

College Avenue Presbyterian Church
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YOU are God's beloved

January 28, 2024 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

“Soon And Very Soon”

WORDS OF WELCOME

GATHERING SONG

“Sing A New Church”

- Insert

CALL TO WORSHIP

SONG OF PRAISE

“Christ Has Risen While Earth Slumbers”

- Glory to God #231

LISTENING FOR GOD’S WORD

HEARING SCRIPTURE

Luke 5:17-39

PROCLAIMING GOD’S WORD

“Righteousness by Disassociation”

- Rev. Monte McClain

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

SONG OF RESPONSE

“The Strangest Of Saints”

- 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.

You can give electronically
 using this QR Code



COLLECTION OF THE OFFERING

OFFERING SONG

“Just As I Am Without One Plea”

- Insert

SENDING SONG

On The Sea Of Life”

- 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 CHRIST

“Salam almasih” | سلام المسيح

- Arabic

POSTLUDE

“Will The Circle Be Unbroken”

Reflections on Today's Readings

Luke 5:17-39

I was reminded this week of how our stories – our actions, decisions, and words are intimately shaped by our fear, anger and joy. From anxiety over a 40+ week election cycle to the closing of In-N-Out and what that means for Oakland, our nation, and city of Oakland, are treading water in rough seas of anger and fear. I wonder how it's possible to make good decisions and act for the wider good when we're so impacted by fear & anger.

More often than not, the fear and anger I feel flows from the way in which the world isn't how I expected, wanted, or dreamed it might be. I see that incongruence between hopes and reality, that can lead to fear and anger in our scripture stories today: the paralyzed man dependent upon everyone else, the tax collectors who may have wondered how they ended up considered by the neighbors to be traitors and collaborators. And then also the religious leaders who don't like what they see.

The world of Jesus seems to be one marked heavily by the notion of guilt by association. The religious avoid the sinners (tax collectors) out of fear of being contaminated by their immoral ways, hurtful words, or bad example. But Jesus turns this notion upside down. In fact these two stories, echoed by two more similar healing stories in Luke 6:1-11 form a sandwich around the key point of the teaching of Jesus – about new wine needing to go in new wineskins. It's about change, fear, anger, acceptance, and renewal. It's about the reality that we can't just squeeze the transformation and salvation we experience in Jesus into the existing mix of our lives. Rather, it reorganizes, reorients and redeems all of who we are. It points back to the baptism of Jesus in Luke 3:21-22 and God saying "you are my beloved child, in you I find my joy." Like Jesus, we also are God's joy: a love that sets us free from the soul-killing power of sin that divides us from what God wants for us. Knowing we are beloved changes our sense of self. It changes how we view and love others. It frees us from that identity rooted in fear & anger.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION & EXAMEN:

- What engaged, enraged, or surprised you in the text?
- If righteous means to conform to God's will and sinner means to miss that goal, how are these words understood when applied to the people and actions in these interconnected stories?
- The parable about new wine in old wineskins is directly linked to the healing of paralyzed man and eating with tax collectors. What old wineskins do you have that may keep you from experiencing God's belovedness and will for creation?
- What invitation do you hear the Spirit of God speaking to you – or to us, – to act, speak, be, or change, through this scripture?



January Birthdays

18 Gary Yee
25 Joy Barnes
29 Bill Beatty

20 Daniel Geary
27 Mozghan Lotf Mohamadi

Today at & around CAPC Oakland

Post Service Sanctuary 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.

Poster of Love: *We're making one today for Louise Hirschman going in for cancer surgery Wednesday.*

This Week at & around CAPC Oakland

Community Bible Study Sunday Edition

(Sundays 9:30-10:20am). Discussing the text used in our gathering each Sunday.

Quilters Club Mondays 10a-12p, in the library.

Friday Night Meal – Fridays 6-7:00pm.

Sign up online to help with set-up, serving, & clean-up! *Our Partners of Trinity Fellowship of Berkeley* are cooking.



Women's Group: Saturday 9:30-10:30am (Zoom)

Book Club • We're reading *The Second Mountain* by David Brooks. Our first meets ups are Thursday 2/8 at 7pm in person at the church or Friday 2/9 at 11am on Zoom. We'll discuss Part 1.

Community Bible Study Wednesday Edition

Wednesdays at 7pm on Zoom. This week we're wrestling with Psalm 119.

Movie Club • We're meeting for a potluck dinner on Tuesday, February 20th from 6:30-8:30p at Monte & Kristy McClain's. 7328 Circle Hill | 94605. Be sure to see the movie "Origin." Ahead of time – either in the cinema or streamed on Hulu.

Black History Month •

Would you like to help shape our celebration? Sign up online with this QR Code.

Community Calendar • Help us remember where we've been in 2023 and dream of how God might call us to respond to our world in 2024. You can add your memories and/or hopes to the paper frieze on the interior walls of the sanctuary.

Thank You to Today's Leadership:

MUSIC: Pete Feltman, Dave Eagle, Ben Kramarz, Kate Rose, Andre Sheuch

VIDEO TECH: Dann Wilkens, Albert Hussian, Thom Faulkner

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.

“Sing A New Church”

New Words to old tunes. To the tune of Come Thou Fount

1. Summoned by the God who made us,
Rich in our diversity;
Gathered in the Name of Jesus,
Richer still in unity.
Let us bring the gifts that differ
And in splendid, varied ways,
Sing a new church into being,
One in Faith and Love and Praise.

2 Radiant, risen from the water,
Robed in holiness and light,
Male and female in God's image,
Male and female, God's delight.
Let us bring the gifts that differ
And in splendid, varied ways,
Sing a new church into being,
One in Faith and Love and Praise.

3 Trust the Goodness of creation:
Trust the Spirit strong within.
Dare to dream the vision promised,
Sprung from seed of what has been.
Let us bring the gifts that differ
And in splendid, varied ways,
Sing a new church into being,
One in Faith and Love and Praise.

4 Bring the hopes of every nation;
Bring the art of every race.
Weave a song of peace and justice;
Let it sound through time and space.
Let us bring the gifts that differ
And in splendid, varied ways,
Sing a new church into being,
One in Faith and Love and Praise.

5 Draw together at one table,
All the human family;
Shape a circle ever wider
And a people ever free.
Let us bring the gifts that differ
And in splendid, varied ways,
Sing a new church into being,
One in Faith and Love and Praise.

Call to Worship Opening Litany

Henri Nouwen in Life of the Beloved

<https://henrinouwen.org/meditations/become-the-beloved/>

One: Just as God called to Jesus at his baptism saying
“you are my beloved in whom I find my joy.”
(Luke 3:22) God finds joy in us as well.

ALL: But as long as “being the Beloved” is little more than a beautiful thought or a lofty idea that hangs above our life to keep us from becoming depressed, nothing really changes.

One: What is required is to become the Beloved in the commonplaces of our daily existence, and bit by bit to close the gap that exists between what we know ourselves to be and the countless realities of everyday life.

ALL: Becoming the Beloved is pulling the truth revealed to us from above down into the ordinariness of what we are thinking of, talking about, and doing from hour to hour.

“Christ Has Risen While Earth Slumbers”

John Bell and Graham Maule | Glory to God #231

1. Christ has risen while earth slumbers,
Christ has risen where hope died,
as he said and as he promised,
as we doubted and denied.
Let the moon embrace the blessing;
let the sun sustain the cheer;
let the world confirm the rumor.
Christ is risen, God is here!

2. Christ has risen for the people
whom he loved and died to save;
Christ has risen for the women
bringing flowers to grace his grave
Christ has risen for disciples
huddled in an upstairs room.
He whose word inspired creation
is not silenced by the tomb.

3 Christ has risen to companion
former friends who fear the night,
sensing loss and limitation
where their faith had once burned bright.
They bemoan what is no longer,
they expect no hopeful sign
till Christ ends their conversation,
breaking bread and sharing wine.

4. Christ has risen and forever
lives to challenge and to change
all whose lives are messed or mangled,
all who find religion strange.
Christ is risen. Christ is present
making us what he has been –
evidence of transformation
in which God is known and seen.

“The Strangest Of Saints”

*John Bell | (#120 in Heaven Shall not Wait
Tune: Wae's me for Prince Charlie (Scottish Trad)
©1987 WGRG, Iona Community*

Refrain

The strangest of saints,
The simplest of souls,
The saddest of all the earth's rejected,
Are chosen to be the people in whose lives
The goodness of God can be detected.

1. Peter, the Rock, whose faith was often talk;
Thomas who sometimes doubted;
Martha who fussed, lest Jesus noticed dust,
And Paul, by whom Christians once were routed.

2. Names none can tell: a woman at the well,
Widows and someone's mother;
Men blind from birth, street children full of mirth,
Ten lepers, each worse than every other.

3. Time can't diffuse the freshness of the news:
Christ's friends are fully human;
Failure and fear allow him to come near
And understand every man and woman.

4. Who dare deride those found at Jesus' side,
Welcome despite their weakness?
Christ who knows all, expresses by his call
The wonder of everyone's uniqueness.

“Just As I Am Without One Plea”

Author: Charlotte Elliott | Glory to God #442

1 Just as I am, without one plea
but that thy blood was shed for me,
and that thou biddest me come to thee,
O Lamb of God, I come; I come!

2 Just as I am, though tossed about
with many a conflict, many a doubt,
fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come; I come!

3 Just as I am, thou wilt receive,
wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
because thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come; I come!

4 Just as I am, thy love unknown
has broken every barrier down;
now to be thine, yea, thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come; I come!

“On The Sea Of Life”

Melody: TS Sloan Lyrics: George Sebren

1. We are on the sea of life
sailing to a better home
where the saved of all of the earth
shall abide
we've got all our trials here
many pleasures wait us there
when we cross the foam
and reach the other side

chorus

(sailing on)
we are sailing onward sailing
sailing on a foam
we are talking to the captain
as the angry billows hum
(sailing to)
soon, yes soon we'll reach the harbor
and be safely o'er the tide
we are going onward, to the other side

2. We've a captain brave and true
who will guide us o'er the blue
And will shield us when the storms
hover nigh
He can still the angry wave
and from evil he can save
If we'll trust Him and His loving promise try

3 Many millions now abide
in that home beyond the tide
where the ransomed pilgrims
wade free from care
there is room on board for all
who will heed the captains call
and take ship for heaven's
country bright and fair