

College Avenue Presbyterian Church  
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“We are all better  
when we’re loved.”

Alistair MacLeod  
(1936–2014)

February 4, 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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

“What’s Going On”

WORDS OF WELCOME

GATHERING SONG

“If You See My Savior”

- Insert

CALL TO WORSHIP

SONG OF PRAISE

“Lift Every Voice And Sing”

- Blue Hymnal #563

LISTENING FOR GOD’S WORD

CELEBRATING GOD’S GOOD CREATION IN BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Rosemarie Freeney Harding (1930–2004)

-Monte McClain

HEARING SCRIPTURE

Luke 6:17-20, 27-36

PROCLAIMING GOD’S WORD

“We are all better when we’re loved.”

- Rev. Monte McClain

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

SONG OF RESPONSE

“Shadow and Substance”

- 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.

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

COLLECTION OF THE OFFERING

You can give electronically  
using this QR Code



OFFERING SONG

“Healer Of Our Every 111”

SENDING SONG

Going Up Yonder”

- Insert

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

“Lonesome Fiddle Blues”

## Reflections on Today's Readings Luke 6:17-20, 27-36

Last week was a spicy sermon – for one many folks thought they heard me say the F-word aloud. And two, it was a story that resonated with so many of us – the tension of loving someone and not liking them, the tension of toxic human relationships and God's call for and to us to love as God loves. It's the quintessential question not just of faith, but of daily life.

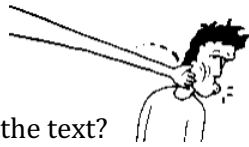
Many people asked me if this week would be part 2 of last week's sermon and story. It is, but not quite how you might think. As we continue working our way through Luke the next big section (what biblical scholars call a "pericope") brings us to Luke's version of the beatitudes. We studied that for several months this past year, so we move to the portion we read today. It too is all about love. Two verses summarize the teaching of Jesus: "31 Do to others as you would have them do to you." and "36 Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful." And Jesus teaches it not just as a theoretical notion, but as a quotidian practice.

In Jesus' day, Israel was Roman occupied territory. A soldier could legally commandeer (take or steal) someone else's property permitted in the occupied areas of the Roman Empire. The culture of the day – among Israelites and Romans was one of patronage. In such a system, both one's social status and one's economic circumstances would hang on what one owes to other and what one is owed by others.

Jesus lays out a different way of understanding and living human relationships. Where the world is based in patronage, and quid-pro-quo between different classes of people. Jesus invites us to love as God loves. Love is not a positive emotion about our enemies (or others). Love is an action. You can love your enemy without liking your enemy. Feelings have no bearing on our capacity to express love for our enemies. Love of enemy means living in the hope – and acting toward that possibility – that our enemy's life can be conformed to the goodness God desires for all people.

### QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION & EXAMEN:

- What engaged, enraged, or surprised you in the text?
- How does such love in action transform the person who is actively loved? How might such counter-cultural love transform the one who loves actively?
- Who in your life do you not like? Why? How might God be inviting you to love that person or "group" of people in action?
- This teaching on active non-violent love of one's enemies is at the heart of the teaching of Gandhi and Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Can you see how such acts of love were used to transform the systems of patronage in 20th century India and the Jim Crow South? How might such organized acts of non-violent love address our current situation?
- What invitation do you hear the Spirit of God speaking to you – or to us, – to act, speak, be, or change, through this scripture?



## February Birthdays

3 Tina Faulkner      4 William Markman 2008  
9 Angel Carney 2002

### 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.

### 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.

**Community Bible Study Wednesday Edition**  
Wednesdays at 7pm on Zoom. This week we're wrestling with Psalm 112.

**Session Meeting:** Thursday 2/8 @ 7p on Zoom

**Book Club** • We're reading *The Second Mountain* by David Brooks. Our first meets up Friday 2/9 at 11am on Zoom. We'll discuss Part 1. Or discussing the whole book in person 2/29.

**Friday Night Meal** – Fridays 6-7:00pm.  
Sign up online to help with set-up, serving, & clean-up! *Thom & Tina Faulkner are cooking.*



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

**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.

**Faith in the Public Square • Ceasefire in Gaza** • Many of us have talked individually about how we might respond to the ongoing death and violence in Gaza. If you're interested in that we're doing a quick meet-up today after service in the Julia Morgan Room. (*Behind the sanctuary wall*).

**Lunar New Year Lunch • Sunday, February 18**  
Join us for a community meal after our Sunday gathering, hosted by the Deacons. Donations are welcome to help cover the cost. Be sure to wear red for good luck!

### 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.*

### “If You See My Savior”

*Thomas Dorsey*

1. I was standing by the bedside of a neighbor  
Who was just about to cross the swelling tide  
(the swelling tide)  
And I asked him if he would do me a favor  
Kindly take this message to the other side  
(to the other side)

Chorus:

If you see my Savior tell Him that you saw me  
(that you saw me)  
When you saw me I was on my way (on my way)  
You may meet some old friend who may ask you for me  
(ask you for me)  
Tell him I am coming home some day (some day)

2. Though you have to make a journey on without me  
It's a debt that sooner or later must be paid  
When you reach the golden city think about me  
And don't forget to tell my savior what I say  
chorus

3. You may come across my father and my mother  
(and other ones)  
And the burdens of this life they may recall  
(oh they may recall)  
You may chance to meet my sister or my brother  
(oh my brother)  
But please do try to see my Savior first of all  
(oh first of all)

### Call to Worship Opening Litany

*Rosemarie Freeney Harding's activism was inspired by her abiding and mystical experience of God's love and justice. This was the vision that inspired and nourished her and that she passed on to her daughter Rachel E. Harding who recorded it.*

One: There is no scarcity. There is no shortage.

**ALL: No lack of love, of compassion,  
of joy in the world.**

One: There is enough.

**ALL: There is more than enough.**

One: Only fear and greed make us think otherwise.  
No one need starve.

**ALL: There is enough land and enough food.  
No one need die of thirst.  
There is enough water.**

One: No one need live without mercy.  
There is no end to grace.

**ALL: we are all instruments of grace.  
The more we give it,  
the more we share it,  
the more we use it,  
the more God makes.  
There is no scarcity of love.**

One: There is plenty.

**ALL: And always more.**

### “Lift Every Voice And Sing”

*James Weldon Johnson (1900)*

*Glory to God #339 | The Blue Hymnal #563*

1 Lift ev'ry voice and sing,  
till earth and heaven ring,  
ring with the harmonies of liberty.  
Let our rejoicing rise  
high as the list'ning skies,  
let it resound loud as the rolling sea.  
Sing a song full of the faith  
that the dark past has taught us.  
Sing a song full of the hope  
that the present has brought us.  
Facing the rising sun  
of our new day begun,  
let us march on till victory is won.

2 Stony the road we trod,  
bitter the chast'ning rod,  
felt in the days when hope unborn had died;  
yet with a steady beat,  
have not our weary feet  
come to the place for which our people sighed?  
We have come over a way  
that with tears has been watered.  
We have come, treading our path  
thro' the blood of the slaughtered,  
out from the gloomy past,  
till now we stand at last  
where the bright gleam  
of our bright star is cast.

*Continued on back of the page...*

3 God of our weary years,  
God of our silent tears,  
thou who hast brought us thus far on the way,  
thou who hast by thy might  
led us into the light,  
keep us forever in the path, we pray.  
Lest our feet stray from the places,  
our God, where we met thee;  
lest our hearts, drunk with the wine  
of the world, we forget thee;  
shadowed beneath thy hand,  
may we forever stand,  
true to our God, true to our native land.

### **“Shadow and Substance”**

*Daniel Charles Damon*

*Words © 1994 Hope Publishing Company*

1. Shadow and substance, wonder and mystery,  
spellbinding spinner of atoms and earth;  
Soul of the cosmos, person and energy,  
Source of our being, we sing of your worth.

2. We are your image, formed in community;  
sisters and brothers of Adam and Eve.  
You gave us color, custom and history;  
teach us to honor what others receive.

3. Naming the nameless, Spirit of unity,  
scanning the heavens for signs of your care;  
God of the ages, give us humility;  
guide us to mystical union in prayer.

### **“Healer Of Our Every Ill”**

*Author: Marty Haugen | Glory to God #795*

*Refrain:*

Healer of our every ill,  
light of each tomorrow,  
give us peace beyond our fear,  
and hope beyond our sorrow.

1 You who know our fears and sadness,  
grace us with your peace and gladness;  
Spirit of all comfort, fill our hearts.

2 In the pain and joy beholding  
how your grace is still unfolding,  
give us all your vision, God of love.

3 Give us strength to love each other,  
every sister, every brother;  
Spirit of all kindness, be our guide.

4 You who know each thought and feeling,  
teach us all your way of healing;  
Spirit of compassion, fill each heart.

### **“Going Up Yonder”**

*Walter Hawkins*

1. If you wanna know where I’m going,  
where I’m going soon  
If anybody asks you where I’m going  
where I’m going soon

*chorus*

I’m going up yonder, going up yonder  
I’m going up yonder to be with my Lord  
I’m going up yonder, going up yonder  
I’m going up yonder to be with my Lord

2. I can take the pain, the heartaches they bring,  
the comforts in knowing I’ll soon be gone.  
As God gives me grace, I’ll run this race,  
until I see my Savior face to face
3. It might not be today, it might not be tomorrow.  
I can hear my God say, No more sorrow  
If you all got to know, where I’ll be soon,  
let me tell you so you can feel brand new