

The Tide Is In! Paper 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. They make great stocking stuffers!

Our Annual Charge Conference will be today immediately following worship. We welcome District Superintendent Rev. Dr. Samuel Hong, who will preside at today's meeting.

Thanks Today to:

Our **Liturgist:** Jean Williams

Our **Usher:** Tammy Philbin

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

Our **Coffee Volunteers:** Keri Swenson

This Week:

Monday, 12/2: PACT 10 AM

Tuesday, 12/3: Alive Now 10 AM, Upper Room Group 7 PM

Wednesday, 12/4: Village Santa Cruz 1 PM, Finance 5:15 PM

Thursday, 12/5: Senior Stretch 9:30 AM

Friday, 12/6: Scott Group 10 AM

Coming Up:

Saturday, 12/21: Blue Christmas Service 3 PM

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

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.

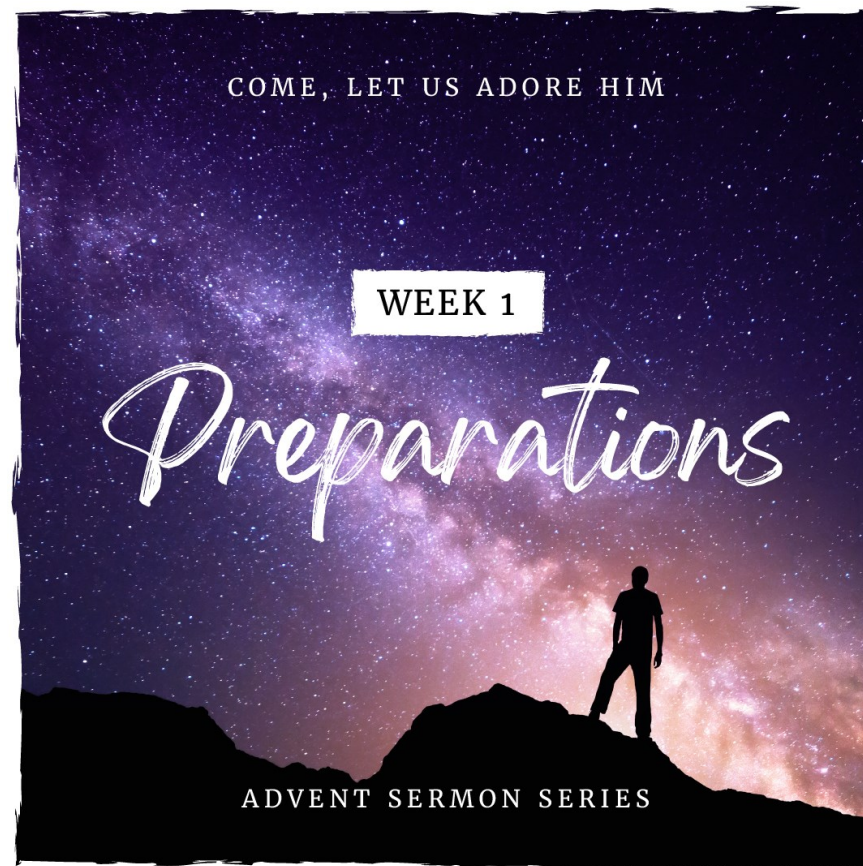


APTOS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

December 1, 2024 ~ 10 AM Worship

First 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

Sebastian Stock, Accompanist

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

Children of God, pay attention! The days are coming when God's peace will reign and all creation will flourish under the reign of our Creator.

The days are surely coming!

Children of God, prepare your hearts! The days are coming and are already here when God will come near and show us how to recognize God's reign among us.

The days are surely coming and are already here!

Children of God, be alert and listen! God has come near to build the kin-dom on the earth here and now. Will you join in?

The days are surely coming and are already here! We come to prepare our hearts to pay attention, to listen, and to follow God's call to build the kin-dom of earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

Prelude

Opening Prayer

God of our Expectation, we praise you for surely-coming days when you will execute Shalom: love, peace, health, and well-being for the people who walked in darkness. We await with assurance the surely-coming days when no city fears hurricanes, no country fears nuclear bombs, and no tribe fears annihilation by another. We thank you for the surely-coming days when no person fears another because God chose to create all people in the diversity of God's image. We thank you for our hope and for your surely-coming days. Amen.

Announcements

Opening Hymn #207

"Prepare the Way of the Lord"

Advent Candle Lighting Liturgy

Bob and Laurel Blaney

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

Jeremiah 33:14-16

Sermon

"Preparations"

Pastor Gabe

Hymn #196

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

Prayers of the People

Confession and Pardon

Holy God, we confess that we are busy with many preparations. We are busy with parties, with feasts, with giving. We are busy cleaning house and wrapping presents. We are busy with the stuff of the holiday. And we confess that our busyness may be misplaced, that we spend more time preparing for things than preparing for You. Draw us back to the center, which is You. Remind us that our hearts and souls have work to do, too. Enable us to let go of that which does not matter, and to see what does matter. This we pray in Jesus' name. 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 #203 (v1,4)

"Hail to the Lord's Anointed"

Benediction

Postlude

Jeremiah 33:14-16 NRSVue

¹⁴ The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵ In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶ In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

Advent Candle Lighting Liturgy

Reader One:

From deep in the past, Jeremiah calls to us, "The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah".

Beloved, the days are surely coming when the yearning of the land; the longing of the sun, moon, and stars; the desperate need of the people of earth for flourishing and peace will receive their fulfillment.

Congregation:

While fear, anxiety, misinformation, and suspicion surround us on every side, we choose to watch and wait in hope, preparing our hearts to notice and cooperate with God's grace already at work in our midst.

Reader Two:

We light this candle of hope as a sign of our commitment to pay attention and prepare for the days that are surely coming and are already here—the days when God's kin-dom of love, justice, and mercy will reign.

Light the first candle of the Advent wreath.