

The Tide is in! Copies of our March 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.

Thanks Today to:

Our **Liturgist:** Marion Proffitt

Our **Usher:** Peggy Kaysen

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

Our **Coffee Volunteer:** Keri Swenson

No Altar Flowers during Lent

This Week:

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

Wednesday, 3/4: Village Santa Cruz 1 PM

Thursday, 3/5: Senior Stretch 9:30 AM

Friday, 3/6: Scott Group 10 AM

Coming Up:

Sunday, 3/8: **Daylight Saving Time starts**

Monday, 3/9: PACT 10 AM

Sunday, 3/15: **UMCOR Sunday**

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

March 1, 2026 ~ 10 AM Worship

Second Sunday in Lent

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"



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Order of Worship

Gathering Music

Call To Worship

Children of God, in Lent we remember that our salvation is an unearned gift, that new life is a matter of faith, not of works.

We gather to lay down the burden of trying to earn our salvation.

Like Nicodemus, who met Jesus in the dark of night, we struggle to accept that new life is not just possible but given as a free gift of grace.

We gather to bring our struggles into the light and embrace God's grace with open arms.

Like the many who have followed, questioned, and grown in the faith, we submit ourselves to be formed by grace as we work out our salvation day by day.

We gather as people guided by the promise of new life, a promise fulfilled by Christ, whose path we follow. Amen.

Prelude

Opening Prayer

Infinite Love, heart of all life, you loved this word into being with such love as to birth yourself among us, Love begotten as the Beloved. Your presence does not separate but unites; love does not push away, but embraces; you do not condemn, but save. Trusting this, we know we are loved, never rejected. Thanks be to God! Amen.

Announcements

Opening Hymn #393

"Spirit of the Living God"

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

John 3:1-17

Sermon

"Guided by the Promise"

Pastor Gabe

Hymn #382

"Have Thine Own Way, Lord"

Prayers of the People

Confession and Pardon

Loving God, help us. When we have run away, when we have turned our backs on love, when we have sought immediate satisfaction and not long-term healing, help us.

Merciful God, forgive us. When we have been selfish, when we have been mean, when we have neglected the cries of others, forgive us.

Powerful God, heal us. When we are so broken we cannot move, when we don't know how to stem the bleeding of our wounds, when we are too ashamed to seek community, heal us.

Give us the courage, the strength, and the hope to accept your grace and embrace your call in Christ. Amen.

Passing of the Peace

Offering

Doxology #64 (v1) **"Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty"**

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 #384

"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

Benediction

Postlude

John 3:1-17 NRSVue

¹ Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ² He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person." ³ Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." ⁴ Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" ⁵ Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶ What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' ⁸ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." ⁹ Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" ¹⁰ Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?"

¹¹ "Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹² If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³ No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴ And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶ "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷ "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him.