

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



# PRESERVING THE TRUTH IN THE SEA OF FAKE NEWS & DISHONESTY



July 25, 2021

## 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're figuring out how to do our Godly Play program with our new normal. We'll restart that program after July 11<sup>th</sup>.

### 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 cards and share it with the liturgist or to share you requests in the chat on ZOOM labeling it with 'prayer.'

CCL #1137062.

PRELUDE:

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

GATHERING SONG "Gather Us In"

CALL TO WORSHIP

SONG OF PRAISE "Immortal , Invisible, God Only Wise"

MISSIONAL CONNECTION Cru at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo – Hadley Klein

HEARING GOD'S WORD

LISTENING TO SCRIPTURE John 8:31-50; John 14:1-14 – Marda Q Stothers

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD "The Earth is Blue Like an Orange"  
 – Rev. Monte McClain

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

SONG OF RESPONSE "Remember Me"

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.

COLLECTION OF OUR OFFERINGS AND GIFTS - "God is so Good"

THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

SENDING SONG "We Walk By Faith And Not By Sight"

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 "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

## Reflections on Today's Readings John 8:31-50; John 14:1-14

One of the most famous lines of poetry of which you've maybe never heard is that "The Earth is blue like an orange." Written by French Surrealist Paul Éluard, it provokes our imagination and challenges our understanding of the world. This week we turn to the fourth of what we as Presbyterians we call the Six Great Ends of the Church. ***The Preservation of the Truth.*** Book of Order (F-1.0304),

Truth. What a loaded word for us today! Everyone claims to have it, to speak for it, to be defending it and yet it can be nearly impossible at times to understand it, or understand others who claim to speak the truth when they so obviously don't. We have new words to define the wide spectrum between truth and untruth: fake news, misinformation, disinformation, truthiness, and alternative facts. Is truth what we can conclude from observing facts? Is truth however we choose to interpret the world (versus them and how they do it)? Is truth in the eye of the beholder? Is truth something that's out there, that is a undeniable reality? Is truth about objective observation or relational connection?

How can the Church preserve the truth in the world – and our society – when we struggle to even define what true is?

Our two scripture passages today are some of the most famous in the Bible about truth. In John 8 Jesus, debating with the established religious leaders about faith and community identity, says that when you know the truth it will set you free. But from what? Lies? Ignorance? Or is Jesus talking more about relational and communal identity than observable facts? He's infuriatingly both clear and completely unclear?

In John 14 we drop into the middle of a long intimate discussion between Jesus and his closest friends (disciples). They're sharing the Passover Meal, the ritualistic retelling of how God delivered the ancient Israelites from slavery under Pharaoh in Egypt to freedom with God in the Promised Land. Jesus summarizes his teachings, and pushes his disciples even farther. Confused Thomas speaks up and asks for more clarity. Again Jesus gives an answer that is both majestically clear and irritatingly vague. They don't know what's going to happen. They want clarity, maybe a detailed step-by-step plan of what is to come and Jesus explains by saying Don't worry. I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. What? Is Jesus the only one who speaks truth? Or is he talking a bit like the poetry of Paul Éluard?

### QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION & EXAMEN:

- What engaged you, enraged you, or surprised you in the text?
- How do you define what's true? Where do you go to find it?
- What do you hear in these passages as your, or our, call to preserve the truth as the Church? What's that look like?

## July Birthdays

24 Maya Patil                      27 John Fonua  
27 John LaMotte                 31 Lisa Wu

## Weekly Calendar

**Our New Normal.** We all are adjusting in diverse and different ways to our new normal. We're doing this with a specific protocol as we meet in person and continue also online with zoom. If you need or want help finding a vaccination option for you, talk to Monte today.

**Music Today** - We're grateful for our guest accompanist this morning (and regular choir pillar) Jen Huang. Pete Feltman our minister of music is on vacation, returning Sunday Aug 8<sup>th</sup>

**Sharing Today: Hadley Klein** is sharing with us today about her upcoming interning with Cru this school year at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. You can support her ministry with a financial gift and/or a commitment of prayer. Get in touch her via email at [hadley.klein@cru.org](mailto:hadley.klein@cru.org)

**Daily Zoom Calls – every day at 12pm.**

**Race Matters Zoom Meeting** We are meeting next week, Monday, August 2nd at 7pm (Zoom)

**Friday Night Meal - Friday, July 30<sup>th</sup>**

**6:00pm.** Sign up online at <http://www.capcoakland.org/friday-night-meal> or contact Monte to help with set-up and serving, and clean-up. The Students leaders of the Piedmont HS Community Service Cres are preparing the meal.

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

**Deacons Meeting** today after worship at 12:15.

**Godly Play** is returning mid-August. More info on the yellow sheet in the entryway.

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

**Thank you to Today's Worship Leadership:**

Chat Master: Kristy & Sophie Parsons McClain

Coffee Hour: Joy Barnes

Greeters: Joy Barnes, Fredora Darmstadt

Music: Jennifer Huang

Preaching: Monte McClain

Reading: Marda Q Stothers

Video Tech: Albert Hussian

## LYRICS & RESPONSES FOR TODAY'S CELEBRATION

### "Gather Us In"

Marty Haugen

© 1982, GIA Publications, Inc.

Glory to God Hymnal #401

1. Here in this place new light is streaming  
Now is the darkness vanished away  
See in this space our fears and our dreamings  
Brought here to you in the light of this day  
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken  
Gather us in, the blind and the lame  
Call to us now and we shall awaken  
We shall arise at the sound of our name

2. We are the young, our lives are a mystery  
We are the old who yearn for your face  
We have been sung throughout all of history  
Called to be light to the whole human race  
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty  
Gather us in, the proud and the strong  
Give us a heart so meek and so lowly  
Give us the courage to enter the song

3. Here we will take the wine and the water  
Here we will take the bread of new birth  
Here you shall call your sons and your daughters  
Call us anew to be salt for the earth  
Give us to drink the wine of compassion  
Give us to eat the bread that is you  
Nourish us well and teach us to fashion  
Lives that are holy and hearts that are true

4. Not in the dark of buildings confining  
Not in some heaven light years away  
But here in this place the new light is shining  
Now is the kingdom, now is the day  
Gather us in and hold us forever  
Gather us in and make us your own  
Gather us in, all peoples together  
Fire of love in our flesh and our bones  
Fire of love in our flesh and our bones

**PEOPLE: Centuries before Jesus  
walked among us,  
The Spirit of God was promised to him,  
so that he would bring justice to the nations**

One: Jesus sent the Spirit of truth  
to teach us and give us peace.

**PEOPLE: At Pentecost the Spirit came,  
as the rush of violent wind  
and tongues of fire.**

One: That same Spirit is among us now.

**PEOPLE: Let us worship God!**

### "Immortal, invisible, God only wise"

Walter C. Smith (1867)

The Blue Presbyterian Hymnal #263

1 Immortal, invisible, God only wise,  
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,  
Most blessèd, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,  
Almighty, victorious, Thy great name we praise.

2 Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,  
Nor wanting, nor wasting, Thou rulest in might;  
Thy justice, like mountains, high soaring above  
Thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and lo

3 To all, life Thou givest, to both great and small;  
In all life Thou livest, the true life of all;  
We blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,  
And wither and perish; but naught changeth Thee.

4 Thou reignest in glory, Thou rulest in light,  
Thine angels adore Thee, all veiling their sight;  
All praise we would render; O help us to see  
'Tis only the splendor of light hideth Thee!

### Call to Worship Litany – Adapted from Multiple Scriptures, Chip Hardwick

One: In the beginning,  
God created the heavens and the earth,  
Darkness was over the deep,  
and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

### "Remember Me"

*New words to an established hymn  
O WALY WALY 8.8.8.8 ("Though I May Speak")  
Text: Copyright © 2001 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette.*

1. Remember me — the God who saves —  
For back in Egypt you were slaves;  
Then by my hand I set you free.  
Now keep my law. Remember me.
2. Remember me in bread and wine  
Whene'er you share this meal of mine.  
I gave my life to set you free.  
With thanks and praise, remember me.
3. Remember me in all you do,  
For I'm alive! I walk with you.  
I was, I am, and I shall be.  
church I love, remember me.
4. Our God, we hear! We're called and freed!  
Your Spirit gives us memory.  
Now send us out that we may share  
Your love's great story everywhere.

### **"God is so good"**

*Author: Paul Makai;  
Translator: Marilyn Foulkes (c. 1970)  
Glory to God #658*

1 God is so good,  
God is so good,  
God is so good,  
God's so good to me.

2 God cares for us,  
God cares for us,  
God cares for us,  
God's so good to us.

### **"We Walk By Faith And Not By Sight"**

*Henry Alford (1844)  
The Blue Presbyterian Hymnal #399*

1. We walk by faith and not by sight  
No gracious words we hear  
From Christ who spoke as None e'er spoke  
But we believe him near
2. We may not touch his hands and side  
Nor follow where he trod  
But in his promise we rejoice  
And cry my lord my god
3. Help then, O Lord, our unbelief  
And may our faith abound  
To call on you when you are near  
And seek where you are found
4. That, when our life of faith is done  
In realms of clearer light  
We may behold you as you are  
With full and endless sight