

APTOS

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

August 23, 2026 ~ 10 AM Worship

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost



Gabe House, Pastor

Daniel Goldsmith, Music Director

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Articles for the September issue of The Tide are due. Please email your information to office@aptosumc.org.

Worship Assistant signups (usher, liturgist, coffee volunteer, altar flowers) for September are available today.

Thanks Today to:

Our **Liturgist:** Susan Weeks

Our **Usher:** Jillian Holmberg

Our **Tech Team:** Carolyn Collins, Roger Swenson

Our **Coffee Volunteer:** Keri Swenson

Our **Altar Flowers:** Given by Tammy Philbin

Special thanks to the **Choir** (*Dick Wood, Bill Fennell, Helene Milner, Jillian Holmberg, Ruth Landmann, Peggy Kaysen, Lee MacDonell, Pastor Gabe, Laurel Blaney*) for sharing their talents with us today!

This Week:

Monday, 8/24: PACT 10 AM

Tuesday, 8/25: Alive Now 10 AM, Upper Room Group 7 PM

Friday, 8/28: Scott Group 10 AM

Coming Up:

~ Office Closed 8/31 through 9/4 ~

Wednesday, 9/2: Village Santa Cruz 1 PM

Monday, 9/7: **Labor Day, Office Closed**

Aptos UMC sends out a weekly email blast on Saturdays. If you would like to be added to the email list, contact the office at office@aptosumc.org. *If you've given us your email address and aren't receiving the emails, please check your junk or spam folder.*

You are invited to join our Prayer Team. The Prayer Team receives a weekly email with prayer requests. To join the Prayer Team or submit a prayer request, contact the church office.

Online giving is available. Go to aptosumc.org and click on the 'GIVE NOW' button, or scan this code using your smartphone.



Order of Worship

Gathering Music

Call To Worship

In a world where powerful people make decisions to lift themselves up and cast others aside, how does God teach us to use our power? **God teaches us to protect the vulnerable, resist the oppressors, and persist in doing good.**

In a world where power means might, how does God show us what power means?

God shows us through Peter's truth-telling and Jesus' humility.

In a world where power is held over people's heads, how does God exercise power?

God exercises power with—with the oppressed, with the outcasts, with the poor and downtrodden.

Beloved, we gather to recognize our world as it is and to grow as disciples and imitators of Christ. So, how will you use your power today?

We will side with the vulnerable, build community in the margins, and love all of our neighbors with the exuberant and all-encompassing love of Christ. Amen.

Prelude

Opening Prayer

O God, Sustainer of all life and Creator of the universe, you set us aside to be leaders, so help us see things as they are and not only as they affect ourselves.

Grant that we may have a wise and modest estimate of our own powers and live in full contact with all things high, true, and good.

Teach us our failings and our faults; give us courage to acknowledge them and, by your grace, enable us to overcome them.

Lift us above the unstable currents of our self-will and establish us on the rock of your purposes.

Be to each of us the secret stay and the inner guide of our lives.

May your Spirit dwell in us more and more, that your peace which exceeds all understanding may possess our hearts and minds.

Amen.

Announcements

Opening Hymn #175

“Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee”

Children's Time

Prayer for Illumination

Lord, open our hearts and minds, by the power of your Holy Spirit, that as the Scriptures are read, and your Word proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.

Scripture

Matthew 16:13-20

Sermon

“Power”

Pastor Gabe

Hymn #2226

“Bind Us Together”

Prayers of the People

Confession and Pardon

While we may yearn to be like Jesus, we know that in our hotheaded choices, our frantic lives, our impetuous words, we are too often like Peter. But like him, we can confess Christ as our Lord, speaking of our need for your saving presence in our lives.

In forgiving us, God of new life, you would transform our cold hearts into those melted in service to others. In granting us mercy, you challenge us to think of all those we have ignored. In gifting us with grace, you enable us to proclaim Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, as the hope, the joy, the peace the world seeks.

Amen.

Passing of the Peace

Special Music

Choir

“Come and See” words by Pamela Martin, music by Michael Barrett

Offering

Doxology #94

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord's Prayer

Closing Hymn #2242 (v2,4)

“Walk with Me”

Benediction

Postlude

Matthew 16:13-20 NRSVue

¹³ Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" ¹⁴ And they said, "Some say John the Baptist but others Elijah and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." ¹⁵ He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." ¹⁷ And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." ²⁰ Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.