

College Avenue Presbyterian Church  
 5951 College Avenue | Oakland | 94618  
 www.capcoakland.org | www.capcoakland.me  
 Office : 510.658.3665 | capc.manager@gmail.com  
 Pastor Monte: Cell 510.520.0746  
 montemcclain@gmail.com



December 5, 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 you requests in the chat on ZOOM labeling it with 'prayer.'

CCL #1137062.

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

PRELUDE "Watchman Tell Us Of The Night"

GATHERING SONG "For You O Lord My Soul In Stillness Waits"

CALL TO WORSHIP

SONG OF PRAISE "John Spoke As A Prophet"

HEARING GOD'S WORD

LISTENING TO SCRIPTURE Luke 3:1-6 - Mike Evans

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD "Let It Go" - Mike Evans

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

SONG OF RESPONSE "On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"

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.

COMMUNION – BEING NOURISHED IN OUR BAPTISMAL JOURNEY OF LETTING IT GO  
 TODAY WE'LL CELEBRATE THIS FOUNDATIONAL MEAL BY COMING FORWARD SELECTING A PIECE OF BREAD AND A SMALL CUP OF JUICE. PLEASE APPROACH THE TABLE FROM THE CENTER AND RETURN ON THE SIDES. YOU CAN LEAVE YOUR OFFERING ON THE PLATE ON THE COMMUNION TABLE.

COLLECTION OF OUR OFFERINGS AND GIFTS  
 "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"

THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

SENDING SONG "Love Has Come"

SENDING CALL AND RESPONSE

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

EXHORTATION & BLESSING

PASSING THE PEACE OF GOD "Salam almasih" (Arabic)

*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 "Comfort, Comfort You My People"

## Reflections on Today's Readings

### Luke 3:1-6

Today we are blessed to have Mike Evans preaching. We've been journeying with Mike these past years in his theological education at PLTS (Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary). Mike is under care (Presbyterian-ese for the multi-year process of becoming an ordained pastor) with his home church in Indiana. What a time to be studying theology and observing how the Church works and might be called to become – all during the pandemic!



He's preaching today on the gospel text proposed for the second week of Advent.

Luke 3:1-6

New Revised Standard Version

<sup>1</sup> In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, <sup>2</sup> during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup> He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, <sup>4</sup> as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight.

<sup>5</sup> Every valley shall be filled,  
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,  
and the crooked shall be made straight,  
and the rough ways made smooth;

<sup>6</sup> and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.”

### QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION & EXAMEN:

- What engaged you, enraged you, or surprised you in the text?
- How does the word you hear in the text touch or intersect your life?
- 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

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

**Girl Scouts Advent Event** – Today 12-4pm  
We're hosting several local Girl Scout Troops who will be selling crafts and holiday gift ideas in our garden.

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

**Friday Night Meal – Friday, December 10<sup>th</sup> 6:00pm.** Sign up online w/ the QR Code to help with set-up and serving, and clean-up.

**Letters of Love** send a greeting card to someone who could use a good word or to one of our governmental representatives (back wall). Grab a Christmas Card to send to Ross Laverty – this morning in the entryway!

**Godly Play for Children** Sundays 9:30-10am on Zoom

**Sabbath as Resistance** – Tuesdays 7pm (Zoom)  
*Tuesday, 12/7 we're discussing chapter 6.*

**Wrestling with Scripture** Thursday 6 pm

**Session Meeting** Thursday 7 pm on Zoom

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

**Winter Solstice Labyrinth Walk** – Tuesday, December 21<sup>st</sup> at sunset in the garden. *This is the longest night of the year, when the light begins to grow again in terms of daylight. This astronomical fact is why we celebrate Christmas in December.*

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Hybrid Service** – December 24<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in person & on zoom.

**Thank you to Today's Worship Leadership:**  
Coffee Hour: Marda Stothers  
Godly Play: Monte McClain  
Music: Pete Feltman, Dave Eagle, Ben Kramarz, Gabe Szilardi-Tierney, Roger Kim  
Prayer Liturgist: Myrna Shadley  
Preaching: Mike Evans  
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.*

### “For You O Lord My Soul In Stillness Waits”

*Marty Haugen (1982) | . Glory to God #89*

*Refrain*

For you, O Lord, my soul in stillness waits,  
Truly my hope is in you.

1. O Lord of Light, our only hope of glory,  
Your radiance shines in all who look to you,  
Come, light the hearts of all in dark and shadow.

2. O Spring of Joy, rain down upon our spirits,  
Our thirsty hearts are yearning for your Word,  
Come, make us whole, be comfort to our hearts.

3. O Root of Life, implant your seed within us,  
And in your advent draw us all to you,  
Our hope reborn in dying and in rising.

4. O Key of Knowledge, guide us in our pilgrimage,  
We ever seek, yet unfulfilled remain,  
Open to us the pathway of your peace.

### “John Spoke As A Prophet”

*Text: © 2015 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette.*

*Tune: 1875 (“To God Be the Glory”)*

1. John spoke as a prophet, a voice to be heard.  
He preached in the desert, proclaiming God's word:  
"Come here and be baptized, and God will forgive!"  
He taught all those people a new way to live.

*Refrain:*

God of truth! God of grace! Hear our cry and forgive!  
May your church in this place find a new way to live.  
Confront us and heal us, until we all learn  
The life that is ours when we're willing to turn.

2. We hear in December a calling to shop;  
We plan and we spend till we're ready to drop.  
Our "wants" seem like "needs" when we enter a store,  
Then outside we pass by the hungry and poor.

3. We find that we're busy and weary each day;  
We're worn and distracted, forgetting to pray.  
It feels like we're walking on unsteady ground;  
God, change us and mold us and turn us around.

4. The valleys below will be filled to the brim,  
The mountains above will be made low for him,  
The rough, crooked ways will be made smooth and  
broad,  
And all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

### Call to Worship & Advent Wreath Litany

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

One: If life was a home, then we would pray—  
May love be the foundation.  
May God be the cornerstone.

**All: May the Spirit be the windows—  
ushering light in.**

**And may hope be the walls—  
holding us together.**

One: As we reflect on the foundation of our faith  
in our lives,  
we gather together around the candle of peace.

**All: The home we long for is a home  
that knows peace—**

One: peace that rests between us and our grief,  
**All: peace around our anxiety,**

One: peace between us and our self-criticism,  
**All: peace amidst our relationships,**

One: peace at the core of our being,  
**All: peace hovering through and in our world.**

One: The home we long for is a home  
that knows peace.  
**All: So today we light the candle of peace—  
as a reminder and as a prayer.**

One: In this hour of worship, let us work toward  
building that home together.

**All: We may not know the path ahead,  
but God is here, even now.**

One: Let us give thanks for a foundation of love.  
**All: Let us worship Holy God.**

### **“On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry”**

*Translator: John Chandler; Author: Charles Coffin  
Glory to God #96 | The Blue Presbyterian Hymnal #10*

1 On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry  
announces that the Lord is nigh;  
awake and hearken, for he brings  
glad tidings of the King of kings!

2 Then cleansed be every life from sin;  
make straight the way for God within,  
and let us all our hearts prepare  
for Christ to come and enter there.

3 We hail you as our Savior, Lord,  
our refuge and our great reward;  
without your grace we waste away  
like flowers that wither and decay.

4 Stretch forth your hand; our health restore,  
and make us rise to fall no more.  
O let your face upon us shine  
and fill the world with love divine.

### **“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”**

*Author (attributed to): Piotrowi Skardze; Paraphraser:  
Edith M. G. Reed (1921) | Glory to God #128*

1 Infant holy, infant lowly,  
for his bed a cattle stall;  
oxen lowing, little knowing  
Christ the babe is Lord of all.  
Swift are winging angels singing,  
noels ringing, tidings bringing;  
Christ the babe is Lord of all!  
Christ the babe is Lord of all!

2 Flocks were sleeping; shepherds keeping  
vigil till the morning new  
saw the glory, heard the story,  
tidings of the gospel true.  
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,  
praises voicing greet the morrow:  
Christ the babe was born for you!  
Christ the babe was born for you!

### **“Love Has Come”**

*Ken Bible © 1996 LNWhymns.com | Glory to God #110*

1. Love has come a light in the darkness!  
Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.  
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it;  
hear how their song of joy arises: Love! Love!  
Born unto you, a Savior! Love!  
Love! Glory to God on high.

2. Love is born! Come, share in the wonder.  
Love is God now asleep on the hay.  
See the glow in the eyes of his mother;  
what is the name her heart is saying? Love! Love!  
Love is the name she whispers; Love!  
Love! Jesus, Emmanuel.

3. Love has come and never will leave us!  
Love is life everlasting and free.  
Love is Jesus within and among us.  
Love is the peace our hearts are seeking. Love! Love!  
Love is the gift of Christmas. Love!  
Love! Praise to you, God on high!

# Love Has Come

# 110

Capo 3: (D) F (Bm7) Dm7 (Em7) Gm7 (A) C

1 Love has come: a light in the dark - ness!  
 2 Love is born! Come, share in the won - der.  
 3 Love has come and nev - er will leave us!

(D) (Bm7) (Em) (A7) (D)  
 F Dm7 Gm C7 F

Love shines forth in the Beth - le - hem skies. See, all  
 Love is God now a - sleep in the hay. See the  
 Love is life ev - er - last - ing and free. Love is

(A) (D) (Bm) (D) (A) (G) (D)  
 C F Dm F C B<sup>b</sup> F

heav - en has come to pro - claim it; hear how their song of  
 glow in the eyes of his moth - er; what is the name her  
 Je - sus with - in and a - mong us. Love is the peace our

(Em7) (F#7) (G) (A) (Bm) (A7)  
 Gm7 A7 B<sup>b</sup> C Dm C7

joy a - ris - es: Love! Love! Born un - to you, a  
 heart is say - ing? Love! Love! Love is the name she  
 hearts are seek - ing. Love! Love! Love is the gift of

(D) (A) (G) (A) (D) (A) (A7) (Dsus) (D)  
 F C B<sup>b</sup> C F C C7 Fsus F

Sav - ior! Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high.  
 whis - pers. Love! Love! Je - sus, Em - man - u - el.  
 Christ - mas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

Here is a chance to sing a familiar French carol tune with new words, the most important clearly being "Love." The senses "seen and heard" (as in Acts 4:20 and elsewhere) organize the first two stanzas, while the third holds the summary statement: "Love is the gift of Christmas."

## The Second Sunday of Advent

# Laying the Foundation (Peace) | Luke 1:57-80

## WORDS FOR THE BEGINNING

If I could give you words  
for the very beginning—  
for the stretches  
and the yawns,  
and the opening of eyes,  
for the first hiccups,  
and the first smiles,  
and the first purse of your lips,  
I would say,  
“Oh, dear child,  
how you are loved.”

But the thing about love  
is you can't stop there,  
so I would go on to say,  
“You are strong,  
stronger than you think.  
And you are not alone—  
look at these parents who adore you  
and these doctors and nurses fighting for you.  
And you are enough, already enough.

You haven't done anything yet.  
You've just been here,  
breathing,  
sleeping,  
and already, you are enough.  
And then I might say,  
“This world is a mess,  
but it is your home,  
and you can make it better,  
so always try to make it better.

And maybe most important of all:  
there is a love  
that is bigger than my understanding,  
that moves through this world,  
and I call that love God.  
And that love is here,  
here in this room,  
and that love knows  
your name by heart.”

Those are the words I would say to you  
as you stretch and yawn and open your eyes  
on the very first morning  
of your very first day.  
Let that be your foundation,  
like Zechariah did for John.  
Let love be your beginning.

