

Alternative Christmas giving 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.

Book Club will not be meeting this week.

Thanks Today to:

Our **Liturgist:** Joyce Rodgers

Our **Usher:** Peggy Kaysen

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

Our **Coffee Volunteers:** Helene Milner and Boyd Brown

Special thanks to the **Mixed Quartet** (*Helene Milner, Peggy Kaysen, Bill Fennell, Dick Wood*) for sharing their talents with us today!

This Week:

Monday, 12/15: PACT 10 AM

Tuesday, 12/16: Alive Now 10 AM, Upper Room Group 7 PM

Wednesday, 12/17: Finance 5:15 PM

Thursday, 12/18: Senior Stretch 9:30 AM

Friday, 12/19: Scott Group 10 AM

Coming Up:

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

Saturday, 12/27: Celebration of Life for Bob Blaney 11 AM

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 14, 2025 ~ 10 AM Worship

Third 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"



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

Beloved, we gather to rejoice in God who does wondrous things, who promises that someday all manner of things shall be well.

We rejoice in the truth of the day that all the earth awaits.

We worship with joy now, confident that God will not stop until all creation is at peace.

We rejoice in the truth of the day that all the earth awaits.

We lift up our voices in song and story, in prayer and praise, as we remember and rejoice in all that God has done and will do among us.

We rejoice in the truth of the day that all the earth awaits.

Come! Let us worship God with joy as we work with God toward the day when all of creation lives in everlasting joy.

Come! Let us rejoice in the truth of the day that all the earth awaits.

Prelude

Opening Prayer

Holy God of Joy, we rejoice in the reality of who you are. We live within the joy of your love for us. Our contentment comes and goes. Our happiness ebbs and flows. Our feelings depend upon our circumstances, our physical health, our brain chemistry. But our joy is deeply rooted in our identity as your beloved children. And we give you thanks. Amen.

Announcements

Opening Hymn #202

“People, Look East”

Advent Candle Lighting Liturgy

Marion and Mike Proffitt
Lily Vogt, Wyatt Vogt

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 11:2-11

Sermon

“Signs and Truths”

Pastor Gabe

Hymn #2091

“The King of Glory Comes”

Prayers of the People

Confession and Pardon

God, we confess that we have often placed our hope in people and things that can’t fulfill our every need. We have searched for peace in shallow places. We have mistaken joy for temporal pleasure and artificial exhilaration. We have put limits on the ways we love, excluding those who need our loving kindness the most. God, when we have lost our way, show us yours. Guide us to the hope in you that will renew our strength. Lead us to your peace that transcends all understanding. Fill us with a joy we can only experience in your presence. Remind us that you have always loved us with an everlasting love, so that we may share that love with others. Amen.

Passing of the Peace

Special Music

“Who Would Send a Baby?”

Mixed Quartet

words and music by Mary Kay Beall

Offering

Doxology #94

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord’s Prayer

Closing Hymn #203

“Hail to the Lord’s Anointed”

Benediction

Postlude

Matthew 11:2-11 NRSVue

² When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³ and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" ⁴ Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵ the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with a skin disease are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶ And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

⁷ As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸ What, then, did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹ What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰ This is the one about whom it is written,

'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.'

¹¹ "Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist, yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

Advent Candle Lighting Liturgy

First Reader:

In the midst of our waiting and longing for God to make the world right again, we cling to the truth that God has saved, God is saving, and God will save. So today, we join our voices with the prophet Isaiah, who calls us to live in the joy of the truth of God's salvation.

Congregation:

We choose to believe that the day is coming when "the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away".

Second Reader:

We light this candle of joy as a sign of the Truth that sets us free to live in joy as we wait and work for the day when all creation will flourish together.

Light the third (pink) candle of the Advent wreath.