and sun.
Though earth and heaven tremble, stand up and do not fear,
for I am your redeemer, and I am drawing near.

The days are surely coming when we will know at last
the fullness of God's presence, God's promise, come to pass.
Then righteousness and justice will spread throughout the land
and we will be delivered by God's almighty hand.

Prayer of Confession *(unison)*

O God, our God, Creator of the stars of night,
Forgive us when we forget that darkness and light go hand-in-hand;
That the suffering of another is our suffering,
That the joy we know is not to be hoarded but shared.
That just as light warms and energizes us,
So darkness calms us and gives us rest.
That there are those who still live in shadows of fear and grief
That we are called to be with them in the dark, and to bring light.
We thank you for day and night, for darkness and light, for the strife and the joy, and for making us whole. Amen.

Assurance of Grace *(responsive)*

Friends in Christ, know this: the mercy of God is from everlasting to everlasting, and I remind you of this surpassing grace – in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.
Alleluia! 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.

Special Music *Piano Sonata No. 9 by Ludwig Beethoven* Christian Stallard

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** *Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers* GtG # 362

Rejoice! Rejoice, believers, and let your lights appear;
the evening is advancing and darker night is near.
The Bridegroom is arising and soon he will draw nigh.
Up, watch with expectation; at midnight comes the cry.

See that your lamps are burning; replenish them with oil;
look now for your salvation, the end of sin and toil.
The marriage feast is waiting; the gates wide open stand;
arise, O heirs of glory; the Bridegroom is at hand!

Our hope and expectation, O Jesus, now appear;
arise, thou Sun so longed for, above this shadowed sphere!
With hearts and hands uplifted, we plead, O Lord, to see
the day of earth's redemption, and ever be with thee!

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination *(responsive)*

God, source of all light, by your Word you give light to the soul. Pour out on us the spirit of wisdom and understanding that our hearts and minds may be opened. ***Amen.***

First Lesson: **1 Thessalonians 4:13-18** **NT page #204**

But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

Second Lesson: **Matthew 25:1-13** **NT page #28**

"Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' And while they went to buy it, the

bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet, and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' Keep awake, therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

Sermon **Light for the Kingdom** **The Rev. Anne McAnelly**

WE RESPOND IN FAITH

*Affirmation of Faith *(unison) 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, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.

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. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Offering

Offertory Christian Stallard

***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)*

Watchful God, you call us to keep awake—to live with open eyes and attentive hearts, ready to recognize Christ in the needs and joys that surround us each day. As we bring these gifts, keep the flame of compassion burning within us. Fill us with the oil of kindness, generosity, and holy attentiveness, that our lives may shine with your love in a world too often dimmed by fear and indifference. Use these offerings and our willing spirits to bring light, hope, and welcome to your children. Keep us awake to your presence and faithful in your service, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

WE LIVE TO SERVE

***Hymn** *Seek Ye First* GtG # 175

Seek ye first the kingdom of God and its righteousness,
and all these things shall be added unto you.
Allelu, alleluia!

Ask, and it shall be given unto you; seek, and you shall find;
knock, and the door shall be opened unto you.
Allelu, alleluia!

You shall not live by bread alone, but by every word
that proceeds from the mouth of God.
Allelu, alleluia!

Benediction

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

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TODAY'S SERVERS

LITURGIST: Al Cheney **GREETERS:** Bill and Nancy Samsel

COFFEE HOST: Janet Maack **ACCOMPANIST:** Christian Stallard

OFFERING COUNTERS: Shari Gallegos and Pam Arnsberger

Unity Candle: Today we pray for Gonzales Community Presbyterian Church

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Monday

- **Operations Meeting at 10AM, Thomas**

Tuesday

- **Deacons Meeting at 10AM, Thomas**
- **Bible Study at 1PM, Zoom. *Pastrix, The Cranky, Beautiful Faith of a Sinner and Saint by Nadia Bolz-Weber* . Please read Ch.17 – Afterward**
- **Session Meeting at 4PM, Zoom**

Wednesday

- **Red Cross Blood Drive from 9-2PM, Hubler. Appointments are FULL.**
- **Outreach Meeting at Noon, Zoom**

Thursday

- **Choir at 2PM**
- **Bells at 3PM**

<u>Upcoming Events</u>

- **Nov. 15th:** St. Andrew Day: Remember to wear your plaids. With Celtic music followed by Courtyard gathering after worship.
- **Nov. 22nd:** Cluster #1 meeting at Erik's DeliCafe (102 Rancho Del Mar, Aptos) hosted by Shari Gallegos
- **Nov. 26th-27th:** Office Closed for Thanksgiving
- **Nov. 29th :** Congregational Meeting: Elect new officers and approve pastor's housing allowance