

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



τέλειος teleios

having reached its end,
 complete,
 perfect



**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

Sunday • October 8, 2023 at 10:30am
 in Person & on Zoom

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

PRELUDE “Soon I Will Be Done With The Troubles Of This World”

GATHERING SONG “All Creatures Of Our God And King” - Blue Hymnal #455

CALL TO WORSHIP -

SONG OF PRAISE “Help Us Accept Each Other” - Blue Hymnal #358

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

LISTENING FOR GOD’S WORD

HEARING SCRIPTURE Matthew 5:33-48

PROCLAIMING GOD’S WORD “Does Practice Make Perfect?” - Rev. Monte McClain

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

SONG OF RESPONSE “Thou I May Speak” - Blue Hymnal #335

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD’S PRAYER - Louise Hirsschman
 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 “We Cannot Measure How You Heal” - Insert

THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

THE GIFT OF GIVING - Richard Harvey

SENDING SONG “Make Me A Channel Of Your Peace” - Glory to God #753

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 “St. Anne’s Reel”

Reflections on Today's Reading Matthew 5:33-48



When I was baptized at 13, after taking the youth communicants' class at my church, I had to first stand with all the other 6th graders and recite aloud the Shorter Westminster Catechism. It's a confession of faith written in 1646 to help the Church of England and Church of Scotland come back together. For years it was used (at least in my home church) to teach 12 year olds what it means to be Christian. I don't remember anything about the catechism, or my baptism day other than that I was stressed out, didn't remember any of the words except for the first question: 1. What is the chief end of man? The correct answer is "to glorify God, and to enjoy Him forever."

At the end of today's challenging reading of the Sermon on the Mount Jesus tells his listeners and followers that they have to be perfect as God their Father is perfect. I hear that and I'm like "why bother even trying!?"

Now remember that the context of the sermon, is that Jesus is inviting any and everyone (in particular the little guy, the poor and the forgotten) to become new creations. He's offering a radical reinterpretation of faith in view of the recreation of the world.

Jesus talks all about making bargains – or oaths – to try to control God, our human desire for revenge as justice, and the smallness with how we see our big world and who is for or against us. Jesus calls to radical trust in God, risky trust in our neighbor and total abandonment to nonviolent love. It's then that he says we are to be perfect as God is perfect.

As often is the case, something gets lost in the translation. The word *perfect* in the Greek text is the word *teleios*. It comes from the word *teleos* that we use in philosophy. *Teleos* means the end, the goal, or the big purpose. So being *perfect* is about reaching the goal set out at the beginning, fulfilling one's purpose, the end that God wants for us and creation coming about. It's got nothing to do with practice or not making mistakes and everything about what purpose or goal we're living for and working towards.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION & EXAMEN:

- What engaged, enraged, or surprised you in the text?
- Jesus talks of loving your enemies. How have you experienced this radical teaching in your own life?
- The word perfect is less about no mistakes, and more about completion, reaching the intended goal. What then does Jesus mean in saying that we should be perfect
- 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 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 25-27. 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 Louise and Gary are heading up the cooking!



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.

Capital Campaign Team Meeting –Friday, October 13th at 1:00pm on Zoom

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

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

Thank You to Today's Leadership:

Liturgist-Prayer: Louise Hirschman
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.

“All Creatures Of Our God And King”

*Paraphraser: William H. Draper; Author: St. Francis of Assisi (1225)
Glory to God #15 | The Blue Presbyterian Hymnal #455*

1. All creatures of our God and king,
Lift up your voice and with us sing
Alleluia, Alleluia
O Brother sun with golden beam,
O sister moon with silver gleam
Sing praises Alleluia,
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

2. O brother wind with clouds and rain
you nurture gifts of fruit and grain
Alleluia, Alleluia
O sister water, flowing clear,
make music for your Lord to hear
Sing praises Alleluia
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

3. O brother fire, so warm and bright
chase off the shadows of the night
Alleluia, Alleluia
Dear mother earth who day by day
unfolds such blessings on our our way
Sing praises Alleluia ,
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

4. All who for love of God forgive,
all who in pain or sorrow grieve
Alleluia, Alleluia
Christ bears your burdens and your fears,
so even in the midst of tears
Sing praises, Alleluia,
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

Call to Worship Opening litany

St. Francis of Assisi's prayer in praise of God

One: You are holy, Lord, the only God,
and Your deeds are wonderful.

ALL: You are strong.

You are great.

You are the Most High.

One: You, Holy Father are King of heaven
and earth.

You are Three and One, Lord God, all Good.

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

One: You are love. You are wisdom.

You are humility. You are endurance.

ALL: You are rest. You are peace.

You are joy and gladness.

You are justice and moderation.

One: You are all our riches, and You suffice for us.

You are beauty.

You are gentleness.

ALL: You are our protector.

You are our guardian and defender.

**You are our courage. You are our haven and
our hope.**

One: You are our faith, our great consolation.

ALL: You are our eternal life, Great and

Wonderful Lord,

God Almighty, Merciful Savior.

“Help Us Accept Each Other”

Author: Fred Kaan (1975)

The Blue Hymnal #358 | Glory to God #754

1 Help us accept each other
as Christ accepted us;
teach us as sister, brother,
each person to embrace.
Be present, Lord, among us
and bring us to believe
We are ourselves accepted,
and meant to love and live.

2 Teach us, O Lord, your lessons,
as in our daily life
we struggle to be human
and search for hope and faith.
Teach us to care for people, f
or all, not just for some,
to love them as we find them,
or as they may become.

3 Let your acceptance change us,
so that we may be moved
in living situations to do the truth in love;
to practice your acceptance
until we know by heart
the table of forgiveness,
and laughter's healing art.

(continued on back of the page)

4 Lord, for today's encounters
with all who are in need,
who hunger for acceptance,
for justice, and for bread,
we need new eyes for seeing,
new hands for holding on;
renew us with your Spirit;
Lord, free us, make us one!

“Thou I May Speak”

*Hal H. Hopson (1972) | Glory to God #693
The Presbyterian Hymnal #335*

1. Though I may speak with bravest fire
And have the gift to all inspire
And have not love my words are vain
As sounding brass and hopeless gain

2. Though I may give all I possess
And striving so my love profess
But not be given by love within
The profit soon turns strangely thin

3. Come spirit come our hearts control
Our spirits long to be made whole
Let inward love guide every deed
By this we worship and are freed

4. And as we talk of things in our world
Help us to hear your word unfurled
That we may live beyond compare
Until that day we meet you there

“We Cannot Measure How You Heal”

*Author: John L. Bell | Glory to God #797
© 1989, WGRG the Iona Community (Scotland),
admin. GIA Publications, Inc.*

1 We cannot measure how You heal
or answer every sufferer's prayer,
yet we believe your grace responds
where faith and doubt unite to care.
Your hands, though bloodied on the cross,
survive to hold and heal and warn,
to carry all through death to life
and cradle children yet unborn.

(continued in the next column)

2 The pain that will not go away,
the guilt that clings from things long past,
the fear of what the future holds,
are present as if meant to last.
But present too is love which tends
the hurt we never hoped to find,
the private agonies inside,
the memories that haunt the mind.

3 So some have come who need Your help
and some have come to make amends,
as hands which shaped and saved the world
are present in the touch of friends.
Lord, let Your Spirit meet us here
to mend the body, mind and soul,
to disentangle peace from pain
and make Your broken people whole.

“Make Me A Channel Of Your Peace”

*Adapter: Sebastian Temple; Author (attributed to): St. Francis
of Assisi | © 1967, OCP Publications | Glory to God #753*

1. Make me a channel of your peace
Where there is hatred let me bring your love
Where there is injury your pardon Lord
And where there's doubt true faith in you

chorus

Oh master grant that I may never seek
So much to be consoled as to console
To be understood as to understand
To be loved as to love with all my soul

2. Make me a channel of your peace
Where there's despair in life let me bring hope
Where there is darkness only light
And where there's sadness ever joy

chorus

3. Make me channel of your peace
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned
In giving our ourselves that we receive
And in dying that we're born to eternal life