

The Tide is in! Copies of our December/January newsletter are available today. The latest edition is always available at aptosumc.org.

It's the first Sunday of the month and that means **Equal Exchange Fair Trade coffee and chocolate** are available for purchase today in the Fellowship Hall. Equal Exchange products make great stocking stuffers!

Alternative Christmas giving begins today, and continues through December 21. Giving options include Second Harvest Food Bank, NAMI, Heifer International, and Missionary Katherine Parker. More information can be found in this month's Tide, or stop by the Alternative Christmas table after worship.

Thanks Today to:

Our **Liturgist:** Marion Proffitt

Our **Ushers:** Jane and Steve Green

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

Our **Coffee Volunteers:** Keri Swenson

This Week:

Tuesday, 12/9: Alive Now 10 AM, Upper Room Group 7 PM

Thursday, 12/11: Senior Stretch 9:30 AM

Friday, 12/12: Scott Group 10 AM

Coming Up:

Monday, 12/15: PACT 10 AM

Wednesday, 12/17: Finance 5:15 PM

Wednesday, 12/24: Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship 5 PM

Saturday, 12/27: Memorial Service for Bob Blaney 11 AM

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.*

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



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.

APTOS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

December 7, 2025 ~ 10 AM Worship

Second Sunday of Advent

Aptos UMC is an inclusive community that welcomes and encourages full participation of ALL PERSONS, regardless of race, culture, age, economic circumstance, sexual orientation, gender identity, or physical/mental abilities. We affirm our denomination's motto, "Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors"

SIGNS AND STORIES



Gabe House, Pastor

Daniel Goldsmith, Music Director

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Order of Worship

Gathering Music

Call To Worship

Beloved, we gather to remember who we are, not who the world tells us to be.

We tell the story together of the day that all the earth awaits.

We recall the story of God's people, how God has called us to live in peace and righteousness in a world full of conflict and twisted morality.

We tell the story together of the day that all the earth awaits.

We recount the story of our journey with God, the moments of God's provision, God's prodding, and God's prophetic guidance.

We tell the story together of the day that all the earth awaits.

We gather to repent and return anew to God's story that guides our lives to work for peace and flourishing for all God's creation.

We gather to tell the story of the day that all the earth awaits.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

Prelude

Opening Prayer

Loving God, be to us as a bulldozer of the spirit. Clear your road in us; clear a path through the detritus of possessions and obsessions. Thrust aside our divided aims and devious games. Topple the ramparts of pride and the doubts that deride. Make a highway on which Christ may come and take possession of the whole territory of our being. To the glory of your name, we pray. Amen!

Announcements

Opening Hymn #108 **"God Hath Spoken by the Prophets"**

Advent Candle Lighting Liturgy Lee and Joe MacDonell

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 3:1-12

Sermon "Signs and Stories" Pastor Gabe

Hymn #2089 **"Wild and Lone the Prophet's Voice"**

Prayers of the People

Confession and Pardon

When our faith is rooted deeply in you, O God, our lives reflect your kingdom values of justice and righteousness, but sometimes our lives become so entangled with the values of the world, that your values take second place. Forgive us, O God, and reconnect us to the Holy Spirit, source of power and life. Merciful God, strip our hearts and minds of all that prevents our lives being firmly rooted in you. May our lives bear fruit worthy of our faith in you, as we watch and wait for your breaking into our world once more, in the person of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

Passing of the Peace

Offering

Doxology #94 **"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"**

Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right... ...with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Holy are you... ...as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here... ...now and for ever.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Holy Communion

Closing Hymn #207

"Prepare the Way of the Lord"

Benediction

Postlude

Matthew 3:1-12 NRSVue

¹ In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ² “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” ³ This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
‘Prepare the way of the Lord;
make his paths straight.’ ”

⁴ Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵ Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, ⁶ and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷ But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸ Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, ⁹ and do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ¹⁰ Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not

bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹ “I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹² His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

Advent Candle Lighting Liturgy

First Reader:

Advent reminds us that we are people who share a story, the story of Jesus, who enacts peace by judging in favor of the poor and deciding with equity for the meek of the earth. We long for the day when “the wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them”.

Congregation:

Today, we choose to live the story of peace, believing that true peace comes when we seek the flourishing of all God’s creation.

Second Reader:

We light this candle of peace as a sign of our commitment to bring Light to the places the world seeks to hide until that day when all creation lives together in harmony and abundance.

Light the second candle of the Advent wreath.