

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.

Thanks Today to:

Our **Liturgist:** Rachél Lather

Our **Usher:** Peggy Kaysen

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

Our **Coffee Volunteer:** Vicki Cull

Our **Altar Flowers:** Keri Swenson

This Week:

Tuesday, 1/6: Alive Now 10 AM, Upper Room Group 7 PM

Wednesday, 1/7: Village Santa Cruz 1 PM

Thursday, 1/8: Senior Stretch 9:30 AM

Friday, 1/9: Scott Group 10 AM

Coming Up:

Monday, 1/12: PACT 10 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

January 4, 2026 ~ 10 AM Worship

Epiphany of the Lord

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"



Gabe House, Pastor
Daniel Goldsmith, Music Director

221 Thunderbird Drive, Aptos, CA 95003
831-688-2210 aptosumc.org office@aptosumc.org
Facebook: Aptos United Methodist Church YouTube: @aptosumc

Order of Worship

Gathering Music

Call To Worship

We gather as people looking for the star, a sign that God is at work in the world.

God, help us find your glory.

We gather as people listening for the whispers of the Spirit, hints of the good news in the least likely places.

God, help us notice your glory.

We gather as people yearning for Love's presence, the assurance that we are not alone and Love will have the last word.

God, help us encounter your glory.

On this Epiphany Sunday, may the Light of Love shine among us, revealing divine glory through neighbors known and unknown, vulnerable children, and unexpected gifts.

God, reveal to us anew the glory of your expansive Love that gathers us together and sustains us in loving service to one another and all creation. Amen.

Prelude

Opening Prayer

O God, you made of one blood all nations, and, by a star in the East, revealed to all peoples him whose name is Emmanuel. Enable us who know your presence with us so to proclaim his unsearchable riches that all may come to his light and bow before the brightness of his rising, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.

Announcements

Opening Hymn #245

“The First Noel”

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 2:1-12

Sermon

“Seeing the Light”

Pastor Gabe

Hymn #219

“What Child Is This”

Prayers of the People

Confession and Pardon

Loving God, we confess our sins against you and one another, and pray that you will fill us with your light, that we may live our lives as true disciples in your name, without counting the cost. In the name of Christ, the one who showed us the way, we pray. 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 #254

“We Three Kings”

Benediction

Postlude

Matthew 2:1-12 NRSVue

¹ In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, ² asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage." ³ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, ⁴ and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶ 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah, for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.' "

⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸ Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." ⁹ When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the

star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹ On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.