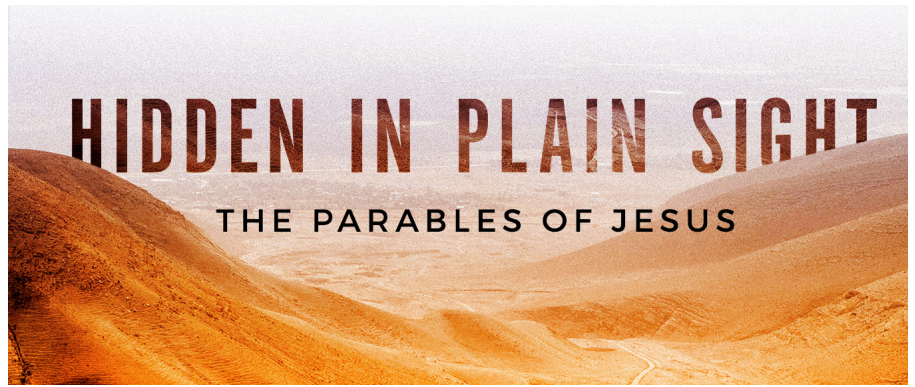


College Avenue Presbyterian Church
 5951 College Avenue | Oakland | 94618
 www.capcoakland.org | www.capcoakland.me
 Office : 510.658.3665 | capc1@sbcglobal.net
 Pastor Monte: 510.658.3666 | Cell 510.520.0746
 montemclain@gmail.com



January 19, 2020

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 "Immortal, Invisible" - *Blue Hymnal #263*

CALL TO WORSHIP - *- Insert*

SONG OF PRAISE "Dig a Little Deeper" - *Insert*

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

ACT OF CONFESSION

OPENING OURSELVES TO BEING UNDONE, THAT WE MIGHT BE REDONE

SUNG RESPONSE "Turn your eyes upon Jesus" - *Insert*

DECLARATION OF GOD'S GRACE

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

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER - *Deacon 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 "His Eye is on the Sparrow" - *Insert*

LISTENING TO SCRIPTURE Mark 4:1-34 *Pew Bible pp. 971*

SPEAKING OF FAITH "To Stay Stable, Don't Look to the Horizon" - *Monte McClain*

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

SONG OF RESPONSE "To What Can the Kingdom of God Be Compared" - *Insert*

THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

PRAYERS FOR THE SHADLEYS & ONGOING MISSIONAL WORK IN PALIN, GUATEMALA

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 "Ping An" (Mandarin, Chinese)

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 Reading Mark 4:1-34

Today's text dwells in the teaching of Jesus about the Kingdom of God via parables. A parable is an analogy in that the story is about one thing, but actually is talking about something else. They usually begin with Jesus saying "the kingdom of God is like..." He wasn't the only one to use them in his teaching, but Jesus sure was good at it.

All of these parables are about agriculture and farming: a man who plants seed in his garden, a man whose garden grows in the day and the night, and a mustard seed. But Jesus isn't teaching the crowds (and us) about better farming techniques.

It's only by analogy that Jesus can reveal the mystery of how God is present in the world. It's not something that can be directly described. It's not a secret, but knowledge that is elusive. Language is inadequate to reveal the mystery of God's presence and purpose. You cannot get what God is about simply by interpreting the words. You have to get "got" by the parable story within the story.

The first words that Jesus speaks in Mark are in 1:15 "Time's up! God's kingdom is here. Change your life and believe the Message." But while it seems clear it's also elusive. People had been looking to the horizon, waiting, hoping ardently for God's deliverance from their troubles of imperial occupation, economic inequality, and social change. They were wondering *when* and *if* God would ever show up. For Mark, it's clear. But we – like the crowds of people listening to the parables – are looking to discern God's presence and to learn to walk in God's ways.

The parables point to the limits of human comprehension and abilities to discern the work of God in the world. We struggle with parables and such allegorical language because it's not how we talk and teach. We want complex subjects to be explained to us. Biblical scholars tell us that the parables seek to disclose the mystery, to invite us and empower us to participate in the presence, purpose and person of God.

Jesus speaks of the presence of God as a crazy farmer who throws seed everywhere, trusting it will grow in the daylight and the nighttime, hoping it'll grow vigorously like the most invasive weed. The parables are a double disclosure. As they open our sight to grapple with the message of God, we ourselves are opened up to the mysterious presence of God in and among us. It's God working through the words – the words that make us aware of our inability to comprehend and which also call us to participate in God's dominion here and now.

QUESTIONS FOR THE PRACTICE OF EXAMEN & CONTEMPLATION

- Which of the parables in today's reading most grabs you?
- What is the parable saying? What is it literally about?
- How is it clear? How is it confusing or inefficient?
- What is it disclosing? About God? About you? about us?
- How or where have you experienced the mystery revealed in the parable in your own life? How do you testify and "sow" that seed in your lifestyle?



ANNOUNCEMENTS & COMMUNITY NEWS

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

18 Gary Yee 20 Daniel Geary
25 Joy Barnes 29 Bill Beatty

COMMUNITY LIFE CALENDAR

The Last Gift Box Workshop | Today, 3:00 to 5:00 pm | Tina Cole Kreitz, will share the strategies available in her guide to help adult children and their parents decide how they wish to live and die. *Flyers in the entryway*

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

Friday Night Meal, 6-7pm (1/24) This week a group from First Covenant Church is heading up the meal effort with Harry Hussian as host.

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

Men's Breakfast, Saturday 1/25 8:30am – at the home of Bill Beatty – 5653 Ocean View

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

Happy Half-Hour Thursdays 6-6:30pm – wind down your week with a communal spiritual practice then grab a bit or drink along the Ave.

Lunar New Year Celebration | Next Sunday, January 26th in Coffee Hour after worship

English as a Second Language Classes | our ministry with local immigrants here in Oakland - Starts up again Monday, January 13th – 7-9pm

Organizing 2020 sign up to be involved in ministry areas or emerging small groups today up front or online at www.capcoakland.org/2020

Thank you to this Week's Leadership:
Counting; A Hussian, Jeff Trowbridge
Deacon Liturgist: David Kittams
Fellowship: Beth & Bill Beatty
Godly Play: Linda Davis (ST); F. Darmstadt (DK)
Greeters: Biruta Vinerts, Elaine Price

Leadership for next week, 1/26/2020:
Counting; Sharon Nelson, Louise Hirschman
Deacon Liturgist: Diana Geary
Fellowship: D. Kittams, M. Stothers, G Yee
Godly Play: Patt Schroeder (ST); Avery Haynes (DK)
Greeters: Janet Majors, Mryna Shadley

LYRICS & WRITTEN RESPONSES FOR TODAY'S CELEBRATION

"Immortal, Invisible, Godly Only Wise"

Author: Walter C. Smith (1867)
Blue Hymnal #263

1 Immortal, invisible, God only wise
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes
Most blessed, most glorious the ancient of days
Almighty, victorious, Thy great name we praise

2. Unresting unhasting and silent as light
Nor wanting, nor wasting, Thou rulest in might
Thy justice like mountains high soaring above
Thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love

3. To all life Thou givest to both great and small
In all life Thou livest the true life of all
We blossom and flourish like leaves on the tree
Then wither and perish but naught changeth Thee

4. Thou reignest in glory, Thou rulest in light
Thine angels adore Thee all veiling their sight
All praise we should render O help us to see
Tis only the splendor of light hideth Thee

CALL TO WORSHIP RESPONSIVE READING

Posted by Rev. Mindi at <http://rev-olution.org/2015/06/05/worship-resources-for-june-14th-2015-third-sunday-after-pentecost/>

The People read the BOLD print

One: We walk by faith, not by sight;

ALL: Our confidence is in Christ who died and was raised for us.

One: The love of Christ urges us on,

ALL: And all of us have died and have risen with Christ.

One: If we are in Christ, we are a new creation:

ALL: Everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

One: Come, join in this time of worship:

ALL: May we experience the new life in Christ now and forever;

May we live and worship in God's reign forever. Amen.

"Dig a Little Deeper"

Written by: Kenneth Morris
Lyrics © Warner Chappell Music, Inc.
Made famous by Mahalia Jackson

1 You got to live, you ought to dig
I want to dig a little deeper in the storehouse of his love, eternal love
I hope to shine and love sublime
I want to dig a little deeper in the storehouse of his love, eternal love

(chorus)

I want to dig a little deeper in God's love
I gotta Dig a little deeper down in God's love
I wanna Dig a little deeper in the storehouse of his love, eternal love
I want to talk a little moment like Jesus would
I wanna walk just like a good Christian should
I wanna dig a little deeper in the storehouse of his love, eternal love

2. I want to do what's always true

I want to dig a little deeper in the storehouse of his love, eternal love
Each passing hour, I want more power
I want to dig a little deeper in the storehouse of his love, eternal love

Prayer of Confession

Today's prayer was written by Rev. Mindi at <http://rev-olution.org>

ALL: God of Life, we confess that all too often we are focused on ourselves, on our families, on the people close to us, and we neglect those in need all around. We feel we are justified, we cannot help everyone, but yet you called us to love one another, to life up the poor, pray for the sick, and visit the imprisoned. Help us to see all of Your children as our kindred in Christ. Help us to remember that we are all part of Your Beloved Community and we cannot live for ourselves anymore if we hope to live with You, now and throughout eternity. In the name of Christ, who gave his life for us, and lives again for us, we pray. Amen.

“Turn your eyes upon Jesus”

Helen Howarth Lemmel (1922)

2. Through death into life everlasting
He passed and we follow him there
Over us sin no more hath dominion
For more than conquerors we are

Refrain

Turn your eyes upon Jesus
Look full in his wonderful face
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim
In the light of his glory and grace

“His eye is on the sparrow”

Civilla D. Martin (1905)

Glory to God Hymnal #661

2. Let not your heart be troubled his tender word I hear
And resting on his goodness I lose my doubts and fears
though by the path he leadeth but one step I may see
His eye is on the sparrow and I know he watches me
His eye is on the sparrow and I know he watches me

chorus

I sing because I'm happy,
I sing because I'm free
His eye is on the sparrow
and I know he watches me

“To What Can the Kingdom of God Be Compared”

Biblical Reference: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Tune: William Howard Doane, 1875 (“To God Be the Glory”)

Text: Copyright © 2011 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette.

1. To what can the kingdom
of God be compared?
A mustard seed falls
where a field's been prepared,
And there, where predictable
plantings should be,
There grows up a wild bush —
as big as a tree!
God of love, here on earth,
hidden things still surprise:
Loving deeds ... signs of birth
... faithful, Spirit-filled lives.
Your reign is amazing,
your ways still astound,
Just like that new life
springing forth from the ground.

2. A small bit of leaven
will change the whole bread:
A poor woman sees
that her neighbors are fed,
A church reaches out
to the youth in the town,
A man shares his faith
and God's blessings abound.
God of love, here on earth,
hidden things still surprise:
Loving deeds ... signs of birth
... faithful, Spirit-filled lives.
Your reign is among us,
creation is blessed,
When even a few faithful
lives change the rest.

3. While some look for treasure
or one priceless pearl,
God's reign is the gift
wise ones seek in this world.
A girl sells possessions
to help those in need;
A boy chooses faithfulness
rather than greed.
God of love, here on earth,
hidden things still surprise:
Loving deeds ... signs of birth
... faithful, Spirit-filled lives.
Your reign is a treasure
that wise ones pursue;
May we seek your kingdom
in all that we do.

A Prayer by Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr

“Lord... We thank you for your church,
founded upon your Word, that challenges us
to do more than sing and pray, but go out
and work as though the very answer to our
prayers depended on us and not upon
you. Help us to realize that humanity was
created to shine like the stars and live on
through all eternity. Keep us, we pray, in
perfect peace. Help us to walk
together, pray together, sing together, and
live together until that day when all God's
children - Black, White, Red, Brown and
Yellow - will rejoice in one common band of
humanity in the reign of our Lord and of our
God, we pray. Amen.”