

College Avenue Presbyterian Church
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FAITH-FULL COURAGE IN A TIME OF DISAGREEMENT

Welcome to CAPC Oakland!

We are a reformed, multicultural, politically purple, community of followers of Jesus seeking to live our faith seriously in word, deed and relationships in the East Bay.

If you've never celebrated with us, you can follow along using this paper or the projection on the screen. Hymnals and Bibles are in the pews. We invite you to join us for a moment of community connection afterwards with a drink and simple snack.

CHILDREN

We have a quiet play area for children in the front of the sanctuary with toys and coloring sheets that can be played with during services. We also have a lounge, off the entryway, where the service is broadcast if you need more space.

We invite children 3 years old to 6th grade to depart for Godly Play following our second song. You can gather your child(ren) after worship upstairs in the GP room.

PRAYER CARDS

You're invited to share your prayers of concern or gratitude by filling out the cards, located in the pews, and placing them in the glass vase on the table. We'll use them during today's service.

WIFI & SOCIAL MEDIA

2wire927 is our open wifi. The password is 7304088568. If you do social media during the service we invite you to add #capcoakland to include others.

NESTLÉ PARKING LOT

We're able to park in the lot behind the church. They ask us to enter and exit off of Chabot Road, using the pedestrian door there near Crossroads Trading.

CCL #1137062

November 17, 2019

GATHERING AROUND GOD'S WORD

GATHERING SONG "Gather Us In" - Insert

CALL TO WORSHIP - Insert

SONG OF PRAISE "In My Life Lord" - Insert

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

ACT OF CONFESSION

OPENING OURSELVES TO BEING UNDONE, THAT WE MIGHT BE REDONE

SUNG RESPONSE "Our Darkness" - Insert

DECLARATION OF GRACE.

THE IN-BREAKING OF GOD'S GRACE DISRUPTS OUR HUMAN CONDITION OF SIN

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER - David Kittams

Call and response liturgically prayed at the conclusion of sharing a prayer card

Leader: God, in your mercy.

People: Hear our prayer.

To pray with someone after the service, look for today's liturgist after today's service

GIVING OF OUR TITHES & OFFERINGS TO EMPOWER THE WORK OF GOD IN THE CHURCH

OFFERTORY SONG "We Will Take What You Offer" - Insert

LISTENING TO SCRIPTURE Psalm 85, Matthew 22:15-22 - Pew Bible pp. 577, 957

SERMON "Faith-full Courage in a Time of Disagreement" - Monte McClain

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

SONG OF RESPONSE "Is It Lawful to Pay Taxes?" - Insert

SENDING CALL AND RESPONSE

Leader: God is good!

Leader: And all the time!

People: All the time!

People: God is good!

EXHORTATION & BENEDICTION

PASSING THE PEACE OF GOD "Tiyoox tii Ka'tal" /tea oshtea katal/ (Poqomam)

We pass the peace weekly using languages native to the cultures of our church community as an audible sign of the Dominion of God at work towards the healing transformation of the world.

Thoughts on Today's Readings Psalm 85, Matthew 22:15-22



In the tumultuous division of today, it's often that we find ourselves face to face with someone close to us (family, friends, church members, co-workers) with whom we fiercely disagree about politics, local events, history, and even theological stances. It can be tongue-tyingly uncomfortable, leave us shaking with indignation or mute with dumbfoundedness. The actress and activist America Ferrera points out in an interview that "our discomfort and our grappling is not a sign of failure. It's a sign that we're living at the edge of our imaginations."

How do we talk with one another? How do we (re)learn to talk with one another whether we wear MAGA hats, are at a protested school board meeting, in a church fight, or sitting down at the Thanksgiving Table with those people who think.... My the key to having courage in such moments of disagreement and courage is more connected to imagination than a strong-back bone or a silenced tongue?

The Psalm for today is a community prayer for God's renewed mercy and love. The four chief attributes of God: steadfast love (mercy), faithfulness (truth), righteousness (justice), and peace meet together like people greeting each other with a kiss. Such a meeting might be hard for us to imagine today without shouting, protests signs, or threats. In the gospel story of Jesus being confronted by his adversaries in public with a tricky test, he responds with courageous imagination. His adversaries, who themselves disagree on working with and working to overthrow the occupying Roman powers, come to trap Jesus into outing himself publicly as a collaborators of Rome, a hypocrite who doesn't practice what he preaches, or a revolutionary seeking to overthrow the government. Jesus responds by asking them to produce a coin with which the questioned taxes would be paid. He shows great mercy and hold fast to clear truth.

The root of the word courage is *cor* - the Latin word for heart. In one of its earliest forms, the word courage meant "To speak one's mind by telling all one's heart." Over time, this definition has changed, and today, we typically associate courage with heroic and brave deeds. Responding with courage is responding from the way of the heart. Curiously the Hebrew word for courage means "listen and repeat" - it's about an active engagement, a willingness to take action. Those two notions behind the word courage lead to imagination.

Like the Ancient Israelites, we live in a time of Exile in that the world is not what we thought, imagined and believed. We can feel threatened by that foreignness. We can respond by withdrawing, complicit indifference, embracing it or resisting it. Jesus teaches a way of creative imagination - imagining a different outcome or reality than the limited one that seems unavoidable. He does so from the heart, with courage, willing to act upon, to live into the world in which he believes, believing that there is good in the other person who also is created in the holy image of God.

QUESTIONS FOR THE PRACTICE OF EXAMEN & CONTEMPLATION

- What word, phrase or image grabs your attention?
- How do you struggle to be imaginative in disagreement?
- What invitation to do you hear in this word for you / us?

ANNOUNCEMENTS & COMMUNITY NEWS

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

11 Al Hussian	13 Elaine Price
15 Pete Feltman	16 Elodie McClain
Ruth Ann Friedland	19 Radman Beatty

COMMUNITY LIFE CALENDAR

TODAY: After worship we're having a training session for those who want to be greeters.

ESL Class tomorrow & Mondays 7-9pm. Our efforts to show God's love to local immigrants through simple one-on-one conversation.

Join our Choir! Tuesdays 5:30-6:30p, Sundays 12-1p | Contact Pete Feltman in person or by email at petefeltman@gmail.com

Celtic Prayer Group, Wednesdays 6:45-8:15pm
Contact *Marda* at mqstothers@gmail.com for info.

Friday Night Meal, 6-7pm this week (11/24) the meal is being prepared and served by a group from First Covenant Church.

Women's Group, Saturdays 8:30am | in the church library (meets 1st, 2nd, 3rd Saturdays)

The Vocabulary of Faith | Sundays 9:30-10:15a
A weekly intro to learning how to read the Bible.

Campus News: Be sure to check out the design for the garden labyrinth & see the newly pruned tree. This week we also completed much needed roof repairs above the sanctuary doors, the rear entry near the kitchen and above the entry into the Little School Space. Al Barnes is also working to beautify & preserve our front doors.

HELP NEEDED: THANKSGIVING MEAL - Sign up today in person to help, to commit to cooking a turkey, bring in underwear/socks, etc. or online at www.capcoakland.org/thanksgiving-meal

Meeting of the Congregation, Sunday 11/24 to elect new officers (elders & deacons).

Thank you to Today's Leadership
Counting: Albert Hussian, Jeff Trowbridge
Deacon Liturgist: David Kittams
Fellowship: Linda Davis, Louise Hirschman
Godly Play: David Kittams (ST); Elaine Price (DK)

Leadership for next week, 11/24/19:
Counting: Louise Hirschman, Sharon Nelson
Deacon Liturgist: David Kittams
Fellowship: F Darmstadt, K Parsons McClain
Godly Play: Linda Davis (ST); Mercy Beatty (DK)

LYRICS & WRITTEN RESPONSES FOR TODAY'S CELEBRATION

Here in This Place (Gather Us In)

*Adam M. L. Marty Haugen (1979)
Glory to God Hymnal #401*

1. Now is the darkness vanished away,
See in this space our fears and our dreamings,
Brought here to you in the light of this day.
Gather us in - the lost and forsaken,
Gather us in the blind and the lame;
Call to us now, and we shall awaken,
We shall arise at the sound of our name.
2. We are the young our lives are a myst'ry
We are the old who yearn for your face,
We have been sung throughout all of hist'ry,
Called to be light to the whole human race.
Gather us in the rich and the haughty,
Gather us in the proud and the strong;
Give us a heart so meek and so lowly,
Give us the courage to enter the song.
3. Here will will take the wine and the water,
Here we will take the bread of new birth,
Here you shall call your sons and your daughters,
Call us anew to be salt for the earth.
Give us to drink the wine of compassion,
Give us to eat the bread that is you;
Nourish us well, and teach us to fashion
lives that are holy
And hearts that are true.
4. Not in the dark of buildings confining,
Not in some heaven, light-years away,
But here in this place the new light is shining,
Now is the Kingdom, now is the day.
Gather us in and hold us forever,
Gather us in and make us your own;
Gather us in - all peoples together,
Fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

CALL TO WORSHIP RESPONSIVE READING

*Today's reading is inspired from Matthew 22, taken
www.ministrymatters.com*

The People read the BOLD print

One: God has called us to be people of love.
**ALL: God didn't mean the "syrupy" stuff of
movies and novels.**

One: Truly loving can sometimes be difficult
**ALL: Yet we are called to reach beyond the
difficulty with compassion.**

One: In all of this, God is with us,
guiding and helping us.
**ALL: Thanks be to God for God's faithful
presence. AMEN.**

"In My Life, Lord, Be glorified, Be glorified"

*Author: Bob Kilpatrick (1978); Glory to God #468
Inspired from: Psalm 24:10; Isaiah 66:5; 1 Corinthians
6:19-20; 1 Corinthians 10:31; Ephesians 3:21*

1. In my life, Lord, be glorified; be glorified.
In my life, Lord, be glorified today.
2. In our song, Lord, be glorified; be glorified.
In our song, Lord, be glorified today.
3. In your church, Lord, be glorified; be glorified.
In your church, Lord, be glorified today.
4. In your world, Lord, be glorified; be glorified.
In your world, Lord, be glorified today.

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, it isn't easy for us to follow the commandments of loving.

Jesus said the greatest commandment is to love God and to love our neighbors.

But we have allowed misunderstanding, fear, hatred, and prejudice to cloud our spirits, turning them away from those who need our love.

We place a test before you, asking that you prove your love to us, or we threaten not to believe in you.

Forgive us for this foolishness and stubbornness.

Give us the courage to be people who will care for others.

Let us dedicate our lives in your service, always aware of your awesome love for us.

This we ask in Jesus' Name. Amen.

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"Our Darkness"

Author: Taizé Community

English; French

© 1991, *Les Presses de Taizé*,

Our darkness is never darkness in your sight
The deepest night is clear as the daylight

Words of Assurance

Though our hearts were hardened to the needs of others, God has touched them with God's compassionate care, healing our wounds and giving courage and strength to our souls. Be assured that God's love is poured out for you and rejoice! AMEN

"We Will Take What You Offer"

Author: John L. Bell (1998)

We will take what you offer.
We will live by your word.
We will love one another
and be fed by you, Lord.

"Is It Lawful to Pay Taxes?"

Biblical References: Matthew 22:15-22; Mark 12:13-17; Luke 20:20-26 Tune: The Sacred Harp, 1844; attributed to Benjamin Franklin White ("God Whose Giving Knows No Ending") (MIDI)

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New Hymns: www.carolynshymns.com/

1. "Is it lawful to pay taxes when they prop up Caesar's rule?"
So some people asked of Jesus, wanting him to seem a fool.
Saying "no" would be sedition;
saying "yes" would be a sin.
Jesus changed the conversation,
calling them to look within.
2. "Find a tax coin in your treasure;
see the image that it bears.
Give to Caesar what is Caesar's.
(Give to rulers what is theirs.)"
Yet he pressed on with his message;
"Give to God what is God's own."
We who bear our Maker's image
worship God and God alone.
3. Lord of all, in every nation,
may your word be understood —
That we have an obligation
to support the common good.
May our taxes, all together,
fund our working hand in hand
So that life will be made better
for all people in this land.
4. Still, we also hear your teaching:
"Give to God what God is due."
May no ruler — overreaching —
try to take the place of you.
May we listen to your message,
may we honor what is yours;
May we, living in your image,
seek your kingdom that endures.