

College Avenue Presbyterian Church
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HOPE

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

November 28, 2021 at 10:30am

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 your requests in the chat on ZOOM labeling it with 'prayer.'

CCL #1137062.

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

PRELUDE "Now The Heavens Start To Whisper"

GATHERING SONG "O Come O Come Emmanuel"

CALL TO WORSHIP

SONG OF PRAISE "While We Are Waiting Come"

HEARING GOD'S WORD

LISTENING TO SCRIPTURE Jeremiah 29:1, 4-14; 33:14-16
 Luke 21:25-36

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD "Homesickness" - Rev. Monte McClain

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

SONG OF RESPONSE "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus"

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER - Myrna Shadley

WE USE A CALL AND RESPONSE LITURGICALLY PRAYED AT THE CONCLUSION OF SHARING A PRAYER.

Leader: God, in your mercy.

People: Hear our prayer.

COLLECTION OF OUR OFFERINGS AND GIFTS

"Come, Come Emmanuel"

THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

SENDING SONG "He Came Down"

SENDING CALL AND RESPONSE

Leader: God is good!

People: All the time!

Leader: And all the time!

People: God is good!

EXHORTATION & BLESSING

PASSING THE PEACE OF GOD "Shalom Elohim"

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 "No Wind At The Window"

Reflections on Today's Readings Jeremiah 29:1, 4-14; 33:14-16 & Luke 21:25-36

Last week we heard from the first prophet Isaiah, who spoke to the northern kingdom of Israel in the time leading up to their destruction by the Assyrian empire. Over the next hundred years, the southern kingdom of Judah alternated between anxiety that something similar would happen to them, and hope for a restored united kingdom.

Ultimately the northern kingdom was consigned to history as the "ten lost tribes" of Israel. The rise of the Babylonian empire brought new threats to Judah, and God called the prophet Jeremiah, when he was still a young person, to speak out about how the unfaithfulness of the leaders and people meant they were vulnerable. Jeremiah was unpopular as he criticized the moral, religious, and political compromises that were being made, and he was often imprisoned or threatened. About 30 years into his turbulent career as a prophet, in the year 597 BCE, the Babylonian empire won the first round and took many of the ruling class, merchants, and artisans into exile. One of the royal court prophets claimed it would last only two years, but Jeremiah knew he was just saying what people wanted to hear, not what was true. *Settle in. Plants roots. Make a life for yourself here in the city where you are. God has not forsaken you. God has called you to be present where you are here, now.*

Today we read the letter Jeremiah sent from his home in a changed Jerusalem to those who had been taken to Babylon in this first round of exile, which can be found in chapter 29. *Adapted from text written by @Teri Peterson on Facebook #Narrative Lectionary*

Our second reading from Jeremiah and from the Luke's gospel retelling of the life of Jesus talks more directly about the future. Hope can be hard to find when the world seems dark. It takes trust to know that there is something better coming. As we trust in rose bushes to bloom after the winter; we trust with hope that God is at work in the world, preparing, planting, bring to fruition. If we live into that hope of God's kingdom among us, if we live from the hope that Jesus gives us through his life and teachings; then we have to stay awake, alert, active, rolling up our sleeves and being about the work of the kingdom of God. Church isn't just a building – it's a way of life.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION & EXAMEN:

- What engaged you, enraged you, or surprised you in the text?
- What dreams did you have (or do you have) for your life? How have they been realized, or not become reality? How do you live in hope even when your hopes seem far away?...like the Israelites who had to adapt to living in the city of Babylon when they hoped to be rescued right away and return home?
- How have you possibly fallen asleep, thinking the God will never show up, act, or respond to your hopes and prayers?
- 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?

December Birthdays

1	Barbara Epstein-Eagle	Megan Beatty	
2	Annette Laverty	8 Taylor Beatty	2008
8	Cristina Ramirez-Fonua	9 Laura LaMotte	
10	Carol Zappin	13 Lane Stahl	
14	Fredora Darmstadt	15 Janet Majors	
31	Gianelle Beatty	2011	

Weekly Calendar

Race Matters Group Mondays - 6pm on Zoom
This week we're wrestling with the meaning of the word intersectionality.

Friday Night Meal – Friday, December 3rd 6:00pm.

Sign up online w/ the QR Code to help with set-up and serving, and clean-up. The Piedmont Community Service Crew is cooking

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 Sundays 9:30-10am on Zoom

Deacons Meeting today after worship

Sabbath as Resistance – Tuesdays 7pm (Zoom)
Tuesday, 11/30 we're discussing chapter 5.

Wrestling with Scripture Thursday 7pm

Decorating for Christmas Wednesday 12/1

Next Sunday 12/5 – Mike Evans is preaching in worship. We'll also share the communion meal.

Girl Scouts Advent Event – Sunday 12/5 we're hosting several local Girl Scout Troops who will be selling crafts and holiday gift ideas in our garden on the afternoon of 12/5 as a fundraiser for their troop activities.

Christmas Carol Sing-Along – Sunday 12/1 at 1:30pm. *Come enjoy carol-singing with our band!*

Can you help host a coffee hour? –We need a few more helpers! *Talk to Richard Harvey.*

Thank you to Today's Worship Leadership:
Coffee Hour: Elaine Price
Godly Play: Bill Beatty
Music: Pete Feltman, Dave Eagle, Ben Kramarz, Gabe Szilardi-Tierney, Roger Kim
Prayer Liturgist: Myrna Shadley
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.

“O Come O Come Emmanuel”

Translator: J. M. Neale (1851)

The Blue Presbyterian Hymnal #9; Glory to God #88

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.

Refrain:

Rejoice! Rejoice!

Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

2 O come, thou Key of David, come,
and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery.

3. O come, Thou Day-spring, come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.

4 O come, Desire of nations, bind
All peoples in one heart and mind;
Bid envy, strife, and discord cease;
Fill the whole world with heaven's peace.

“While We Are Waiting Come”

Claire Cloninger | Glory to God #92 © 1986 Word Music

1. While we are waiting, come
While we are waiting, come
Jesus our Lord, Emmanuel,
While we are waiting, come

2. With power and glory, come
With power and glory, come
Jesus our Lord Emmanuel
With power and glory, come

3. Come, Savior, quickly come
Come, Savior, quickly come
Jesus our Lord Emmanuel
Come, Savior, quickly come

Call to Worship & Advent Wreath Litany

*Adapted from a prayer by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed |
A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.*

One: Can one be homesick for something you've never known?

**All: We are homesick for a just world,
for peace like rivers,
for the end of suffering.**

One: Yes, we are homesick—

**All: for joy that is contagious,
for nations that feel like neighbors,
and for hospitals that run empty.**

One: We are homesick for the world God promises.

All: We are homesick, but we are on our way.

One: God is here.

All: God is still creating.

One: We hope for a world where all are fed.

**All: We hope for a world with more
bridges than walls.**

One: We hope for a world with wide open doors.

All: We hope for a world with contagious laughter.

One: We hope for a world where trees grow tall
and creeks run clean.

**All: We hope for a world where all people
feel at home—in their bodies, in the church,
in their physical homes.**

One: We hope for that world.

All: We long for that world.

One: We are homesick for that world.

**All: So today we light the candle of hope,
because hope keeps our hearts alive as we wait.**

One: May this light be a reminder
that the wait is always worth it.

**All: We are close to home.
May we carry hope with us.
Amen.**



“Come Thou Long Expected Jesus”

Charles Wesley (1744) *The Blue Presbyterian Hymnal*#2

1. Come, Thou long expected Jesus,
Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us;
Let us find our rest in Thee.

Israel's Strength and Consolation,
Hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear Desire of every nation,
Joy of every longing heart.

2 Born Thy people to deliver,
Born a child and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever,
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.

By Thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all sufficient merit
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

“Come, Come Emmanuel”

James J. Chepponis (1995) *Glory to God* #91

Come, come Emmanuel.
Come, Emmanuel. *(repeat)*

“He Came Down”

Cameroon traditional. *Glory to God* #137

1 He came down that we may have love;
He came down that we may have love;
He came down that we may have love,
Hallelujah forevermore.

2 He came down that we may have peace;
He came down that we may have peace;
He came down that we may have peace,
Hallelujah forevermore.

3 He came down that we may have joy;
He came down that we may have joy;
He came down that we may have joy,
Hallelujah forevermore.

4 He came down that we may have hope;
He came down that we may have hope;
He came down that we may have hope,
Hallelujah forevermore.

5 He came down that we may have life;
He came down that we may have life;
He came down that we may have life,
Hallelujah forevermore.

Poetry Prayers

Advent | Year C

Homesick

How do you describe homesickness to a child?
You don't.
They know.
Children know the feeling of being away from home.
It's fear, dipped in loneliness,
that "What if I've been forgotten?" sonnet,
or the "What if I can't go back?" refrain.
Even a healthy, scrubbed-clean,
showered-with-love child
knows the longing of home.

But if I had to.
If I had to describe
that aching feeling, I would say:
"Homesickness is when longing and grief
wrap themselves around you like a blanket.
It's the door to comfort thrown open.
It's an eye on the horizon for what could be
and the only way out is to keep walking,
to keep dreaming,
to keep looking
for signs that will point you back home."

And if you tell that to a child,
you just may realize
that a part of your spirit
has shoes on
and has always been walking,
always been dreaming,
always been looking
for the home that could be.
The door to comfort has been blown open.
Tell God I'm homesick.
I'm on my way.

written by: rev. sarah speed | sanctifiedart.org

