

College Avenue Presbyterian Church
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November 24, 2019

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

GATHERING AROUND GOD'S WORD

GATHERING SONG "Let All Things Now Living" - *Insert*

CALL TO WORSHIP - *Insert*

SONG OF PRAISE "Give Thanks" - *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
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 Jeremiah 29:1-14 & Matthew 25:31-46
Pew Bible pp. 763, 961

SERMON "A Matthew 25 Church" - *Monte McClain*

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

SONG OF RESPONSE "My Tribute" - *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 Jeremiah 29:1-14; Matthew 25:31-46

We come to the end of our Fall series on the Exile today, finishing where we started with Jeremiah 29 which talks of the literal Exile and existential challenged faced by the ancient Israelites. They have been conquered by the ascendant Babylonian Empire – the new superpower in the 590s BCE. Many Israelites were deported to far away Babylon in 597 when Babylon first conquered the nation. Jeremiah, among others, was left behind in Jerusalem. He hears that false prophets have been telling the captives in Israel what they want to hear. You're going to go home. Don't worry. None of this is real. It's all going to be ok (in the sense that we'll escape the troubles were tasting). Jeremiah say the opposite: things are going to probably get worse before they get better. But don't be afraid. Things will be ok, but you, we, are going to know hard times and suffering. Don't be paralyzed by doubt, and fear. Invest in the land in which you're living. Love your neighbor (*even your Babylonian one*) as God loves you. Seek the good of your new home (*even if they're your enemies*) because in doing so you'll be serving the common good, of which you're a part. You're also to be a light to the nations, showing your faith in God through the way you live and treat others. It seems simple, yet it's radically revolutionary.



Matthew 25, our second reading, is an apocalyptic scene or vision told as a parable story by Jesus. It's a scene filled with metaphor and symbol, that reveals that the present injustice is not a permanent way of life. God's action will reverse it. Jesus sides with the least of these, those on the margins of our society, disappeared in our imaginations, overlooked in the brouhaha of every day life. Curiously those deemed "sheep" don't know what they've done, they just naturally did it. The righteousness embodied in their example seems to be less a good work than a way of life. The Son of Man, a biblical title for God's promised Messiah-King, is seemingly absent yet glimpsed in the world through the life of those that belong to this divine family which is gathered not by genetics or hierarchical relationships but by those who seek to do the will of God.

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, suspecting that God has abandoned us, or been banished by the secular aspects of our world. Yet these prophetic passages cast a vision of God coming near to us when God seems most absent, a God-presence that is most visible when seen indirectly: a paradoxical good word for us, in our own time of Exile.

QUESTIONS FOR THE PRACTICE OF EXAMEN & CONTEMPLATION

- **Both scriptures talk of how God is present when seemingly absent. How do you see God in the world?**
- **How do you struggle to trust God without seeing, what we might call "living in Exile"?**
- **How does Jesus define family in the vision?**
- **How and who are the "righteous" in the parable?**
- **What invitation to do you hear in this word about how to act, speak, be(come) or to live in our relationships?**

ANNOUNCEMENTS & COMMUNITY NEWS

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

29 Penny Ticehurst

COMMUNITY LIFE CALENDAR

TODAY: We're having a congregational Meeting immediately after worship to elect new officers to our leadership boards.

CHRISTAS DECORATING! We also need your help carrying down boxes of decorations & our tree forest from the gym storage closet to the sanctuary. *Together it'll take only 20 minutes!*

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
They are not meeting until Wednesday, 12/4.

Friday Night Meal, 6-7pm (11/29)

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.

HELP NEEDED: THANKSGIVING MEAL –Sign up today in person to help on the lists up front.

TURKEY TIME If you've signed up to pick-up a turkey and cook it at home, returning it Thursday am be sure to sign your bird out today!

Matthew 25 Daily Prayer - Pick up a prayer resource bases on today's word. Blue paper in the entryway.

Advent - next week is the first week in Advent!

Prayer Mandalas - pick up a prayer mandala to use as a prayer tool to pray for Palín, Guatemala.

Thank you to Today's Leadership

Counting; Louise Hirschman, Sharon Nelson
Deacon Liturgist: David Kittams
Fellowship: F Darmstadt, K Parsons McClain
Godly Play: Linda Davis (ST); Mercy Beatty (DK)

Leadership for next week, 12/1/19:

Counting; Marda Stothers, Marge Harvey
Deacon Liturgist: Janet Majors
Godly Play: Children Remain in Worship
Greeters: Chickwendu Okereke, Fredora Darmstadt

LYRICS & WRITTEN RESPONSES FOR TODAY'S CELEBRATION

"Let all things now Living"

Author: Katherine Davis (1939)

Blue Hymnal #554

Scripture: Genesis 1:2; Job 26; Job 38

1. Let all things now living
a song of thanksgiving
To God our Creator triumphantly raise.
Who fashioned and made us,
protected and stayed us,
By guiding us on to the end of our days.
God's banners are o'er us,
pure light goes before us,
A pillar of fire shining forth in the night.
Till shadows have vanished
and darkness is banished
As forward we travel from light into light.

2, By law God enforces,
the stars in their courses
And sun in its orbit obediently shine;
The hills and the mountains,
the rivers and fountains,
The depths of the ocean
proclaim God divine.
We too should be voicing
our love and rejoicing;
With glad adoration
a song let us raise
Till all things now living unite in thanksgiving:
"To God in the highest, Hosanna and praise!"

CALL TO WORSHIP RESPONSIVE READING

Today's readings come from a service liturgy proposed by the
Presbyterian Church (USA) around the theme of Matthew 25. Find
it and other good stuff online at

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/matthew-25>

The People read the BOLD print

One: Jesus says:
Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.
Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.

**ALL: And blessed is the church
that serves with the love of God
to eradicate systemic poverty.**

One: Jesus says:

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst
for righteousness,
for they will be filled.
Blessed are the merciful,
for they will receive mercy.
Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God.

**ALL: And blessed is the church
that trusts in the grace of Christ
to build congregational vitality.**

One: Jesus says:

Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.
Blessed are those who are persecuted
for righteousness' sake,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are you when people revile you
and utter all kinds of evil against you
falsely on my account.
Rejoice and be glad,
for your reward is great in heaven.

**ALL: And blessed is the church
that seeks by the power of the Spirit
to dismantle structural racism.**

One: Blessed are you, O holy, triune God,

**ALL: and blessed is your holy realm
forever.**

"Give thanks with a grateful heart"

Henry Smith (1978, alt.)

Copyright 1970 by Integrity's Hosanna! Music.

Glory to God #647

Give thanks with a grateful heart
Give thanks to the Holy One
Give thanks because He's given
Jesus Christ, His Son

(repeat)

And now let the weak say, "I am strong."
Let the poor say, "I am rich
Because of what the Lord has done for us"

(repeat)

Prayer of Confession

A voice is crying out in the wilderness:

“Prepare the way of the Lord!”

Trusting in God’s grace, let us confess our sin.

**ALL: Merciful God, we confess
that we have wandered
from your way of truth and life.
You call us to share all that we have Systemic Poverty
and work together for the common good,
but we hoard up treasures for ourselves
and deny others their daily bread.
You call us to set the captives free Structural Racism
and seek justice for the oppressed,
but we live in fear of our neighbors
and hide ourselves from our own kin.
You call us to walk in newness of life
Congregational Vitality
and to be witnesses to the resurrection,
but we dwell in the valley of dry bones
and keep silent about your saving love.
Forgive us, God of grace.
Set us free from sin, death and fear
so that we may serve you with gladness;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

“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

One: Hear the good news:

God’s love has been poured into our hearts
through the gift of the Holy Spirit.

I declare to you in the name of Jesus Christ,
we are forgiven.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

“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.

“My Tribute”

Andraé Crouch (1971)

Tune: MY TRIBUTE

[Verse:]

How can I say thanks
For the things You have done for me?
Things so undeserved
Yet You gave to prove Your love for me;
The voices of a million angels
Could not express my gratitude
All that I am and ever hope to be
I owe it all to Thee

[Chorus 1:]

To God be the glory
To God be the glory
To God be the glory
For the things He has done

[Chorus 2:]

With His blood He has saved me
With His power He has raised me;
To God be the glory
For the things He has done

[Bridge:]

Just let me live my life
Let it pleasing, Lord to Thee
And if I gain any praise
Let it go to Calvary

[Chorus 2:]

With His blood He has saved me
With His power He has raised me;
To God be the glory
For the things He has done