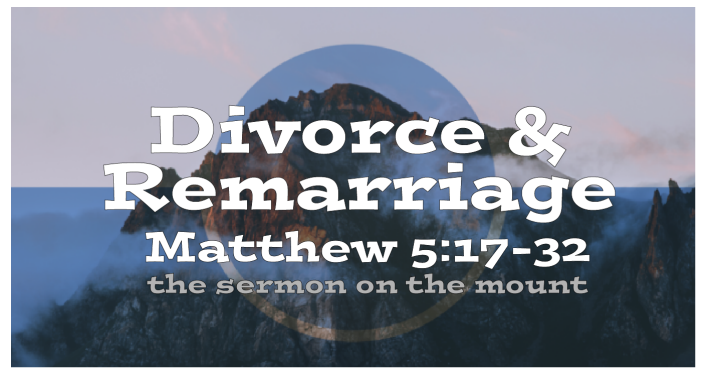


College Avenue Presbyterian Church
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Sunday • October 1, 2023 at 10:30am
 in Person & on Zoom

**Welcome to
 CAPC Oakland!**

We are a reformed, multicultural, politically purple, community of followers of Jesus. Together we seek to vigorously live our faith in our words, actions, and relationships in the East Bay.

As a community we are committed to inclusivity and mutual empowerment which is why all our community gatherings are hybrid. (both in person and via Zoom).

This allows us to gather together and be consistent with our values and commitments.

In our community, face masks are not required, but always welcome.

We want you to do what you need to do for you! Masks are available in the entry.

CHILDREN

We have Godly Play – “Sunday School” for children during our service. It’s a Montessori-like approach to teaching children language to use to learn to express faith through the telling of Bible Stories. The Goldy Play group and leaders leave for their arranged learning space after the 2nd song.

PRAYER CARDS

To operationalize participation in our Prayers of the People we invite you to fill out a prayer card and share it with the liturgist or to share you requests in the chat on ZOOM labeling it with ‘prayer.’

WI-FI

Want Wi-Fi during our gathering? Select our network – Capc1. Our password is 5106583666

CCL #1137062

GATHERING AROUND GOD’S WORD BOTH IN PERSON & VIA ZOOM

PRELUDE “Somebody's Knocking At Your Door”

GATHERING MASH-UP SONG “10,000 Reasons” - Insert

CALL TO WORSHIP - Sharon Nelson

SONG OF PRAISE “If Not For Your Grace” - Insert

Children are invited to depart for Godly Play upstairs with today’s Story-Teller

LISTENING FOR GOD’S WORD

HEARING SCRIPTURE Matthew 5:17-32 - Sharon Nelson

PROCLAIMING GOD’S WORD “Should we read the Bible with Scissors Nearby?” - Rev. Monte McClain

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

SONG OF RESPONSE “God Is Calling In The Whisper” - Glory to God #410

COMING TO THE TABLE

COMMUNION – BEING NOURISHED IN OUR JOURNEY OF FAITH
 AS WE CELEBRATE THE COMMUNION MEAL YOU ARE INVITED TO COME FORWARD TO RECEIVE BREAD AND A CUP FROM OUR SERVERS IN THE CENTER SPACE. WE WELCOME ALL WHO HUNGER FOR THE PEACE OF CHRIST

TABLE SONG “Taste And See” - Glory to God #520

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD’S PRAYER - Myrna Shadley
 WE USE A CALL AND RESPONSE LITURGICALLY PRAYED AT THE CONCLUSION OF SHARING A PRAYER.

Leader: God, in your mercy. **People: Hear our prayer.**

OFFERING

THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

SENDING SONG “In Christ Alone” -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 “La paz de Christo” - Spanish

POSTLUDE “St. Anne's Reel”

Reflections on Today's Reading Matthew 5:13-16

I don't know about you, but I really don't like part of today's reading of scripture. I wonder if we should just skip it. I mean divorce forbidden? In 2022 According to the American Psychological Association, approximately 40-50% of first marriages end in divorce. The divorce rate for second marriages is even higher, with approximately 60-67% of second marriages ending in divorce.



And yet this reading is part of the recorded teaching of Jesus is commonly called the Sermon on the Mount, so it must be worthwhile to wrestle with it and read it again.

The Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7) is not disparate collection of short moral teachings, but radical reinterpretation and recreation of the world. An invitation to followers to be part of something new! We have to thus remember that Jesus is preaching less to condemn and shame folks, than to empower and liberate those considered marginal and unimportant to be the essential workers & builders of the Kingdom of heaven here on Earth. He calls them to be salt and light!

In the ancient world divorce was synonymous with abandonment. Men could abandon, get rid of, "return" their wives at any moment. They didn't owe them anything – alimony, future support, help – and it was culturally accepted. It also was a world that was man-centered, women couldn't work, earning a living only through the generosity of the men in their lives. Moses shockingly required that men at least give a "paper" (certificate) to their wives before they divorced them.

Marriage in the Bible is about a relationship of equality, mutuality, and life-partnership (Eve is made not from Adam's foot bone, but from his rib!). The prophets use it as a metaphor for our relationship (we're the bride) with God (the groom). It's to be a place of safety, nurture, freedom and growth. In life it can become something else entirely.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION & EXAMEN:

- What engaged, enraged, or surprised you in the text?
- The text says Jesus is against divorce. But what he saying that he's against on a wider level?
- How do you struggle and deal with difficult-to-hear scripture?
- What invitation do you hear the Spirit of God speaking to you – *or to us, as a church* – to act, speak, be, or change, through this word of scripture?

October Birthdays

5 Emma Fleming 1919 (104!) 7 Cameron Beatty
14 Mike Castner 6 Chinyere Okereke 1990
30 Joshua Beatty

October Anniversaries

9 Marc and Louise Hirschman 1982

Today at & around CAPC Oakland

Post Service Garden Party! Join us for light snacks and the chance to connect after our service.

Letters of Love: *Everyone loves getting mail!* Pick up an addressed envelope in the back and write a note of encouragement and love to someone who could use a good word. Recipients and their situations are explained on the magnetic board.

This Week at & around CAPC Oakland

Quilters Club Mondays 10a-12p, in the library. No experience required.

Community Bible Study – Tuesday 7:00-8:00PM on Zoom. We're wrestling together with the book of 1 Samuel. This week we're reading 1 Samuel 23-24. Resources & info online at www.capcoakland.org/wrestling-with-scripture

Friday Night Meal – Fridays 6:00-7:00PM. Sign up online to help with set-up, serving, and clean-up – this - or *any* Friday! This Friday our high school partners of Piedmont Community Service Crew are heading up the cooking! Our FNM Leadership is finalizing a new expression of norms and behaviors for our volunteers and guests. This is intended to make our FNM as safe, real, and open as possible for all. – Copies in the entry!

Women's Group: Saturday 9:30-10:30am on Zoom.

Planning for Advent and Christmas Meet-Up today after worship. *We'll meet for no more than 45 minutes to begin planning for Advent and Christmas 2023.*

Congregational Meeting – Sunday, October 15th. *We're meeting for a brief CM to elect a Nominating Team.*

Building News – We opened a new bank account this week – and are ready to receive our loans monies.

Alameda All Faiths Coalition is hosting their fourth interfaith dialogue on Saturday, October 21st from 2 pm to 4 pm. The event will be on Zoom. Our topic this year is "The Diversity of Christianity". Featured are people from the Catholic, Methodist, and Lutheran tradition. They would love to have someone from the Presbyterian church round out our circle. This person does not have to be clergy, just someone who is comfortable talking about your faith. *If you're interested contact Mahri Holt in the office for more info.*

LYRICS & RESPONSES FOR TODAY'S CELEBRATION

We affirm that God is neither male nor female – but wholly and holy other. In doing so, we seek to empower each person to participate fully in worship, able to identify with the lyrics of songs and the words of our communal prayers through our use of gender inclusive language.

“10,000 Reasons”

Matt Redman and Jonas Myrin

Chorus

Bless the Lord Oh my soul, Oh my soul

Worship his holy name

Sing like never before, Oh my soul

I worship your holy name

1. The sun comes up, It's a new day dawning.
It's time to sing your song again
Whatever may pass and whatever lies before me,
let me be singing when the evening comes

2. You're rich in love and You're slow to anger.
Your name is great and your heart is kind
For all Your goodness I will keep on singing,
ten thousand reasons for my heart to find

3. And on that day when my strength is failing,
the end draws near and my time has come
Still my soul will sing your unending,
ten thousand reasons and then forevermore

Call to Worship Opening litany

Psalms 63:1-4

The people read the bold text

One: O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you;

ALL: my soul thirsts for you;

One: my flesh faints for you,

ALL: as in a dry and weary land where there is no water;

One: So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary,

ALL: beholding your power and glory.

One: Because your steadfast love is better than life,

ALL: my lips will praise you.

One: So I will bless you as long as I live;

ALL: in your name I will lift up my hands.

“If Not For Your Grace”

Israel Houghton

Verse

Where would I be if not for your grace

Carrying me in every season

Where would I be if not for your grace

You came to my rescue

and I want to thank you for your grace

(Repeat)

Chorus

Grace that restores, grace that redeems, grace that releases me to worship

Grace that repairs, visions and dreams,
grace that releases miracles

Your grace, Your grace

Verse

Chorus

Bridge

Grace that restores, grace that redeems,
grace that releases miracles

Grace that restores, grace that redeems,
grace that releases miracles

God Is Calling In The Whisper”

Mary Louise Bringle (2003) | Glory to God #410

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1. God is calling through the whisper

Of the Spirit's deepest sighs,

Through the thrill of sudden beauties

That can catch us by surprise.

Flash of lighting, crash of thunder,

Hush of stillness, rush of wonder:

God is calling – can you hear?

God is calling – can you hear?

2. God is calling through the voices

Of our neighbors urgent prayers,

Through their longing for redemption

And for rescue from despair.

Place of hurt or face of needing;

Strident cry or silent pleading:

God is calling – can you hear?

God is calling – can you hear?

(continued on back of page)

3. God is calling through the music
Of sublime and human arts,
Through the hymns of earth and angels,
And the carols of our hearts.
Lift of joy and gift of singing;
Days and nights our praises bringing:
God is calling – can you hear?
God is calling – can you hear?

4.. God has spoken by the prophets,
Spoken the unchanging Word;
Each from age to age proclaiming
God the One, the righteous Lord!
'Mid the world's despair and turmoil

“Taste And See”

James Moore Jr | Glory to God #520

chorus
Taste and see
Taste and see
The goodness of the Lord
(repeat)

verse:
I will bless the lord at all times
Praise shall always be on my lips
My soul shall glory in the lord
For God has been so good to me

chorus

Glorify the lord with me
Together let us all praise God's name
I called the lord who answered me
From all my troubles I was set free

chorus

Worship the lord all you people
You'll want for nothing if you ask
Taste and see that the lord is good
In God we need put all our trust

Taste and see
Taste and see
The goodness of the Lord

“In Christ Alone”

*by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend
Singing the Faith #351*

1. In Christ alone my hope is found
He is my light, my strength, my song
this cornerstone, this solid ground
firm through the fiercest drought and storm
What heights of love, what depths of peace
when fears are stilled, when strivings cease
My comforter, my all in all
here in the love of Christ I stand
2. In Christ alone, who took on flesh
fullness of God in helpless Babe
This gift of love and righteousness
scorned by the ones He came to save
'Til on that cross as Jesus died
the wrath of God was satisfied
For ev'ry sin on Him was laid
here in the death of Christ I live

In Hebrew

Adon olam, asher malach,
b'terem kol y'tzir nivra.
L'et na'asah v'cheftzo kol,
azai melech sh'mo nikra.

V'acharey kichlot hakol,
l'vado yimloch nora.
V'hu haya, v'hu hoveh,
v'hu yih'yeh b'tifara.

Translation:

The Lord of the Universe who reigned
before anything was created.
When all was made by his will
He was acknowledged as King.

And when all shall end
He still all alone shall reign.
He was, He is,
and He shall be in glory.