

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



Sunday • November 12, 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.

In our community, face masks are not required, but always welcome. Masks are available in the entry.

As a community we are committed to being safe, open and real. We'd love to know you better. Use this QR Code to share your contact info or questions with our staff so we can follow up. We will not sell, share or abuse your personal info.



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 “Lord Lead Me On”
- GATHERING SONG “Look And Learn From The Birds Of The Air” - *Insert*
- CALL TO WORSHIP
- SONG OF PRAISE “Praise My Soul The God Of Heaven” - *Glory to God Hymnal #620*
Children are invited to depart for Godly Play upstairs with today’s Story-Teller
- LISTENING FOR GOD’S WORD
- HEARING SCRIPTURE Matthew 7:12-29
- PROCLAIMING GOD’S WORD “Sustainable Construction” - *Rev. Monte McClain*
- RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD
- SONG OF RESPONSE “How Can I Keep From Singing” - *Glory to God Hymnal #821*
- PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD’S PRAYER - *Monte*
 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 “Cares Chorus” - *Insert*
- THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH
- HOW TO HELP WITH THE COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING MEAL - *Sarah Evangelista*
- THE GIFT OF GIVING - *Fredora Darmstadt*
- SENDING SONG “Guide My Feet” - *Blue Hymnal #354*
- 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 Cristo” - *Spanish*
- POSTLUDE “Big Sciota”

Reflections on Today's Readings Matthew 7:12-29



Today we reach the end of the key teaching of the Sermon on the Mount. After having called people to a new direction in life rooted in a new way of being with and for one another, best summarized in loving our neighbor as we want to be loved, Jesus brings it all together with metaphors of roads and gates, trees and fruit; and sustainable housing.

In the Hebrew Scriptures we see repeated poetic sayings about the people of Israel as a vineyard and an orchard. This metaphor of a godly life, a righteous life as a fruitful life is the bedrock of the first Psalm: "Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked.. but who delight in the law of the Lord,... They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither." A good life bears fruit, gives life, to others.

Another common metaphor for life in the Ancient World is that of a human life as like a house in construction. Jesus uses both of these images to explain to his audience what the good life is. It's a life constructed upon the foundation of the teachings of Jesus, rooted in the person of Jesus, founded upon the Way of Jesus – nonviolent, robust, extravagant love of others as God first loves us.

In our world today we're sandwiched between competing and contrasting messages . One side of our country lifts up an optimistic can-do vision that is making American lives better. Another claims that we're living in a hellscape, from which the only escape is a return to a golden age in the past. Both point to our deep hunger for community, thirst for meaning, and need to both be loved and to love.

I think that's what Jesus is talking about throughout this whole sermon. Righteousness is not about how good your are. Rather Jesus calls us to be perfect (*teleios*) as God is perfect. *Remember?* It's not about performance or achievement but about direction towards the goal God has for creation, being rooted in God's purpose-full love – known here and now in the Kingdom of Heaven.

It's in seeing that perfection in Jesus that the crowds are amazed. He has authority that the prefect scribes do not (Matthew 5:20).

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION & EXAMEN:

- What engaged, enraged, or surprised you in the text?
- Jesus is concluding his teaching inviting his hearers to active obedience, participating in his mission to bring the kingdom into the world. Does Jesus do this by scaring them into obedience with threats of judgment?; persuading them to be live this way because of consequences and rewards?; or teaching them discernment more than knowledge, so that they can choose to live the kingdom way? Is there a difference?

November Birthdays

3 Nenna Okereke	5 Harry Hussian
11 Albert Hussian	13 Elaine Price
15 Pete Feltman	16 Ruth Ann Friedland
16 Elodie McClain 2005	19 Radman Beatty 2006

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

Advent Music Ensemble - practicing after worship.

Sunday Bible Study Before Worship • We have restarted Bible Study in person on Sunday mornings before worship (from 9:30-10:15am). We'll discuss the text for worship each Sunday. Find text study sheets online if you want to read in advance.

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

No Community Bible Study this Tuesday

In Defense of Kindness Book Club –Thursday 11/16 at 11am on Zoom. We're discussing pp. 85-111.

Friday Night Meal – Fridays 6:00-7:00PM. Sign up online to help with set-up, serving, and clean-up! This Friday the team of Montclair Presbyterian is cooking! *There will be no meal Friday 11/24.*



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

Process Theology Part 2 • Wednesday, 11/15 @

7pm in person in the sanctuary– We're continuing our reflection around Process Theology. Download the reading on our website with this QR Code.



Community Thanksgiving Meal • We're serving Thanksgiving To-Go again this year, partnering with neighbors to respond to the hungers of Oakland at the holidays. You can sign up to help online on our website or use this QR Code.



Nominating Team • Our Nominating Team is meeting Thursday, Nov 16th at 6:30pm for a potluck dinner meeting at the home of Gary Yee.

Thank You to Today's Leadership:

Music: Pete Feltman, Dave Eagle Roger Kim, Ben Kramaz
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.

“Look And Learn From The Birds Of The Air”

*Translator: John L. Bell; Author (Korean): Na Yöng-su
Eng. tr. © WGRG the Iona Community (Scotland),*

1 Look and learn from the birds of the air,
flying high above worry and fear;
neither sowing nor harvesting seed,
yet they're given whatever they need.
If the God of earth and heaven
cares for birds as much as this,
won't he care much more for you,
when you put your trust in him?

2 Look and learn from the flowers of the field,
bringing beauty and color to life;
neither sewing nor tailoring cloth,
yet they're dressed in the finest attire.
If the God of earth and heaven
cares for flowers as much as this,
won't he care much more for you,
when you put your trust in him?

3 What God wants should be our will;
where God calls should be our goal.
When we seek the kingdom first,
all we've lost is ours again.
Let's be done with anxious thoughts,
set aside tomorrow's cares,
live each day that God provides,
putting all our trust in him.

Call to Worship Opening litany

*(from Psalm 18:1-6, 46-48 a mash up of the Message
and the NRSV Translations)*

One: God—
you make me strong.
God is bedrock under my feet,
the castle in which I live,
my rescuing knight.

**People: My God—the high crag
where I run for dear life,
hiding behind the boulders,
safe in the granite hideout.**

One: I sing to God, the Praise-Lofty,
and find myself safe and saved.

**People: The hangman's noose
was tight at my throat;
devil waters rushed over me.
Hell's ropes cinched me tight;
death traps barred every exit.**

One: In my distress I call to God,
I cry to God to help me.
**People: From his temple palace
God hears my call;
my cry brings me right into God's presence—
a private audience
where God's ears hear my cry.**

One: The Lord lives! Blessed be my rock,
and exalted be the God of my salvation,
**People: This God set things right for me
and shut up the people who talked back.
The Lord rescued me from enemy anger,
he pulled me from the grip of upstarts,
God saved me from the bullies
those threatening my life and livelihood.**

“Praise My Soul The God Of Heaven”

*Author: Henry Francis Lyte (1834)
Glory to God #620*

1 Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;
to his feet your tribute bring;
ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
evermore his praises sing:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise the everlasting King.

2 Praise him for his grace and favor
to his people in distress;
praise him still the same as ever,
slow to chide, and swift to bless:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Glorious in his faithfulness.

3 Fatherlike, he tends and spares us;
well our feeble frame he knows;
in his hands he gently bears us,
rescues us from all our foes.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Widely yet his mercy flows.

Verse 4 continues on the back of the page.

4 Angels, help us to adore him;
you behold him face to face.
Sun and moon, bow down before him,
dwellers all in time and space:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise with us the God of grace.

“How Can I Keep From Singing”

Robert Lowry (1869) | Glory to God #821

1. My life flows on in endless song
Above earth's lamentation
I catch the sweet, though far off hymn
That hails a new creation

chorus

No storm can shake my inmost calm
While to that rock I'm clinging
Since love is lord of heaven and earth
How can I keep from singing?

2. Through all the tumult and the strife
I hear that music ringing
It finds an echo in my soul
How can I keep from singing

chorus

3. That though my joys and comforts die
I know my savior liveth
What though the darkness gather round
Songs in the night he giveth

chorus

4. The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart
A fountain ever springing
All things are mine since I am his
How can I keep from singing?

chorus

“Cares Chorus”

Kelly Willard

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Sing the Faith #2215

I cast all my cares upon You
I lay all of my burdens down at your feet
And anytime that I don't know what to do
I will cast all my cares upon you

“Guide My Feet”

Traditional Spiritual

The Blue Hymnal #354

Glory to God #741

1. Guide my feet while I run this race
Guide my feet while I run this race
Guide my feet while I run this race
For I don't want to run this race in vain

2. Hold my hand while I run this race

3. Stand by me while I run this race

4. I'm your child while I run this race

5. Search my heart while I run this race

6. Help me dodge that old devil man

1 repeat

Guide my feet while I run this race