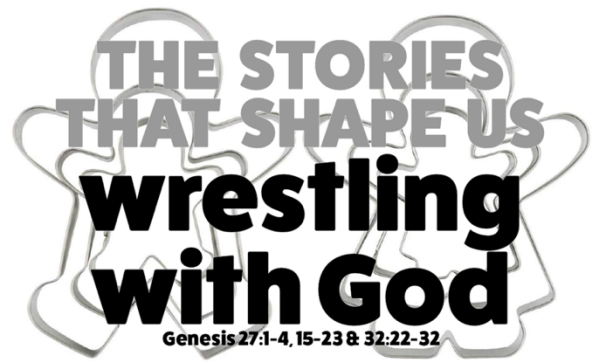


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October 3, 2021 | World Communion Sunday

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

PRELUDE: "Hallelujah (I Just Want To Praise The Lord)"

GATHERING SONG "There's A Sweet, Sweet Spirit"

CALL TO WORSHIP

SONG OF PRAISE "How Firm A Foundation"

HEARING GOD'S WORD

LISTENING TO SCRIPTURE Genesis 27:1-4, 15-23 & 32:22-32. -Patt Schroeder

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD "Wrestling with God"

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

SONG OF RESPONSE "Don't Be Afraid"

COMMUNION: FINDING GOD AROUND OUR HYBRID TABLE ON WCS

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

COLLECTION OF OUR OFFERINGS AND GIFTS "All Who Hunger"

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.

EUCCHARIST – THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

TODAY WE'LL CELEBRATE THIS FOUNDATIONAL MEAL BY INTINCTION WHEREVER YOU ARE. IN PERSON WE'RE USING PRE-PACKAGED WAFERS AND JUICE CUPS YOU CAN FIND IN THE ENTRYWAY.

THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

INVITATION TO MINISTRY: BLESSING BAGS – Linda Davis & Sharon Nelson

SENDING SONG "Okay"

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 GOD "The Peace of Christ"

In the season of a pandemic new normal, you're invited to pass the peace of God however and to whoever you can this day as we live our lives of disciples of Jesus sheltering-in-place, as a living sign of the Dominion of God at work moving us toward the healing transformation of the world.

POSTLUDE "Shenandoah"

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 this time of disruption and new normal we gather hybrid-ly (both in person and via Zoom).

This is our new normal.

It's something that we'll get better at each time we gather, allowing us to gather together and be consistent with our values and commitments. We ask that you wear a mask during worship as some of our community (our children in particular) are not yet vaccinated.

CHILDREN

We've reconfigured out how to do our Godly Play program for children via Zoom. We meet 9:30-10am on Sundays via Zoom. Info in the announcements on the back.

POST-SERVICE GARDEN PARTY

We are serving a light snack and coffee after worship in the garden throughout the summer. You can enjoy that mask-free. We ask you to not touch any of the food or drink, instead let us serve you.

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.'

CCL #1137062.

Reflections on Today's Readings Genesis 27:1-4, 15-23 & 32:22-32

Our story – according to Genesis – begins in the dust, from which God shapes us and gives us life through breathing the Divine Spirit into us. We're made in the image of God and also intimately connected to the earth and one another. We see that things quickly get complicated with Adam and Eve wanting to be in the place of God, their sons killing one another out of envy, and humanity being consumed with greed, pain, violence and focused on themselves. God starts again, a second kind of creation, choosing Abraham and Sarah to create a way where there was no way. This couple without children, is selected to be the holy parents of the people of God.

While remarkably faithful, they too have their own weaknesses. They doubt. They take matters into their own hands. They are prisoners to their own culture of slavery and racial supremacy. Their son Isaac marries and has twin boys: Esau and Jacob. Isaac and his wife each prefer a different son, and then two kids quickly compete with one another, with the younger, Jacob, a trickster, cheating his older, simpler brother out of his blessing and inheritance. Jacob throughout his life tries to get ahead, to turn things around to come out first when he feels like he's last. It's a family that could use a lot of family talk therapy!

We wrestle with their story today. Our first reading tells of how Jacob, with the help of Rebekah, fools his ailing and blind father, stealing the blessing intended for the first-born Esau.

Our second reading is years later. Jacob has had to flee empty-handed and start a new life abroad. He returns home, and is terrified of encountering Esau who logically wants revenge. Jacob, strong but without a back-bone sends all his possessions, wives and children ahead of him to soften the blow, to seek to appease Esau before he arrives. That night alone, Jacob prays to God asking for help. God comes, wrestles with Jacob and Jacob is changed forever. He lives now with a limp. And he has a new name and identity: Israel – the One who wrestles with God.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION & EXAMEN:

- What engaged you, enraged you, or surprised you in the text?
- The Bible invites us into a strange new world where there is great power in words that are spoken, symbolic actions and blessings. What do you find strange in this story of how God forms a people from broken people?
- Jacob faces God and seems to be God's equal in power, wrestling the angel all night long to a draw. But he is crippled in the encounter, transformed forever, given a new name. When, how have you wrestled with God in a similar way seeking blessing, understanding, or power in your weakness?
- What invitation do you heard the Spirit of God speaking to you – or to us, as a church – to act, speak, be or change through this word of scripture?

October Birthdays

5 Emma Fleming *turning 102!*
7 Cameron Beatty 14 Mike Castner
26 Chinyere Okereke
30 Robbin Peach Joshua Beatty

Weekly Calendar

Race Matters Group Starting up again Monday, October 8th @ 6pm.

More info at capcoakland.org/racematters

Friday Night Meal – Friday, October 8th 6:00pm.

Sign up online w/ the QR Code to help with set-up and serving, and clean-up.



Women's Group – Saturdays at 9:30am on Zoom. Contact Anne Marie Adams for info about joining - amadams44@gmail.com

Letters of Love send a greeting card to someone who could use a good word or to one of our governmental representatives (back wall).

Godly Play for Children/Youth Sundays 9:30-10am

More info online via this QR Code.



FALL CLASSES AND WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY

– **Sabbath as Resistance** –

Tuesdays 7pm on Zoom

Wrestling with Scripture Thursdays at 7pm on Zoom. Reading the weekly text in community.

More info about the classes online via this QR Code.



Blessing Bags – You can help fund this ministry. Label your gift "blessing bags"

Meal Train for Chris Olson & David Banoff –

We're taking meals to Chris & Davis on Tuesdays and Thursdays in this time of grief following the death of their daughter Larisa. Sign up online using this QR Code.



Thank you to Today's Worship Leadership:

Godly Play: Jeanne Hayes

Music: Pete Feltman, Dave Eagle

Reader: Patt Schroeder

Video Tech: Albert Hussian, Dann Wilkens

LYRICS & RESPONSES FOR TODAY'S CELEBRATION

We seek to use gender inclusive language, as we affirm that God is neither male or 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.

“There's A Sweet Sweet Spirit”

Doris Akers (1962)

Glory to God #408

© 1962. Renewed 1990 by Manna Music, Inc. (ASCAP)

1. There's a sweet, sweet spirit in this place,
And I know that it's the spirit of the Lord;
There are sweet expressions on each face,
And I know they feel the presence of the Lord.

Refrain

Sweet Holy Spirit,
Sweet Heavenly Dove,
Stay right here with us,
Filling us with Your love,
And for these blessings
We lift our hearts in praise,
Without a doubt we'll know
That we have been revived
When we shall leave this place.

2. There are blessings you cannot receive
till you know him in his fullness and believe;
You're the one to port when you say,
"I am going to walk with Jesus all the way."

Call to Worship Litany –

Psalms 34 (Contemporary English Version)

One: I will always praise the Lord.
With all my heart,
I will praise the Lord.
Let all who are helpless,
listen and be glad.
Honor the Lord with me!
Celebrate God's great name.

**People: I asked the Lord for help,
and he saved me
from all my fears.**

**Keep your eyes on the Lord!
You will shine like the sun
and never blush with shame.
I was a nobody, but I prayed,
and the Lord saved me
from all my troubles.**

Leader: If you honor the Lord,
his angel will protect you.
Discover for yourself
that the Lord is kind.
Come to him for protection,
and you will be glad.

**People: Honor the Lord!
You are his special people.
No one who honors the Lord
will ever be in need.
Young lions may go hungry
or even starve,
but if you trust the Lord,
you will never miss out
on anything good.**

Leader: Come, my children, listen
as I teach you
to respect the Lord.
Do you want to live
and enjoy a long life?
Then don't say cruel things
and don't tell lies.
Do good instead of evil
and try to live at peace.

**People: If you obey the Lord,
he will watch over you
and answer your prayers.
But God despises evil people,
and he will wipe them all
from the earth,
till they are forgotten.
When his people pray for help,
he listens and rescues them
from their troubles.
The Lord is there to rescue all
who are discouraged
and have given up hope.**

Leader: The Lord's people
may suffer a lot,
but he will always
bring them safely through.
Not one of their bones
will ever be broken.

**People: Wicked people are killed
by their own evil deeds,
and if you hate God's people
you will be punished.
The Lord saves the lives
of his servants.
Run to him for protection,
and you won't be turned away.**

“How Firm A Foundation”

*George Keith (1787); R. Keen (c. 1787)
The Blue Presbyterian Hymnal #361*

1 How firm a foundation, you saints of the Lord,
is laid for your faith in his excellent Word!
What more can he say than to you he has said,
to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

2 “Fear not, I am with you; O be not dismayed,
for I am your God, and will still give you aid.
I’ll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand,
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.

3 “When through the deep waters I call you to go,
the rivers of sorrow shall not overflow,
for I will be with you, your troubles to bless,
and sanctify to you the deepest distress.

4 “When through fiery trials your pathway shall lie,
my grace, all sufficient, shall be your supply.
The flames shall not hurt you. I only design
your dross to consume, and your gold to refine.

5 “The soul that on Jesus still leans for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to its foes.
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I’ll never, no never, no never forsake!”

“Don't Be Afraid”

John L. Bell. © 1995 Wild Goose Resource Group,

Don't be afraid my love is stronger
My love is stronger than your fear
Don't be afraid my love is stronger
And I have promised, promised to be always near

Affirmation of Faith *(adapted from the Belhar Confession)*

We believe in one holy, universal Christian church,
the unity of the communion of saints
of the entire human family.
And we believe that that this unity
of the people of God must be manifest and active,
in that we love one another;
that we give ourselves willingly and joyfully
to one another,
that we are share one baptism together,
that we eat of one bread and drink of one cup together,
that we confess one name, one Lord,
for one cause, with one hope,
which is the height and the breadth and the depth
and the love of Christ, forever and ever.
Amen.

“Okay” *Kirk Franklin,*

“All Who Hunger”

*Author: Sylvia G. Dunstan
Glory to God #509 © 1991, GIA Publications, Inc.*

1 All who hunger, gather gladly;
holy manna is our bread.
Come from wilderness and wandering.
Here, in truth, we will be fed.
You that yearn for days of fullness,
all around us is our food.
Taste and see the grace eternal.
Taste and see that God is good.

2 All who hunger, never strangers;
seeker, be a welcome guest.
Come from restlessness and roaming.
Here, in joy, we keep the feast.
We that once were lost and scattered
in communion's love have stood.
Taste and see the grace eternal.
Taste and see that God is good.

3 All who hunger, sing together;
Jesus Christ is living bread.
Come from loneliness and longing.
Here, in peace, we have been led.
Blest are those who from this table
live their lives in gratitude.
Taste and see the grace eternal.
Taste and see that God is good.

Eucharist

Invitation

This table is for all of us,
near and far, high and low,
east and west and north and south.
This table is for all of us, but it is not our table.
It's not a Presbyterian table. It's not an American table.
It's God's table, for all of us, and it's a table of grace.
So come and take your place at the table.
You are welcome, you are invited, you are called:
come, let us share this meal together.

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

One: The Lord be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

Many: We lift them to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Many: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

One: It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you
thanks and praise, O Lord our God, creator and ruler of
the universe. Even when we were dust, when our
story begins in dust, you were there, your word was
there, your breath into the lifeless void.

Woke up to a world that is changing
Looking out the window, got me wondering lately
Will we be okay? Will we be okay?
One day I can feel the sun shining
Next day a bullet can leave a momma cryin'
Will she be okay? Tell me will we be okay?

Pre chorus

Life is taking everything that I have
Just to survive

Chorus

I got twenty-five dollars in my pocket
And I think another ten in my glove compartment
I'm trying so bad not to cry, but it's hard to stop it
But you say all of my needs, you promised, you got it

Refrain

So I'm gon' be okay
I'm gon' be okay (Okay, okay)
See I gotta remember, that my God is bigger
Than any battle I'll ever face So I'm gon' be okay
(I know its dark right now but still see the light)

Why do we hate one another
When love is the most beautiful color?
It takes away the grey And makes everything okay
Where is the American dream
If only one percent knows what it means
To really be okay? Tell me, is that okay?

Prechorus

Chorus

Refrain

Bridge

See our god is great This season of pain, it won't last al-
ways
Life is taking everything that I have Just to survive
I got twenty-five dollars in my pocket
And I think another ten in my glove compartment
But that family with no food would trade places
with you
Give thanks and don't forget how you got it

So I'm gon' be okay
I'm gon' be okay (Okay, okay)
See I gotta remember, that my God is bigger
Than any battle I'll ever face So I'm gon' be okay
So I'm gon' be okay
I'm gon' be okay (Okay, okay)
See I gotta remember, that my God is bigger
Than any battle I'll ever face So I'm gon' be okay



The first Sunday in October is designated as World Communion Sunday, which celebrates our oneness in Christ with all our brothers and sisters around the world. Originally called World Wide Communion Sunday, it is a gift of the Presbyterian Church to the larger ecumenical church. The first celebration occurred at Shadyside Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh, PA, in 1933 where Dr. Hugh Kerr served as pastor.

Dr. Kerr first conceived the notion of World Communion Sunday during his year as moderator of the General Assembly (1930). Dr. Kerr's younger son, the Rev. Dr. Donald Craig Kerr, who is pastor emeritus of the Roland Park Presbyterian Church in Baltimore, was sixteen in 1933. He has related that World Communion Sunday grew out of the Division of Stewardship at Shadyside. It was their attempt to bring churches together in a service of Christian unity—in which everyone might receive both inspiration and information, and above all, to know how important the Church of Jesus Christ is, and how each congregation is interconnected one with another.

The concept spread very slowly at the start. People did not give it a whole lot of thought. It was during the Second World War that the spirit caught hold, because we were trying to hold the world together. World Wide Communion symbolized the effort to hold things together, in a spiritual sense. It emphasized that we are one in the Spirit and the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Celebration of World Wide Communion Sunday was adopted as a denominational practice in the Presbyterian Church (US) in 1936. Churches in other denominations were invited to celebrate with us from the beginning, but it wasn't until 1940 when the Department of Evangelism of the Federal Council of Churches (a predecessor body of the National Council of Churches) promoted extending the celebration to a number of churches around the world that the practice became widespread. Today, World Communion Sunday is celebrated around the world, demonstrating that the church founded on Jesus Christ peacefully shares God-given goods in a world increasingly destabilized by globalization and global market economies based on greed.