

Presbyterian Church  
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August 15, 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: "What A Wonderful World"
- GATHERING AROUND GOD'S WORD BOTH IN PERSON & VIA ZOOM
- GATHERING SONG "All Creatures Of Our God And King"
- CALL TO WORSHIP
- SONG OF PRAISE "Holy, Holy, Holy"
- HEARING GOD'S WORD
- LISTENING TO SCRIPTURE Matthew 13:1-17; Romans 8:18-31
- PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD "Decolonizing the Church" – Rev. Monte McClain
- RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD
- SONG OF RESPONSE "Don't Be Afraid"
- 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 - "We Lift Our Voices"
- THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH
- SENDING SONG "God Is Good"
- 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 "Bill Cheathum"

## Reflections on Today's Readings Matthew 13:1-17 & Romans 8:18-31

We are facing great change as a church, a people, a society and the world. Technology has irreversibly transformed how we live our days. Our nation is moving from one of a dominant racial background (white) to one without a majority. COVID has turned everything upside down. Financial inequality: the between the super-rich (1%) and everyone else (99%) is the greater than it was 100 years ago in the age of the Robber Barons, and maybe the greatest since the Middle Ages. Our churches are less populated, as more people identify as "*none of the above*" when asked about their religious preference.

Our society is divided along political lines, in large part in response to this great change that embraces all aspects of our daily life. That's what's behind the hashtags that summarize the movements in our society. #BlackLivesMatter. #Defundthepolice. #TakeAKnee. #Covfefe. #FakeNews. #MeToo. #MarchforOurLives. #NotOneMore. Most of the movements are calls for decolonizing our culture and institutions: to resist and change our historical colonization of life: how we seem to have long organized live through the cancellation of one (or more) cultures in order to impose a new dominant one.

What does God have to say? Where is God in all of it? Today we listen to another parable of Jesus from Matthew. It teases out the mysterious presence of God in our world, pointed to in the image of a crazy farmer planting seeds with abandon. The apostle Paul tries to articulate what this fierce and resilient love means for us. He invites us to glimpse God's intent and promise in the revelation of the divine purpose for us – to be conformed to the image of Christ – in Romans 8.



But Jesus paints a different picture as he talks about the Kingdom of God. It's what the Church is to exhibit and embody in the world in the way we act, love, lead, serve, and live.

### QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION & EXAMEN:

- What engaged you, enraged you, or surprised you in the text?
- Does Jesus not want the people to "get" his parable stories? Why are their minds stubborn, ears plugged, eyes shut and their hearts hardened?
- What is the truth of the parable of the sower and the seed, in which the seed is the message of the Kingdom?
- If God wants creation to be conformed and transformed into the image of his son the Christ, what would that look like? Who does God intend that for? Who then is predestined? And predestined to what?
- How is the Spirit of God inviting you – or us as a church – to act, speak, be or change through this word?

## August Birthdays

- 22 Patrice Trowbridge
- 25 Margaret Smith

## August Anniversaries

- 16 Monte's Installation as CAPC Pastor 2010

## Weekly Calendar

**Care Givers Support Group** Today at 3:00pm on our Zoom Channel (just like for worship)

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

**Race Matters Group Starting up again in September.** Go to [capcoakland.org/racematters](http://capcoakland.org/racematters) to vote for what you'd like us to do going forward.

**Friday Night Meal - Friday, August 20<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. A team of Montclair Presbyterian is cooking

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

**Men's Group – Next Saturday, 8/21 at 10:00am on Zoom (just like for worship).**

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

**The Celebration of Life of Linda Trowbridge** Saturday, August 28<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m. in the Reception Hall at Piedmont Community Church 400 Highland Ave, Piedmont, CA 94611

**Lectio Divina Prayer & Discussion next Sunday in worship.** Monte will be gone, moving Sophie into her college dorm.

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

Coffee Hour: Janet Majors

Greeters: Fredora Darmstadt

Music: Pete Feltman, Ben Kramarz, Dave Eagle

Preaching: Monte McClain

Video Tech: Dann Wilkens, David Kittams

**Our New Normal.** We all are adjusting in diverse and different ways to life with COVID & variants. Learn more online about our approach with this QR Code.



## 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.*

### “All Creatures Of Our God And King”

*Paraphraser: William H. Draper;*

*Author: St. Francis of Assisi (1225)*

*The Blue Presbyterian Hymnal #455*

1. All creatures of our God and king,  
Lift up your voice and with us sing  
Alleluia, Alleluia  
O Brother sun with golden beam,  
O sister moon with silver gleam  
Sing praises Alleluia,  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

2. O brother wind with clouds and rain  
you nurture gifts of fruit and grain  
Alleluia, Alleluia  
O sister water, flowing clear,  
make music for your Lord to hear  
Sing praises Alleluia  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

3. O brother fire, so warm and bright  
chase off the shadows of the night  
Alleluia, Alleluia  
Dear mother earth who day by day  
unfolds such blessings on our our way  
Sing praises Alleluia ,  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

4. All who for love of God forgive,  
all who in pain or sorrow grieve  
Alleluia, Alleluia  
Christ bears your burdens and your fears,  
so even in the midst of tears  
Sing praises, Alleluia,  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia



**WHO CAN BE**  
*against us*  
ROMANS 8:31

### Call to Worship Litany –

*RevGalBlogPals ~creating community for clergywomen~  
<https://revgalblogpals.org>*

One: Oh God, how are we to understand  
the tragedies that befall your creation?

**PEOPLE: Humans inflicting pain on others –  
economic pain,  
emotional pain,**

One: physical pain,  
even the taking of life –  
over politics, racial identities, fear of change,  
even the wearing of face masks.

**PEOPLE: Why all this violence?**

One: Why so much anger?

**PEOPLE: Why?**

One: How are we to pray?  
What can we say?

**PEOPLE: We give it all to you.**

One: To you, O God,  
We incline our lives.

**PEOPLE: Giving you our silent  
tears, the screams that cannot  
leave our chest, the agony of  
grief so deep we do not know  
how to pray.**

One: What are we to say?

**PEOPLE: We give it all to you.**

One: With sighs too deep for words,

**PEOPLE: we give it all to you.**

## **“Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!”**

*Author: Reginald Heber (1826)*

*The Blue Presbyterian Hymnal #138*

1 Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!  
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee:  
Holy, Holy, Holy! Merciful and mighty,  
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity.

2 Holy, Holy, Holy! All the saints adore thee,  
Casting down their golden crowns  
around the glassy sea;  
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,  
Which wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.

3 Holy, Holy, Holy! Though the darkness hide thee,  
Though the eye made blind by sin  
thy glory may not see,  
Only thou art holy; there is none beside thee,  
Perfect in pow'r, in love, and purity.

4 Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!  
All thy works shall praise thy Name,  
in earth, and sky, and sea;  
Holy, Holy, Holy! Merciful and mighty,  
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity

## **“Don't Be Afraid”**

*Author: John L. Bell*

© 1995 Wild Goose Resource Group, Iona Community, Scotland,

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  
*(Repeat)*

## **“We Lift Our Voices”**

*Dwight Liles (1984)*

© 1984 Word Music,

*Glory to God Hymnal #710*

We lift our voices  
We lift our hands  
We lift our lives up to You  
We are an offering

Lord use our voices  
Lord use our hands  
Lord use our lives they are Yours  
We are an offering

All that we have  
All that we are  
All that we hope to be  
We give to You  
We give to You

We lift our voices  
We lift our hands  
We lift our lives up to You  
We are an offering  
We are an offering

## **“God Is Good”**

*Writer(s): Don Moen, Paul Overstreet*

God is good all the time she put  
a song of praise in this heart of mine  
God is good all the time  
Through the darkest night, her light will shine  
God is good, God is good all the time

If you're walking through the valley  
And there are shadows all around  
Do not fear, she will guide you

she will keep you safe and sound  
'Cause she's promised to never leave you  
Nor forsake you and her Word is true

*Chorus*

We were sinners - so unworthy  
Still for us she chose to die  
Filled us with her Holy Spirit

Now we can stand and testify  
That her love is everlasting  
And her mercies - they will never end

*Chorus*

Lord I may not understand  
All the plans you have for me  
My life is in your hands,  
and through the eyes of faith  
I can clearly see

*Chorus*