

College Avenue Presbyterian Church
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December 1, 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 "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus" - *Blue Hymnal #2*

CALL TO WORSHIP - *Insert*

SONG OF PRAISE "We Are Marching" - *Insert*

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

ACT OF CONFESSION

OPENING OURSELVES TO BEING UNDONE, THAT WE MIGHT BE REDONE

SUNG CHORAL RESPONSE "Ave Verum Corpus" - *Translation in the 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 - *Deacon Janet Majors*

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 "Raise a song of gladness" - *Insert*

LISTENING TO SCRIPTURE Isaiah 2:1-5 & Matthew 24:36-44 *Pew Bible pp. 664, 960*

SPEAKING OF FAITH - *John LaMotte*

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

SONG OF RESPONSE "Down by the Riverside" - *Insert*

COMMUNION: FINDING GOD AROUND THE TABLE

We celebrate by intinction, coming forward to receive the meal. If you'd prefer an individual cup or to be served at your seat, please raise your hand during our celebration as we'll attend to you.

SONG DURING COMMUNION "While We Are Waiting Come" - *Insert*

THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

SENDING CALL AND RESPONSE

Leader: God is good!

Leader: And all the time!

People: All the time!

People: God is good!

EXHORTATION & SONG CHORAL BENEDICTION "The Lord Bless You And Keep You"

PASSING THE PEACE OF GOD "Salam almasih" or "المسيح سلام" (Arabic)

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 Isaiah 2:1-5 & Matthew 24:36-44

Today marks our entrance into the season of Advent. It's the beginning of the Church year, rooted in the notion of hope – faith as hope - faith as light that outshines the seemingly invincible darkness. In our normal New Years' Celebrations we talk of wishes or resolutions, how we want to improve ourselves,. Hope is a notion that is different than a wish or desire for self-improvement.



The book of Hebrews says that Hope is a certainty in the veracity of things that are unseen. The biblical notion of Hope isn't naïve or happy-go-lucky. It's rooted in a resilient belief, in a ferocious trust that what we see is neither all that there is, nor the way things will always be. Hope is leaning into the reality of God, seeking to glimpse the world, each other, and ourselves, through the eyes of God.

It's in this scope of vision that we encounter the prophetic picture of God's promised future. Isaiah writes nearly 2,600 years ago when Jerusalem, capital of Judah (the Southern Kingdom of Israel) is conquered, and their world is over. It's from and in these ruins that God speak, that Isaiah sees a word, experiences something that is beyond our senses, that stretches the imagination: this defeated city will become the center of a realm of peace, where now there is famine and desolation God will set a table of abundant and succulent foods and drink, a feat for all peoples.

In Matthew 24, we encounter Jesus admonishing those who put their trust in him to say awake and alert, to not slumber or settle in the lulling darkness of today. He refers to the hope of Noah, who built a huge boat during dry days, trusting that God's word that the rains would come, would not just come, but that it was what was most real. He then talks of a home owner who sleeping his way through life thinks that what is will always be.

As the season of Advent begins, the darkness of our days grows. The light is fleeting, the days fly by....it can seem like all of life will be swallowed up in the tenebrous cold of winter. And yet... we know that what is, is not all that there is. In fact at the Winter Solstice, in just a few weeks, the light will overcome the darkness and begin to grow again in the orbit of Earth around the Sun.

Today, much of our culture is divided between wishing to make things great again like they used to be, or resisting what things have become. But our faith in Christ invites us to place our hope in how God is already making the world – a place where weapons or destruction are turned into agricultural tools, where desolation is replaced by a delectable dinner table.

QUESTIONS FOR THE PRACTICE OF EXAMEN & CONTEMPLATION

- **What word, phrase or image grabs your attention?**
- **How do you see or glimpse that future in today's world? How do we need it?**
- **How do you feel like you've been asleep? How do you struggle to live from and towards hope?**

ANNOUNCEMENTS & COMMUNITY NEWS

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| 1 Barbara Epstein-Eagle | Megan Beatty |
| 2 Annette Laverty | 8 Taylor Beatty |
| Cristina Ramirez-Fonua | 9 Laura LaMotte |
| 10 Carol Zappin | 13 Lane Stahl |
| 15 Janet Majors | 31 Gianelle Beatty |

COMMUNITY LIFE CALENDAR

A big **THANK YOU** to Jeff & Brian Trowbridge, Al Barnes, Ben Bencomo and Bill Beatty for decorating the church so thoughtfully.

ESL Class tomorrow 7-9pm. End of the term party Wednesday, 12/4 7-9pm @ Primera Iglesia

Join our Choir! Tuesdays 5:30-6:30p, Sundays 12-1p | Contact Pete Feltman in person or by email at petefeltman@gmail.com The choir is singing each Sunday in Advent – warm ups at 10am.

Celtic Prayer Group, Wednesdays 6:45-8:15pm

Friday Night Meal, 6-7pm (12/6) put on by Aurora School, hosted by Janet Majors.

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

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

Advent e-Devotion. Monte is doing a digital devotion throughout Advent on his FB page and at www.montemcclain.com

Happy Half-Hour Thursday 6-6:30pm – a weekly evensong gathering during Advent

Advent Family Dinners – want to help organize or host? Talk to Monte

La Ceiba Coffee Holiday Pack for sale for \$15

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: Marda Stothers, Marge Harvey
Deacon Liturgist: David Kittams
Fellowship: F Darmstadt, K Parsons McClain
Godly Play: Children Remain in Worship
Greeters: Chickwendu Okereke, Fredora Darmstadt

Leadership for next week, 12/8/19:

Counting: Anne Marie Adams, Margaret Smith
Deacon Liturgist: Janet Majors
Fellowship: Marge & Richard Harvey
Godly Play: Patt Schroeder (ST), Radman Beatty (DK)
Greeters: Anne Marie Adams, Cristina Ramirez Fonua

LYRICS & WRITTEN RESPONSES FOR TODAY'S CELEBRATION

"Come Thou Long Expected Jesus"

Charles Wesley (1744)

Scripture: Haggai 2:7 | Blue Hymnal #2

1. Come, Thou long expected Jesus,
Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us;
Let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's Strength and Consolation,
Hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear Desire of every nation,
Joy of every longing heart.

2 Born Thy people to deliver,
Born a child and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever,
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all sufficient merit
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

CALL TO WORSHIP RESPONSIVE READING

This year's Advent Wreath Litanies are written by Martha Spong and can be found on her website at <https://marthaspong.com>

The People read the BOLD print

Reader One:

Isaiah the Prophet cried out to God, I wish you would open the heavens that separate us and come down, making the mountains quake because you are here. Make your name known to all who are against you. Make the nations tremble because of your presence.

Reader Two:

You came before and did awesome deeds that we did not expect; you made our world shake at the sight of you. In all the history of the world, no ears have heard and no eyes have seen any God other than you.

Reader One:

You work for those who wait for you.

Reader Two:

We wait and hope, as we light this candle.
(Please pause as we light one candle, then respond.)

All: Loving God, come and shine your light in the world!

"We Are Marching"

South African Traditional Song

Language: English; Xhosa

© 1984, Peace of Music Publishing AB,
Glory to God Hymnal #853

1. We are marching in the light of God
We are marching in the light of God
We are marching, we are marching oh
We are marching in the light of God
We are marching, we are marching oh
We are marching in the light of God
2. Siyahambay kookay nyen kwen kos
3. We are living in the love of God
4. We are moving in the power of God

Prayer of Confession

Today's prayer is from <http://rev-o-lution.org>

ALL: We confess that we have worshiped the false idols of the world:

wealth, worldly success, fame, power over others.

We confess that we have desired these things more than You,

O God who came to us as a little helpless, homeless child, born in a stable.

We confess that we try to justify our ways over Your ways.

Forgive us, O God, for seeking the temples and sanctuaries of this world that will crumble and disappear.

Forgive us, O God, for seeking the things that will trap us and ensnare us.

Lead us that we might walk in your Way of love,

a love that frees us from the temporary restraints of the world, and leads to eternal life, justice, and peace. In Jesus'

“Ave Verum Corpus”

A motet in D major composed by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart in 1791.

Latin Text:

Ave, verum corpus
natum de Maria Virgine,
Vere passum immolatum
in Cruce pro homine,
Cujus latus perforatum
unda fluxit (et) sanguine,
Esto nobis praegustatum
in mortis examine.

English Translation

*Hail, true body
born of the Virgin Mary,
Who truly suffered, sacrificed
on the Cross for man,
Whose pierced side overflowed
with water* and blood,
Be for us a foretaste**
In the test of death.*

Words of Assurance

One: Arise, shine, your light is coming!
Arise, shine, the light of the world is in you!
Arise, shine, be the light of change
you wish to see in the world.
Arise, shine, knowing that God has forgiven you,
loves you, and restores you.
Arise, shine, and share the Light of the World.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

“Raise a Song of Gladness”

*Taizé Community (1978)
Language: English; Latin
Glory to God Hymnal #155*

Raise a song of gladness, peoples of the earth.
Christ has come, bringing peace, joy to every heart.
Alleluia, alleluia, joy to every heart!
Alleluia, alleluia, joy to every heart!

Jubilate Deo omnis terra.
Servite Domino in laetitia
Alleluia, alleluia, in laetitia!
Alleluia, alleluia, in laetitia!

“Down By The Riverside”

African American spiritual

1. Gonna lay down my burden
Down by the riverside, down by the riverside
Gonna lay down my burden
Study war no more

chorus

I ain't gonna study war no more,
ain't gonna study war no more.
Study war no more
I ain't gonna study war no more,
I ain't gonna study war no more,
Study war no more

chorus

2. Gonna put on my long white robe
down by the riverside

chorus

3. Gonna put on my sword and shield
down by the riverside

chorus

4. Gonna feed people instead of fight
down by the riverside

“While We Are Waiting Come”

*Claire Cloninger (1986)
Glory to God Hymnal #92*

1. While we are waiting, come;
While we are waiting, come.
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel,
While we are waiting, come.

2. With power and glory, come;
With power and glory, come.
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel,
While we are waiting, come.

3. Come, Savior, quickly come;
Come, Savior, quickly come.
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel,
While we are waiting, come.