

College Avenue Presbyterian Church  
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March 10, 2024 at 10:30am  
 in Person & on Zoom

**Welcome to  
 CAPC Oakland!**

We are a reformed, multicultural, community of followers of Jesus. Together we are committed to vigorously living 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 are moving towards restarting 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. Until then we have quiet toys, and activity sheets around today’s scripture in the play area up front.

**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 – Capc.net. Our password is 5951CAPC  
 CCL #1137062

GATHERING AROUND GOD’S WORD BOTH IN PERSON & VIA ZOOM

PRELUDE “You Don't Love God If You Don't Love Your Neighbor”

WORDS OF WELCOME

GATHERING SONG “Community” - Insert

CALL TO WORSHIP

SONG OF PRAISE “Build A Longer Table” - Insert

LISTENING FOR GOD’S WORD

HEARING SCRIPTURE John 6:1-14 & Matthew 25:31-46

PROCLAIMING GOD’S WORD “Faith – We’re All on the Journey” -Video

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

SONG OF RESPONSE “Whatever You Do” - 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 “God Is Forgiveness” - Insert

THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

SENDING SONG “Sing With Hearts” - Blue Hymnal #484

SENDING CALL AND RESPONSE

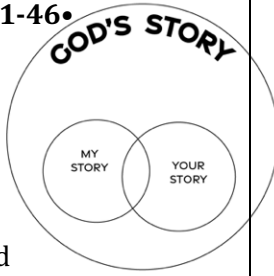
Leader: God is good! Leader: And all the time!  
 People: All the time! People: God is good!

EXHORTATION & BENEDICTION

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST “Amani Ya Mungu” (Swahili)

POSTLUDE “Catharsis”

**Reflections on Today's Reading**  
• John 6:1-14 & Matthew 25:31-46•



In Lent this year, we're inviting different members of our church community to talk about faith. The word religion is often seen in a negative light these days; in particular in comparison to the words spiritual and spirituality. And the word "religion" is derived from the Latin term *religio*, connected to the word *religare* (*to relegate, to unite, to bind together*). In the season of preparation for Easter that we call Lent, we're celebrating this notion that we are invited to practice our faith bound together in a living community. Each of us has a story, our stories can enrich and encourage each other. Our stories together are wrapped up in the story of God and the creation. As we say in our Lenten tagline "we're all on the journey."

Today our sharing is the documentary short-film "Every Monday Night - a short film about ball & life" made by Nate Houghteling - filmed in our gym! You can watch it again online at [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dw2NHIB\\_f2c](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dw2NHIB_f2c)

**Thin Spaces - what we've been hearing about this month.**

The ancient pagan Celts, and later, Christians, used the term "Thin Spaces" to describe mesmerizing places like the wind-swept isle of Iona (now part of Scotland) or the rocky peaks of Croagh Patrick. Heaven and earth, the Celtic saying goes, are only three feet apart, but in thin places that distance is even shorter. Thin places are places of energy. A place where the veil between this world and the eternal world is thin. A thin place is where one can walk in two worlds - the worlds are fused together, knitted loosely where the differences can be discerned or tightly where the two worlds become one. Thin places are all about connection - with God, with the Other world and with all who have lived, are living and will live in generations to come.

That's in part what the banner on our church facade points to - in Oakland as it is in heaven. That's what we've been hearing as different community members share about their own current faith journeys. Have you noticed how their story(ies) touch you and yours? This week we're taking in a documentary made this past year in our gym. It tells this story of hope, community, and service amongst one of the basketball groups that has met weekly in our gym for 30+ years. When I watched the documentary it made me think of our space as a thin space - an overlap of sorts of heaven and earth, the space where God moves and our world where we look for God. It's a reminder, and invitation to continue living in the Way of Jesus.

**QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION & EXAMEN:**

- What engaged, enraged, or surprised you in the text or film?
- How are we called to embody *thin space* in our life together?
- What invitation do you hear the Spirit of God speaking to you - or to us, - to act, speak, be, or change, through this scripture?

**March Birthdays**

- |                   |                     |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Al Barnes       | 6 Jeff Trowbridge   |
| 8 Breeze Ramirez  | 11 Michael Evans    |
| 12 Kristy McClain | 17 Louise Hirschman |
| 24 Marda Stothers | 28 Lucian Haynes    |

**March Anniversaries**

- 3 Mike and Lori Castner 1979  
10 Richard and Marge Harvey 2011  
28 Maya Patil's adoption date 2003

*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.

**Church Directory** • Help us update our church directory by correcting or adding any of your contact information. See the table in the back.

**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 32 & 130.

**Friday Night Meal** - Fridays 6-7:00pm.

Sign up online to help with set-up, serving, & clean-up! *Montclair Presbyterian Church is cooking. Thom & Tina Faulkner are the hosts.*

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

**Faith in the Public Square • Ceasefire in Gaza •**

Thursday a small group of us discussed the signing of a document in support of a permanent Ceasefire in Gaza and the raising of a banner outside of the church to advocate that. We're having a brief discussion in person today after worship about it for those who missed Thursday. Copies of the statement are in the entryway.

**East Bay Interfaith pilgrimage dedicated to calling for a ceasefire in Gaza. Saturday, March 23rd 7am-7pm.** You can walk the whole day or for a shorter leg. There will be prayer, liturgy, and ritual throughout the walk. Look for a flyer in the entryway or online at <https://tinyurl.com/5n953h8f>

**Palm Sunday - March 24<sup>th</sup>** Rev. Bruce Reyes-Chow is preaching. We'll have our annual palm parade!

## 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.*

### “Community”

*Dave Brown, Tune In Brunswick Uniting Church congregation*

#### Chorus

Part of a family, interconnected,  
this is community Welcoming strangers,  
visiting neighbors, this gives us dignity

1. Care for the earth and sea,  
we need to keep them free,  
so we care for the earth and sea.  
Care for the ones we meet,  
love is the face we see,  
when we care for the ones we meet.

2. Sharing our joy and pain,  
praying and keeping faith,  
by sharing our joy and pain.  
Singing a song of rights,  
imaging God in life,  
by singing a song of rights.

3. Talk to the lonely,  
bind up the broken,  
this makes community.  
A glass of water shared with the thirsty,  
this makes for dignity,  
this makes for dignity.  
This is community

## Call to Worship Opening Litany

*(John 6:35) By Deborah Sokolove | [www.ministrymatters.com](http://www.ministrymatters.com)*

One: Jesus said, “I am the bread of life.”

**ALL: We are hungry for the bread of heaven.**

One: Jesus said, “The bread of God gives life to the world.”

**ALL: We are hungry for abundant life.**

One: Jesus said, “I am the bread of life.  
Whoever comes to me will never be hungry,  
and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.”

**ALL: We are here to become what we already are:  
the body of Christ, food for a hungry world.**

### “Build A Longer Table”

*Authors: David Bjorlin | Tune Name: NOEL NOUVELET*

1 Build a longer table, not a higher wall,  
feeding those who hunger, making room for all.  
Feasting together, stranger turns to friend,  
Christ breaks walls to pieces; false divisions end.

2 Build a safer refuge, not a larger jail;  
where the weak find shelter, mercy will not fail.  
When we embrace compassion more than fear,  
Christ tears down our fences: all are welcome here.

3. Build a broader doorway, not a longer fence.  
Love protects all people, sparing no expense.  
When we embrace compassion more than fear,  
Christ tears down our fences: all are welcome here.

4 When we lived as exiles, refugees abroad,  
Christ became our doorway to the reign of God.  
So must our tables welcome those who roam.  
None can be excluded; all must find a home.

## **“Whatever You Do”**

*ST. DENIO 11.11.11.11 (“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”)*

*Biblical Reference: Matthew 25:31-46*

*Text: Copyright © 2008 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette.*

- 1 "Whatever you do to the least ones of these,  
I tell you in truth that you do unto me!"  
Lord Jesus, you taught us! May we learn anew  
That when we serve others, we also serve you.
2. When poor, waiting children pray hunger will end,  
When those long-forgotten cry out for a friend,  
When thirsty ones whisper, "O Lord, where are you?" —  
We hear, in their longing, that you're calling, too.
3. In prisons and jails, Lord, we find a surprise;  
We see you in people whom others despise.  
At hospital bedsides we offer a prayer  
And find, when we visit the sick, you are there.
4. When we reach to others in flood-stricken lands  
And offer our hearts there, and offer our hands —  
We notice, Lord Jesus, the gift of your grace:  
We see, in the crowds of the suffering, your face.
5. "Lord, when did we see you?" Your teaching is clear  
That when we serve others, we're serving you here.  
And when your church heeds you and helps those in pain,  
Then out of the chaos, hope rises again.

## **“God Is Forgiveness”**

*Author: Communauté de Taizé*

*© 2007, 2011, Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc.,*

God is forgiveness.  
Dare to forgive and God will be with you.  
God is forgiveness.  
Love, and do not fear.  
God is forgiveness.  
Dare to forgive and God will be with you.  
God is forgiveness.  
Love, and do not fear.

## **“Sing With Hearts”**

*Jonathan Malicsi (1983) | Blue Presbyterian Hymnal #484*

*Refrain:*

Sing with hearts, sing with souls,  
Dance with joy to God.  
To whom we offer praises,  
To whom we sing with gladness.

1. Let all our hearts open to the Lord God,  
Let all the heavens hear how our hearts rejoice;  
For it is God who has given us graces,  
From whom comes the music in our voice.  
O Lord, we sing with joyful hearts,  
with soul and body offer we our arts.
2. Let all our bodies sway to God's music,  
Let all the earth move with our feet and hands;  
For it is God who inspires and uplifts us,  
From whom flows all rhythm in our dance.  
O Lord, we sing with joyful hearts,  
with soul and body offer we our arts.
3. Let all our souls shine out with God's beauty,  
Let all creation feel our love for God;  
For it is God who has granted us wisdom,  
In whom we find reality and dream.  
O Lord, we sing with joyful hearts,  
with soul and body offer we our arts.