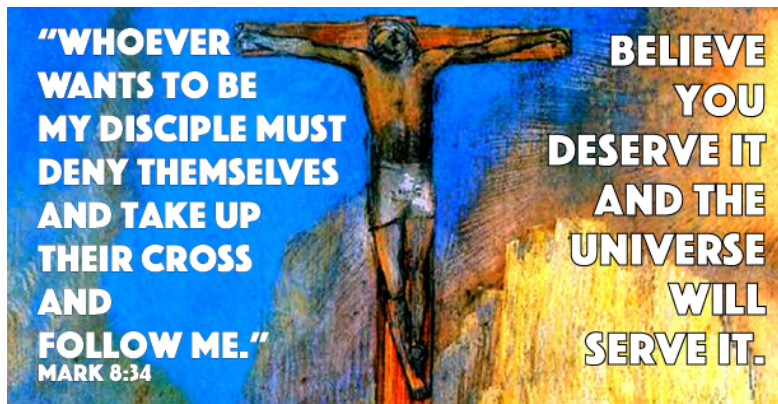


College Avenue Presbyterian Church  
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February 23, 2020

**Welcome to CAPC Oakland!**

We are a reformed, multicultural, politically purple, community of followers of Jesus seeking to live our faith seriously in word, deed and relationships in the East Bay.

If you've never celebrated with us, you can follow along using this paper or the projection on the screen. Hymnals and Bibles are in the pews. We invite you to join us for a moment of community connection afterwards with a drink and simple snack.

**CHILDREN**

We have a quiet play area for children in the front of the sanctuary with toys and coloring sheets that can be played with during services. We also have a lounge, off the entryway, where the service is broadcast if you need more space.

We invite children 3 years old to 6<sup>th</sup> grade to depart for Godly Play following our second song. You can gather your child(ren) after worship upstairs in the GP room.

**PRAYER CARDS**

You're invited to share your prayers of concern or gratitude by filling out the cards, located in the pews, and placing them in the glass vase on the table. We'll use them during today's service.

**WIFI & SOCIAL MEDIA**

2wire927 is our open wifi. The password is 7304088568. If you do social media during the service we invite you to add #capcoakland to include others.

**NESTLÉ PARKING LOT**

We're able to park in the lot behind the church. They ask us to enter and exit off of Chabot Road, using the pedestrian door there near Crossroads Trading.

CCL #1137062

**GATHERING AROUND GOD'S WORD**

GATHERING SONG "Transform us as you Transfigured" - Insert

CALL TO WORSHIP - Insert

SONG OF PRAISE "Jesus Savior Pilot Me" - Insert

**LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD**

CELEBRATING GOD'S GOOD CREATION IN BLACK HISTORY MONTH - Monte McClain

**ACT OF CONFESSION**

*OPENING OURSELVES TO BEING UNDONE, THAT WE MIGHT BE REDONE*

SUNG RESPONSE "If Not For Your Grace" - Insert

**DECLARATION OF GOD'S GRACE**

*THE IN-BREAKING OF GOD'S GRACE DISRUPTS OUR HUMAN CONDITION OF SIN*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER - Deacon Fredora Darmstadt  
*Call and response liturgically prayed at the conclusion of sharing a prayer card*

Leader: God, in your mercy. **People: Hear our prayer.**

*To pray with someone after the service, look for today's liturgist after today's service*

**GIVING OF OUR TITHES & OFFERINGS TO EMPOWER THE WORK OF GOD IN THE CHURCH**

OFFERTORY SONG "Lift Every Voice and Sing" - Insert, v.1

LISTENING TO SCRIPTURE Mark 8:27-9:8 *Pew Bible pp. 976*

SPEAKING OF FAITH "Pardoxes" - Monte McClain

**RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD**

SONG OF RESPONSE "Take Up Your Cross" - Insert

**THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH**

**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 "Amani ya mungu" (Swahili)

*We pass the peace weekly using languages native to the cultures of our church community as an audible sign of the Dominion of God at work towards the healing transformation of the world.*

## Thoughts on Today's Reading Mark 8:27-9:8



**par·a·dox**

/ˈperəˌdɒks/

noun

a seemingly absurd or self-contradictory statement or proposition that when investigated or explained may prove to be well founded or true.

When we look closely life is structured by paradoxes. Truth is often found in the absurd. It's what had dominated modern literature since the War to End all Wars (no not that one, the first one in 1917). We experience it in daily life in those liminal moments when eternity breaks in. Have you ever been filled with such happiness that you suddenly were flooded with fear or sadness? Or felt like you have everything, then realized your poverty? Or been so hungry you can't eat, so tired that you can't sleep?

In today's reading, we enter into the heart of the purpose, passion, and person of Jesus – which can only be said and experienced in paradox. You can only find life when you destroy it. You can only find your freedom when you follow the Way.

The disciples, and their Jewish brothers and sisters had long been hungering for the arrival of the Messiah – the promised warrior of God who would come to right all wrongs, and deliver the God's Chosen People to the Promised Land of victory, unity and peace. But when Jesus is recognized as this Messiah, the disciples, specifically Peter, despite that ardent hunger, don't want to eat what Jesus is offering.

Scholar Ched Myers writes: that Jesus here reveals that his messiahship means political confrontation with, not rehabilitation of, the imperial state (Roman or Jewish). The central paradox of the Gospel is that the threat to punishment by death is the bottom line of the power of the state; fear of this threat keeps the dominant order intact. By resisting this fear and pursuing kingdom practice even at the cost of death, the disciples of Jesus contribute to shattering the powers' reign of death in history. To concede the state's sovereignty in death is to refuse its authority in life. Those who wish to "come after Jesus" will have to identify themselves with his subversive program. (*Binding the Strong Man*. Ched Myers. pp.246-248)

This paradox is so clear: life through death, the last will be first, the least are the greatest. And yet we either don't want to accept it, or we just can't follow through with the cost of living into such radical obedience. No one wants to die, to be last, to be the least. Jesus is asking too much. And yet he speaks this paradoxical call into a disbelieving world, as the crazy farmer sows seeds everywhere, trusting that growth and harvest will come.



### QUESTIONS FOR THE PRACTICE OF EXAMEN & CONTEMPLATION

- **What grabs your attention in today's reading?**
- **How do you hear the parable of the Crazy Farmer (Mk 4:1-20) underneath and within this text?**
- **The story is all about political and social confrontation. How do you see that in the text & teachings?**
- **What invitation to journey on the Way of Jesus do you hear in the text today?**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS & COMMUNITY NEWS

### FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

16 Myrna Shadley

### COMMUNITY LIFE CALENDAR

**Tastes of India** Thank you to those who were able to attend and give to our cultural exchange program last week. Together we raised \$560!

**Join our Choir!** Tuesdays 5:30-6:30p, Sundays 12-1p | Contact Pete Feltman

**Celtic Prayer Group**, Wednesdays 6:45-8:15pm  
Talk to Marda Stothers for more information.

**Friday Night Meal, 2/28 6-7pm** cooked & served by a team from First Covenant Church of Oakland. Hosted by Monte. *Want to help?*

**Women's Group, Saturdays 8:30am | in the church library** (meets 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays)

**The Vocabulary of Faith |** Sundays 9:30-10:15am  
*A weekly intro to learning how to read the Bible.*

**Happy Half-Hour Thursdays 6-6:30pm** – wind down your week with a communal spiritual practice then grab a bite or drink along the Ave.

**ESL Ministry with Immigrants** Mondays, 7-9pm

**Guatemala Sharing** –Today after worship.

**Mardi Gras Pancake Dinner & Games :: Tuesday, Feb 25<sup>th</sup> 6-7pm** Join us for a traditional Mardi Gras dinner and pancake games fun! Bring a skillet. Come at 4pm to help!

**Ash Wednesday** Evensong & Prayers  
Wednesday, 2/26 7pm – Get your Ash there!

**Session Meeting** – Thursday 7-8:30pm

**Black History Month** – would you like to do one of our weekly sharing moments in worship during Black History Month? Talk to Monte.

**New Member Lunch** –March 8<sup>th</sup> after worship  
Talk to Monte or Elder Sharon Nelson

**Thank you to this Week's Leadership:**  
Black History Month Sharing: Monte McClain  
Counting: Louise Hirschman, Sharon Nelson  
Fellowship: F Darmstadt, K Parsons McClain  
Godly Play: Beth Beatty ST, Mercy Beatty DK  
Greeters: Bill Beatty

**Leadership for next week, 3/1/2020:**  
Counting: Marda Strothers, Marge Harvey  
Fellowship: Emma Fleming, Ben Bencomo  
Godly Play: Children Remain in Worship  
Greeters: Chickwendu Okereke, Fredora Darmstadt

## LYRICS & WRITTEN RESPONSES FOR TODAY'S CELEBRATION

### “Transform Us as you Transfigured”

*Sylia Dunstan | New words sung to the familiar  
hymn tune PICARDY*

1. Transform us as you, transfigured,  
stood apart on Tabor's height.  
Lead us up our sacred mountains;  
search us with revealing light.  
Lift us from where we have fallen,  
full of questions, filled with fright.
2. Transform us as you transfigured,  
once spoke with those holy ones.  
We, surrounded by the witness  
of those saints whose work is done,  
Live in this world as your Body,  
chosen daughters, chosen sons.
3. Transform us as you transfigured,  
would not stay within a shrine.  
Keep us from our great temptation –  
time and truth we quickly bind.  
Lead us down those daily pathways,  
where our love in not confined.

### CALL TO WORSHIP RESPONSIVE READING

*Opening Prayer written by ReGord posted to the blog  
[www.worshipofferings.blogspot.com](http://www.worshipofferings.blogspot.com)*

**The People read the BOLD print**

One: God, you have called us to this place and to be  
your people,

**All: Here we come to be refreshed, to be  
renewed, but also to be challenged.**

One: You challenge us to explore what we believe  
and determine how to respond in faith.

**All: In our time together  
remind us that we do not  
explore the hard questions alone.  
Remind us also  
that the explorations and struggle  
matter as much as the answer.**

One: Creator God, send your Spirit in this place.

**All: Fill us with hope and send us out to live and  
serve and struggle.**

**Amen**

### “Jesus Savior Pilot Me”

*Edward Hopper (1871) | Scripture: Matthew 8:23-27;  
Mark 4:35-41; Luke 8:22-25; Matthew 8:27*

1. Jesus savior pilot me  
over life's tempestuous sea.  
Unknown waves before me roll,  
Hiding rock and treacherous shoal.  
Chart and Compass come from thee,  
Jesus savior pilot me.
2. As a mother stills her child,  
thou can hush the ocean wild.  
Boisterous waves obey thy will,  
when you say 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 you say to me. Fear not I will pilot thee.
4. Chart and compass come from thee  
Wondrous Sovereign of the sea  
May I hear you say to me,  
Fear not I will pilot thee

### “If Not For Your Grace”

*Israel & New Breed*

Where would I be if not for your grace  
Carrying me in every season  
Where would I be if not for your grace  
You came to my rescue and I want to thank you  
for your grace

Grace that restores, grace that redeems,  
grace that releases me to worship  
Grace that repairs, visions and dreams,  
grace that releases miracles  
Your grace, Your grace

## **“Lift Every Voice and Sing”**

*James Weldon Johnson (1900)  
Glory to God Hymnal #339*

1. Lift every voice and sing Till earth and heaven ring  
Ring with the harmonies of liberty  
Let our rejoicing rise high as the listening 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

## **“Take Up Your Cross”**

*Words by Steve Millikan, Jane Johanson and Ray Boltz, Music by Steve Millikan*

1. What are you doing for the King  
Have you really given everything  
To the One who gave His all for you  
Don't you be satisfied just to know  
That the Lord has saved your soul  
Have you forgotten what you need to do

*Refrain:*

Take up your cross and follow Jesus  
Take up your cross every day  
Don't be ashamed to say that you know Him  
Count up the cost, take up your cross and follow Him  
Don't be ashamed to say that you know Him  
Count up the cost, take up your cross and follow Him

*bridge*

I know sometimes the road is long and  
I know sometimes you feel  
like you can't go on  
But you can make it, you just

*conclusion*

Count up the cost,  
take up your cross and follow Him  
Count up the cost,  
take up your cross and follow Him

# 339 Lift Every Voice and Sing

1 Lift ev - ery voice and sing till earth and heav - en  
 2 Ston - y the road we trod, bit - ter the chas - tening  
 3 God of our wea - ry years, God of our si - lent

ring with the har - mo - nies of lib - er -  
 rod, felt in the days when hope un - born had  
 tears, thou who hast brought us thus far on the

ty. Let our re - joic - ing rise high as the lis - tening  
 died. Yet, with a stead - y beat, have not our wea - ry  
 way; thou who hast by thy might led us in - to the

skies; let it re - sound loud as the roll - ing sea.  
 feet come to the place for which our par - ents sighed?  
 light, keep us for - ev - er in the path, we pray.

Initially a poem for a school assembly at which Booker T. Washington spoke on Lincoln's birthday in 1900, this text and tune have gained national recognition and devotion, not only within the African American community, but also among all who seek liberation from oppression.

Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;  
 We have come o - ver a way that with tears has been wa - tered;  
 Lest our feet stray from the plac - es, our God, where we met thee;

sing a song full of the hope that the pres - ent has brought  
 we have come, tread - ing our path through the blood of the slaugh -  
 lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we for - get

us. Fac - ing the ris - ing sun of our new day be -  
 tered, out from the gloom - y past, till now we stand at  
 thee; shad - owed be - neath thy hand may we for - ev - er

gun, let us march on, till vic - to - ry is won.  
 last where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.  
 stand, true to our God, true to our na - tive land.

## JESUS, SAVIOR, PILOT ME 460

*O afflicted one, storm-tossed, and not comforted...no weapon that is fashioned against you shall prosper.*  
Isaiah 54:11, 17

1. Je - sus, Sav - ior, pi - lot me, O - ver  
2. As a moth - er stills her child, Thou canst  
3. When at last I near the shore, And the

life's tem - pes - tuous sea: Un - known waves be - fore me  
hush the o - cean wild; Bois - t'rous waves o - bey Thy  
fear - ful break - ers roar 'Twixt me and the peace - ful

roll, Hid - ing rocks and treach-'rous shoal; Chart and  
will When Thou say'st to them, "Be still!" Won-drous  
rest— Then, while lean - ing on Thy breast, May I

com - pass come from Thee— Je - sus, Sav - ior, pi - lot me!  
Sov - 'reign of the sea, Je - sus, Sav - ior, pi - lot me!  
hear Thee say to me, "Fear not— I will pi - lot thee!"

Text: Edward Hopper, 1816-1888

Tune: PILOT, 77 77 77; John E. Gould, 1822-1875