

College Avenue Presbyterian Church
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**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 your 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

Sunday • October 15, 2023 at 10:30am
 in Person & on Zoom

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

PRELUDE “War No More”

GATHERING SONG “O God Of Love The Fast We Choose” - Insert

CALL TO WORSHIP -

SONG OF PRAISE “Ancient Words” - Insert

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

LISTENING FOR GOD’S WORD

HEARING SCRIPTURE Matthew 6:1-18

PROCLAIMING GOD’S WORD “Do as I Do” - Rev. Monte McClain

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

SONG OF RESPONSE “Potter’s Hand” - Insert

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD’S PRAYER

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 “You Can’t Beat God’s Giving” - Insert

THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

SENDING SONG “I Know The Lord Has Laid His Hands On Me” - Insert

SENDING CALL AND RESPONSE

Leader: God is good!

People: All the time!

Leader: And all the time!

People: God is good!

EXHORTATION & BENEDICTION

PASSING THE PEACE OF GOD “La paz de Christo” - Spanish

POSTLUDE “Goldrush”

Reflections on Today's Reading Matthew 6:1-18

A common, and often valid, critique of the church is that Christians can seem to more often preach "do as I say not as I do." Jesus is talking about just this in this next section of the Sermon on the Mount. He's been telling people who chose to follow his Way of living to live as lights of the world and salt of the earth, to show God's justice – to live towards the purpose of creation that God intends: reconciliation and peace rooted in justice, abundance, mutual forbearance and contagious love. Today Jesus turns to focus on three practices of faith: helping the poor (alms), prayer, and fasting (another form of prayer).

In a first read it can sound like Jesus is telling people to not do any of these things, to not pray in public, to not fast, to not do anything publically. But looking closer one notices the nuance. It's not that praying, fasting and helping the poor in a visible way is bad. Rather it's about how it's done. Do we do things to draw attention to us and ourselves, or to pay attention to God? Do we act to make ourselves look good more than we strive to conform ourselves to what God is about?

In the middle of this teaching, Jesus teaches us how to pray. We now call this the "Lord's Prayer" or the "Our Father" (from the first line). Jesus expands his comments on prayer, saying this is how you should pray. And so we've come to recite this prayer each time we gather in worship. Is that what Jesus wanted us to do? – to literally pray this prayer?; or to pray holding the tension between here and now and the future of God; between God as unknowable and God as infinitely as close as our breath; between what we do and what God does.

Jesus reminds us that both what we do and what we say matters. And also that God is working with, alongside and even despite us in the world. Such practices are less about getting God to do our will than they are about forming and re-forming us into the people of God.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION & EXAMEN:

- What engaged, enraged, or surprised you in the text?
- Jesus talks of spiritual formation, how we are rooted and grow in our relationship with God. This is an interior work, needed along with the exterior work of doing justice, showing God's love in the world. Which do you find more challenging in your life of faith? The interior life or the exterior one?
- How do you pray? What do you find challenging about seeking to practice prayer in your daily life? What help might you need to grow your prayer life?
- What invitation do you hear the Spirit of God speaking to you – *or to us, as a church* – to act, speak, be, or change?

October Birthdays

5 Emma Fleming 1919 (104!) 7 Cameron Beatty
14 Mike Castner 16 Chinyere Okereke
30 Joshua Beatty

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 – No meeting this week – We're wrestling together with the book of 1 Samuel. This week we're reading . Resources & info online at www.capcoakland.org



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 Montclair Presbyterian Church is cooking! Sarah Evangelista is hosting the meal.



New FNM Norms 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. Copies in the entry!

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

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

Advent Music Ensemble - practicing today after worship and our congregational meeting.

Reformation Sunday – Rockridge Annual Halloween Parade – Sunday, October 29th is the annual Halloween Trick-or-Treat parade for children along College Avenue. There will be live music and activities all along the avenue from 11a-2pm. We annually invite you to join in the community fun by coming to a creative worship in costume.

Monte will be on study leave October 16-23rd Rev. Lisa Robeck will be preaching next Sunday, 10/23.

Thank You to Today's Leadership:

Music: Pete Feltman, Dave Eagle, Roger Kim, Ben Kramaz
Testimony: Richard Harvey
Video Tech: Dann Wilkens, Albert Hussian

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.

“O God Of Love The Fast We Choose”

KINGSFOLD 8.6.8.6 D (“Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples”)

1. O God of love, the fast you choose
Is not some great display.
It's everything we gladly do
To serve you day by day.
It's not a moment set apart
When we will mourn our sin;
For you require a change of heart
— A change from what has been.
2. Lord, we confess we often sing
That you are our delight,
Then we go shouting words that sting;
We bicker and we fight.
Oppressing others for our gain,
We put our interests first.
We overlook our neighbors' pain
While praying here in church.
3. You teach us what it means to be
A church that worships you:
In setting captive people free,
We praise you as you choose.
In sharing bread with hungry folk,
Bringing the homeless in,
And breaking every bitter yoke
We worship you again.
4. God, bless us as we journey on
To live in loving ways.
Then darkness will turn into dawn
And gloom will turn to praise.
When justice is our offering,
We also will be blest,
And we will know the fast we bring
Will be our very best.

Call to Worship Opening litany

A riff on Isaiah 64:8, 45:8-1; &, 58.

One: Oh God, we are in your hands.

ALL: Our lives are the work of your hand,

**my life, everyone of our lives,
we are the work of your hands**

One: Shape us, mold us,
make us however you will God.

**ALL: You are Good, all Good, supreme Good,
Lord God, living and true.**

One: We confess it's not always easy,

**ALL: We like clay in the potter's hands are
shaped to live for your kingdom purposes –**

One: To live lives that are *teleios* -

ALL: – perfect.

One: You invite us to live in a way that reflects
your steadfast love and fierce justice –

**ALL: To be light of the world and salt of the
earth.**

One: To loose the bonds of injustice, to let the
oppressed go free, to break every yoke,

ALL: To share our bread with the hungry,

One: To bring the homeless poor into our houses

ALL: To cover the naked when we see them.

One: Oh God, we are in your hands.

**ALL: Our lives are the work of your hand,
my life, everyone of our lives,
we are the work of your hands**

“Ancient Words”

Lynn DeShazo © Copyright 2001 Integrity's Hosanna!

1. Holy words long preserved,
For our walk in this world
They resound with God's own heart,
O let the ancient words impart
Words of life, Words of hope,
Give us strength, Help us cope
In this world where e'er we roam,
Ancient words will guide us home

Chorus:

Ancient words ever true,
Changing me and changing you
We have come with open hearts,
O let the ancient words impart

2. Holy words of our faith,
Handed down to this age
Came to us through sacrifice,
O heed the faithful words of Christ
Holy words long preserved,
For our walk in this world
They resound with God's own heart,
O let the ancient words impart

“Potter's Hand”

Darlene Zschech

Beautiful Lord, wonderful Savior
I know for sure all of my days
are held in Your hand.
Crafted into Your perfect plan.

You gently call me
call me into your presence
Guiding me by Your Holy Spirit,
teach me dear Lord.
To live all of my life
through your eyes.

Pre-chorus

I'm captured by Your holy calling
Set me apart, I know
You're drawing me to Yourself
Lead me Lord, I pray.

chorus

Take me, mold me, use me, fill me,
I give my life to the Potter's hand.
Call me, guide me, lead me, walk beside me
I give my life, to the Potter's hand.

“You Can't Beat God's Giving”

*Doris Akers | © 1958 by Manna Music, Inc.
African American Heritage Hymnal #671*

Chorus

You can't beat God giving,
No matter how hard you try
And just as sure as you are living
And the Lord is in heaven on high
The more you give the more He gives to you
But keep on giving because its really true that
You can't beat God giving,
No matter how you try

1. Should we receive and never give
The Savior died that we might live
His life on Calvary He gladly gave
Our sinful souls to save

(continued in the next column)

2. He gives me health, He keeps me strong
He guides me when I would go wrong
He gives me everything that I need
My every hunger feeds

3. He gave me peace, He made me whole
And when in sin, He saved my soul
And what I give could never be compared
With the blessings that I share

“I Know The Lord Has Laid His Hands On Me”

traditional spiritual

chorus

Oh I know the Lord, I know the Lord
I know the Lord has laid His hands on me, Oh
I know the Lord, I know the Lord
I know the Lord has laid His hands on me

1. Did you ever see the like before?
I know the Lord has laid His hands on me
King Jesus preaching to the poor
I know the Lord has laid His hands on me
Oh I know the Lord has laid his hands on me

2. Oh wasn't that such a happy day
I know the Lord has laid His hands on me
When Jesus washed all my sins away
I know the Lord has laid His hands on me
Oh I know the Lord has laid His hands on me

3. How great a day, how great the hour
I know the Lord has laid His hands on me
When Jesus comes with all His power
I know the Lord has laid His hands on me
Oh I know the Lord has laid His hands on me

4. My Lord's done just what he said;
I know the Lord's laid his hands on me;
he's healed the sick and raised the dead;
I know the Lord's laid his hands on me.
Oh I know the Lord has laid his hands on me