

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



Christ the King Sunday • November 26, 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 Godly 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 “This Train Is Bound For Glory”
- GATHERING SONG “Come All You People” - Insert
- CALL TO WORSHIP - Sharon Nelson
- SONG OF PRAISE “The Church Of Christ In Every Age” - Blue Hymnal #335
Children are invited to depart for Godly Play upstairs with today’s Story-Teller
- LISTENING FOR GOD’S WORD
- HEARING SCRIPTURE Matthew 25:31-46 - Sharon Nelson
- CAPC OAKLAND CHOIR “Dona Nobis Pacem”
- PROCLAIMING GOD’S WORD “Resisting Evolution” - Monte McClain
- RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD
- SONG OF RESPONSE “King Jesus Is All” - 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.
- COLLECTION OF THE OFFERING
- OFFERING SONG “O Jesus I Have Promised” - Glory to God #725
- THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH
- SENDING SONG “Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ” - Blue Hymnal #514
- 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 “Pax Christi” - Latin
- POSTLUDE “The High Road”

Reflections on Today's Readings
Matthew 25:31-46 • Christ the King Sunday



Each year, Christians from around the world gather on the last Sunday of the church year to celebrate what is widely referred to as "Christ the King" or "Reign of Christ" Sunday. That's today! This feast day – special celebration on the Lord's day was first instituted by Pope Pius XI in 1925 and soon adopted by The Anglican Church, Lutherans, Presbyterians and Methodists because of its meaning.

The inability by pope Benedict XV and other Christians broker a peace treaty in World War I was lamentable. Pope Pius XI, became pope in 1922 and declared the aim of his papacy to be "The re-establishment of the Kingdom of Christ by peace in Christ." It was in the service of this mission that he introduced Christ the King Sunday as a challenge to the church to refocus its energies on their true ruler and away from unquestioning fidelity to earthly powers. This was done as a response to the growing power of fascism in Italy under Benito Mussolini, soon to be followed by Hitler.

Falling on the equivalent of New Year's Eve in the church calendar, Christ the King is an invitation to those that follow the Way of Jesus to reframe their understandings of power, allegiance, purpose, and perspective. Today in 2023, it's not difficult to imagine how Christians might have felt that Sunday in 1925 when this feast day was first celebrated. Wars continue to rage in our "civilized" world. We witness the rise of Christian Nationalism and leaders (elected and autocratic) who claim the blessing – and even the power itself – of God as justification for whatever they do. We agree about the existential threat of climate change, yet seem unable or unwilling to act. If we're trusting in our own abilities and merits to set us free from this suffering, the outlook is pretty bleak.

But, if we shift our efforts toward enacting the will of the one who was sent to rule over us, we can begin to see the dawn of a new age peeking over the horizon. Orienting our lives towards the commands of Christ can help us move with a laser focus towards those who Christ held most closely: the least of these as identified in today's passage from Matthew 25. They include widows, orphans, disabled people, gender and sexual minorities, those in prison—all those that the world casts as unworthy.

(heavily adapted from an article by Jessica Davis on sparkhouse.org)

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION & EXAMEN:

- What engaged, enraged, or surprised you in the text?
- What do you think the kingdom of God looks like? How is the world we're in now different than that?
- How might we use our power and privilege as Christians to help make Christ manifest in our lives as our regent and the one to whom we bow?
- 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?

December Birthdays

1 Barbara Epstein-Eagle	Megan Beatty
2 Annette Laverty	8 Taylor Beatty ²⁰⁰⁸
8 Cristina Ramirez-Fonua	9 Laura LaMotte
13 Lane Stahl	14 Fredora Darmstadt
15 Janet Majors	31 Gianelle Beatty ²⁰¹¹

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.

Decorating for Christmas – this Thursday 9am onwards. Come help decorate the sanctuary for the season of Advent.

Friday Night Meal – Fridays 6-7:00pm. Sign up online to help with set-up, serving, and clean-up! *Trinity Fellowship of Berkeley is cooking.*



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

In Defense of Kindness Book Club –Thursday 12/6 at 11am on Zoom. We're discussing pp. 85-111.

Nominating Team • Our Nominating Team is meeting this Thursday, Nov 30th to finalize the nomination slate.

Session Meeting • Our next Session Meeting is Thursday, December 7th at which time the elders will adopt a budget for 2024. If you have helpful suggestions regarding the budget talk with our treasurer Marge Harvey.

Our New Roof • Our contractors are projecting to remove our old roof, install the new one, as well as install the *stanchions* (bases) for the solar panels beginning 12/4. This should take 2 weeks to finish.

Thank You to Today's Leadership:

Music: Pete Feltman, Dave Eagle, Roger Kim, Ben Kramaz
And a special welcome to our new musicians – Kate Rose (fiddle) and Jane Mendonca (piano)!

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.

“Come All You People”

Author (st. 1): Alexander Gondo;

Translator (st. 1): I-to Loh | Tune: UYAI MOSE

Come all you people, come and praise your maker (x3)
Come all you people, come and praise your maker
Come all you people, come and praise your maker
Come now and worship the lord.

U-yeh-ee moh-seh, tin-a-ma, teh Mwa-reh (x3)

U-yeh-ee moh-seh zvi-no

Call to Worship Opening Litany

Responsive Reading found at www.pcwoodbury.com

One: We come, for God gathers us here,
with that community called faith:

**ALL: where the hungry are served first,
where the thirsty drink life's water.**

One: We come, for God welcomes us here
into that home called grace:

**ALL: where the naked are clothed
in robes of hope;
where the stranger is embraced
as the long-lost prodigal.**

One: We come, for God reunites us here,
sisters and brothers in that family called love:

**ALL: where the imprisoned model justice,
where the sick are cradled in God's peace.**

“The Church Of Christ In Every Age”

Fred Pratt Green | (O Waly Waly tune)

Words © 1971 Hope Publishing Company

1 The Church of Christ in every age
Beset by change but Spirit led,
Must claim and test its heritage
And keep on rising from the dead.

2. Across the world, across the street,
The victims of injustice cry
For shelter and for bread to eat,
And never live until they die.

3. Then let the servant Church arise,
A caring Church that longs to be
A partner in Christ's sacrifice,
And clothed in Christ's humanity.

4. For he alone, whose blood was shed,
Can cure the fever in our blood,
And teach us how to share our bread
And feed the starving multitude.

5. We have no mission but to serve
In full obedience to our Lord:
To care for all, without reserve,
And to spread his liberating Word.

“King Jesus Is All”

Unknown

King Jesus is all

(King Jesus is all)

My all in all

(My all in all)

And I know that He'll answer

(And I know that He'll answer)

Me when I call

(Me when I call)

Walkin' by my side

(Walkin' by my side)

I'm satisfied

(I'm satisfied)

King Jesus is all

(All)

My all in all

(My all in all)

VERSE:

Well, I went out to meet the Lord *(Oh yeah!)*

I got down on my knees *(Uh-huh!)*

I said my very first prayer *(Amen!)*

You know the Holy Ghost met me there

(Uh-huh-huh!)

I stepped on the rock, the rock was sound

Ooh the love of God came a-tumblin' down

The reason I know that He saved my soul

Is I dug down deep and I found pure gold

“ O Jesus I Have Promised”

John Ernest Bode (1866, alt.) | Glory to God #725

1 O Jesus, I have promised
to serve you to the end;
be now and always near me,
my Master and my friend;
I shall not fear the battle
if you are by my side,
nor wander from the pathway
if you will be my guide.

2 O let me feel you near me!
The world is ever near:
I see the sights that dazzle;
the tempting sounds I hear.
My foes are ever near me,
around me and within;
but, Jesus, draw still nearer
and shield my soul from sin.

3 O let me hear you speaking
in accents clear and still,
above the storms of passion,
the murmurs of self-will;
O speak to reassure me,
to hasten or control;
O speak, and make me listen,
true guardian of my soul.

4 O Jesus, you have promised
to all who follow you
that where you are in glory
your servant shall be too.
And, Jesus, I have promised
to serve you to the end;
now give me grace to follow,
my Master and my friend.

“Let Us Talents And Tongues Employ”

Jamaican folk melody: Linstead

1. Let us talents and tongues employ
Reaching out with a shout of joy
Bread is broken the wine is poured
Christ is spoken and seen and heard

Refrain

Jesus lives again
Earth can breathe again
Pass the word around
loaves abound

2. Christ is able to make us one
At the table he sets the tone
Teaching people to live to bless
Love in word and indeed express
3. Jesus calls us in sends us out
Bearing fruit in a world of doubt
Gives us love to tell bread to share God
(Immanuel) everywhere