

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



January 7, 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 “The Snow Lay On The Ground”

WORDS OF WELCOME

GATHERING SONG “We Three Kings” - Blue Hymnal #66

CALL TO WORSHIP

SONG OF PRAISE “Wild And Lone The Prophets Voice” - Blue Hymnal #409

LISTENING FOR GOD’S WORD

HEARING SCRIPTURE Luke 3:1-22 - Marji Wilkens

PROCLAIMING GOD’S WORD - Rev. Monte McClain
 “There are stories we believe, and then sometimes others we live.”

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

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.

COMMUNION – BEING NOURISHED IN OUR JOURNEY OF FAITH

AS WE CELEBRATE THE COMMUNION MEAL YOU ARE INVITED TO COME FORWARD TO RECEIVE BREAD AND A CUP FROM OUR SERVERS IN THE CENTER SPACE. WE WELCOME ALL WHO HUNGER FOR THE PEACE OF CHRIST

SONG OF RESPONSE “I Was There To Hear Your Borning Cry” - Glory to God #488

COLLECTION OF THE OFFERING

You can give electronically using this QR Code



OFFERING SONG “Jesus Savior Pilot Me”

SENDING SONG “I’m Gonna Live So God Can Use Me” - Blue Hymnal # 369

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 CHRIST “Salam almasih” | سلام المسيح - Arabic

POSTLUDE “The 8th Of January”

Reflections on Today's Readings Luke 3:1-22

We began our Advent series written by A Sanctified Art, by acknowledging our weariness. We conclude today with trusting our belovedness; ultimately, our joy is rooted in the fact that we belong to God. In order to stay in Luke's narrative, our series has omitted the story of the Magi from this series.²⁹ Instead, we conclude the series with Baptism of the Lord Sunday. In this way, the series follows the birth stories of Jesus and John the Baptist, and culminates with John baptizing Jesus in the Jordan river. The intent of this choice is to more clearly understand the beginnings of Jesus' life and ministry.

In the story of Jesus' baptism, the heavens part open and the voice of God wraps Jesus in joy and loving care. Some translations of Luke 3:22 read, "in you, I find happiness and delight." Therefore, we can conclude that we are also the source of God's joy. When we trust our belovedness, we live and give fully—we are compelled to treat all of creation with tenderness and care. When we trust our belovedness, we have endless reasons to rejoice.¹



January 6th is Epiphany. The 12th day of Christmas, it's when we retell and celebrate the coming of the Magi and the giving of their gifts. The Greek word *Epiphany* means a realization, or an "eye-opening" experience, an "aha" moment. The coming of the Magi is just such an "aha" story in which we realize as readers of the gospel that this child is more than we've understood.

John's baptism ministry was also an epiphany. In his sermons, captured in today's reading, he reminds people that they are not who they think they are. They can't just claim a special exemption because they're Israelites: children of Abraham. God treasures them not because of what they've done, their family lineage, or what they possess. Rather God loves them, period.

French philosopher Jean-François Lyotard is famous for many things, in particular work around the idea of metanarrative. It's a global or totalizing cultural narrative schema which orders and explains knowledge and experience. Lyotard famously wrote: "Simplifying to the extreme, I define postmodern as incredulity towards metanarratives." In saying this, Lyotard meant that the postmodern condition (our world today) is characterized by an increasingly widespread skepticism toward metanarratives. There is not just one story about the stories we tell ourselves, or from which we derive our meaning and identity. (taken from Wikipedia)

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION & EXAMEN:

- What engaged, enraged, or surprised you in the text?
- Luke tells us that Jesus is the source of God's joy. By extension faith says that we are a source of God's joy. How do you react to that? How do you find it hard to believe?
- What invitation do you hear the Spirit of God speaking to you – or to us, – to act, speak, be, or change, through this scripture?

¹ redacted from a introduction written by Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity for A Sanctified Art.

January Birthdays

8 Bill Bryant
18 Gary Yee
25 Joy Barnes

10 Thom Faulkner
20 Daniel Geary
29 Bill Beatty

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.

Today – immediately after the postlude • Meeting of the Congregation • to elect new elders and deacons. and receive our 2024 budget.

This Week at & around CAPC Oakland

Sunday Bible Study 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.

Friday Night Meal – Fridays 6-7:00pm. Sign up online to help with set-up, serving, & clean-up! *Tim Hsu is heading up the cooking.*



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

Upcoming Book Series • We're thinking of offering an upcoming book series on *The Second Mountain: The Quest for a Moral Life In The Second Mountain* by David Brooks. It explores the four commitments that define a life of meaning and purpose: to a spouse and family, to a vocation, to a philosophy or faith, and to a community. And wrestles with how we navigate that in the second-half of life. (post 40/50). If you'd be interested in this book group talk to Monte

Upcoming Bible Study • Tuesday nights (Zoom) we'll be working through the Psalms. Starts 1/16.

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:

LITURGIST READER: Marji Wilkens
MUSIC: Pete Feltman, Dave Eagle, Ben Kramarz, Kate Rose
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.

“We Three Kings”

John H. Hopkins (1857) | Blue Hymn #66

1 We three kings of Orient are,
Bearing gifts we traverse afar,
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,
Following yonder star.

Refrain:

O star of wonder, star of night,
Star with royal beauty bright;
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect light!

2 Born a King on Bethlehem's plain
Gold I bring to crown Him again,
King forever, ceasing never,
Over us all to reign.

3 Frankincense to offer have I:
Incense owns a Deity nigh;
Prayer and praising, we are raising,
Worshipping God Most High.

4 Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume
Breathes a life of gathering gloom;
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
Sealed in the stone-cold tomb.

5 Glorious now behold Him arise,
King and God and Sacrifice;
Alleluia, Alleluia,
Sounds through the earth and skies.

Call to Worship Opening Litany

 *Sanctified Art* WRITTEN BY: REV. SARAH SPEED | SANCTIFIEDART.ORG

One: There are some days
when I need the reminder
that I belong to God.
Do you ever feel that way?

**People: Yes. We do.
The world can be a harsh place;
we often need that reminder.**

One: Well then, let us care for one another.
Let us speak the truth we each need to hear.
Church, you belong to God.
You are God's beloved.

**People: Friend, you belong to God.
You are God's beloved.**

One: Let us worship the God
who knows our names.

**People: Let us worship the God
who calls us beloved. Amen.**

“Who Would Think That What Was Needed”

*Carl P. Daw (1989) | The Blue Hymnal #409
© 1989 by Hope Publishing Company,*

1 Wild and lone the prophet's voice
Echoes through the desert still,
Calling us to make a choice,
Bidding us to do God's will:
"Turn from sin and be baptized;
Cleanse your heart and mind and soul.
Quitting all the sins you prized,
Yield your life to God's control.

2 "Bear the fruit repentance sows:
Lives of justice, truth, and love.
Trust no other claim than those;
Set your heart on things above.
Soon the Lord will come in power,
Burning clean the threshing floor:
Then will flames the chaff devour;
Wheat alone shall fill God's store."

3 With such preaching stark and bold
John proclaimed salvation near,
And his timeless warnings hold
Words of hope to all who hear.
So we dare to journey on,
Led by faith through ways untrod,
Till we come at last like John
To behold the Lamb of God.

Affirmation of Faith

 *Sanctified Art* WRITTEN BY: REV. SARAH SPEED | SANCTIFIEDART.ORG

**I believe that the God I see in scripture
is a God of love.**

**I believe that God created me
and delights in that creation.**

**I believe the psalmist who says,
“I am fearfully and wonderfully made.” (Psalm 139)**

**...I believe that, just as God called Jesus "beloved,"
God extends this same term of endearment to us.
I believe that no matter our earthly challenges,
nothing could strip me of that sacred title.
I could fail every test, miss every goal,
drop every ball,
and I would still be God's beloved.
Therefore, I cling to this promise
like a rock in the storm.
I anchor myself with this good news,
allowing the anxiety of the day to roll over me
as best I can,
because I know where I belong.
I am a child of God.
I am beloved.
I strive to live this way.
Amen.**

"I Was There To Hear Your Borning Cry"

John Ylvisaker / Glory to God #488

1. I was there to hear your borning cry,
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized,
to see your life unfold.
I was there when you were but a child,
with a faith to suit you well;
In a blaze of light you wandered off
to find where demons dwell.

2. When you heard the wonder of the Word
I was there to cheer you on;
You were raised to praise the living Lord,
to whom you now belong.
If you find someone to share your time
and you join your hearts as one,
I'll be there to make your verses rhyme
from dusk 'till rising sun.

3. In the middle ages of your life,
not too old, no longer young,
I'll be there to guide you through the night,
complete what I've begun.
When the evening gently closes in,
and you shut your weary eyes,
I'll be there as I have always been
with just one more surprise.

4. I was there to hear your borning cry,
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized,
to see your life unfold.

"Jesus Savior Pilot Me"

Edward Hopper (1871)

1 Jesus, Savior, pilot me,
Over life's tempestuous sea:
Unknown waves before me roll,
Hiding rocks and treacherous shoal;
Chart and compass come from Thee—
Jesus, Savior, pilot me!

2 As a mother stills her child,
Thou canst hush the ocean wild;
Boisterous waves obey Thy will
When Thou sayest to them, "Be still!"
Wondrous Sovereign of the sea,
Jesus, Savior, pilot me!

3 When at last I near the shore,
And the fearful breakers roar
'Twixt me and the peaceful rest—
Then, while leaning on Thy breast,
May I hear Thee say to me,
"Fear not— I will pilot thee!"

Chart and compass come from thee
Wondrous Sovereign of the sea
May I hear you say to me,
Fear not I will pilot thee

"I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me"

African-American spiritual / Blue Hymnal #369

1 I'm gonna live so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna live so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!

2 I'm gonna work so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna work so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!

3 I'm gonna pray so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna pray so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!

4 I'm gonna sing so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna sing so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!