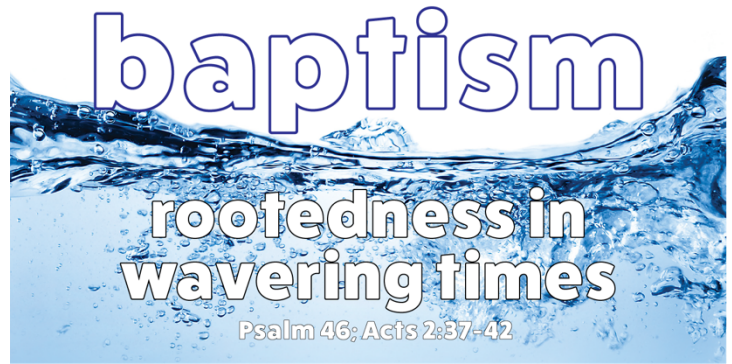


**Presbyterian Church**  
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August 29, 2021

**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:

"On The Sea Of Life"

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

GATHERING SONG

"The Water God Gives Us"

CALL TO WORSHIP

SONG OF PRAISE

"Come Thou Fount"

HEARING GOD'S WORD

LISTENING TO SCRIPTURE

Psalm 46 & Acts 2:37-42

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

"If the Church is not a Building, What is it?"

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

You are invited to respond to scripture through the salt and stone ritual using the baptismal basin during our song of response. Take some salt, releasing it in the water as a symbol of confession or of letting go of something, then taking a stone – not readily visible – as a sign of God's forgiveness or the grace that God always brings out even of pain, hurt, and loss.

SONG OF RESPONSE

"I Was There To Hear Your Boring 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.**

COLLECTION OF OUR OFFERINGS AND GIFTS -

"We Lift Our Voices"

THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

SENDING SONG

"Wade In The Water"

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

"Lonesome Fiddle Blues"

## Reflections on Today's Readings Psalm 46 & Acts 2:37-42

Psalm 46 begins by describing God as a "refuge," a safe place to take shelter. This strength-giving refuge is watered by streams of joy, gladness. The water imagery, is evocative of God's nourishing presence. It is in the city of God where such waters are found. Where God is found, there is God's city. It's an image of baptism.

In the Old Testament, the "city of God" is, on the one hand, clearly Jerusalem. But on the other hand, God's city, God's place, is any city, literally any place where God's name is. (Exod 20:24, Jer 7:12; Ps 74:7). And in the book of Revelation there is the promise of a "new Jerusalem" (Rev 21:2), a metaphor for the church. And throughout the New Testament, the church is made up of the baptized. Where the baptized are, there the "city of God" is.

In Acts 2 the emphasis is on calling "all who are far away," to come to God. While the place imagery is not so obvious here, the notion of movement — from far to near — of a calling to closeness, is. If God's city is that place where we are made glad in God's presence, then it is also the place where we find forgiveness, and are given the gift of the spirit (2:38).

Peter, after telling God's story (Acts 2:14-36), calls his listeners to be baptized "in the name of Jesus Christ." Thus, the name of Christ, the name of God's Son, is the refuge in which the baptized dwell. And where the name of God is, there God is, there the city of God is. (taken in part from Karl Jacobson at [workingpreacher.org](http://workingpreacher.org))

Baptism, here through the lens of Psalm 46 and Acts 2 is not simply something that is done, it is a place; a refuge to which all are called, and re-called; named and re-named. Martin Luther understood baptism as a daily event, a cleansing and renewal of forgiveness that we need, and is ours, every day. It' is not something once done, now finished; but rather once done, now lived in as a place, a refuge, a community gathered in common need and strength.

In our Presbyterian Book of Order we say that "Baptism is God's gift of grace *and also* God's summons to respond to that grace. Baptism gives the church its identity and commissions the church for ministry to the world." [W-2.3001-7]. It's both who we are *and* what we do.

### QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION & EXAMEN:

- What engaged you, enraged you, or surprised you in the text?
- In Acts 2 the people create a new vibrant counter-cultural community in response to Peter's sermon. How is such a community different than the corrupt generation Paul speaks of? How is baptism such a refuge in which we dwell in community?
- How is the Spirit of God inviting you – or us as a church – to affirm who we are called to be together and individually in our chaotic world today through baptism?

## August Anniversaries

30 Kristy & Monte McClain

## September Birthdays

2 Betty Trowbridge 3 Mercy Beatty  
7 Michael Mendonca 8. Rev. Monte McClain  
9 Diana Geary 11 Linda Davis  
19 Sylvan Zappin 28 Lisa Ko

## Weekly Calendar

**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, September 3rd 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. Our Partners of Trinity Fellowship are 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)

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

**Fall Classes and Weekly Bible Study** Monte is looking to start up some regular groups. Help choose the themes and meeting times online at [capcoakland.me](http://capcoakland.me). Look for "Fall Classes"

**Godly Play for Children/Youth.** We are going to restart this ministry, online via Zoom, in the coming weeks. More info TBA.

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

Coffee Hour: Marji Wilkens

Greeters: Fredora Darmstadt

Music: Pete Feltman, Ben Kramarz, Dave Eagle

Video Tech: Albert Hussian, 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.*

### “The Water God Gives Us”

*New words to old hymns,*

*Biblical Reference: John 4:5-42 Tune: Traditional American melody (“How Firm a Foundation”)*

*Text: Copyright © 2011 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette.*

1. The water God gives us in wondrous supply  
Is water that's living and never runs dry.  
For everyone drinks and is thirsty again,  
But God's living water gives life without end.

2. O God, we confess that we seek empty things;  
We strive after wealth and the comfort it brings.  
We buy things in hopes that our spirits will soar  
Yet still we are thirsty and left wanting more.

3. Then just like that woman who went to the well,  
We hear you, O Christ, and the truth that you tell.  
You know who we are and you know what we've been;  
You know us and love us in spite of our sin.

4. The gift that you give is the greatest of wealth;  
You give living water! You give us yourself!  
May we, like that woman, go back where we live  
And tell those we know of the life that you give.

### Call to Worship Litany –

*Based on Psalm 46 | [www.umcdiscipleship.org](http://www.umcdiscipleship.org)*

One: The earth shakes, the mountains quake  
-- tempting our hearts to fear.

**People: God is our refuge and strength,  
a very present help in trouble.**

One: Rivers overflow their banks – too far away  
to quench the wildfires that burn in our state,  
yet we remember,

**People: God is our refuge and strength,  
a very present help in trouble.**

One: When nations fall, refugees flee home  
for new places of safety, when we are threatened  
by viruses, variants and political divisions,  
we seek to trust that.

**People: God is our refuge and strength,  
a very present help in trouble.**

One: When our children are away from home  
and out of our sight, we take comfort in knowing.

**People: God is our refuge and strength,  
a very present help in trouble.**

One: Whether we have reached the end of our  
days or the end of our diagnoses,  
we rest in the truth that

**People: God is our refuge and strength,  
a very present help in trouble.**

**All: God, you alone are our refuge;  
you alone are our strength.  
We look to you in these troubling times.**

### “Come, thou Fount of every blessing”

*Author: Robert Robinson (1758);*

*The Blue Presbyterian Hymnal #356*

1 Come, thou Fount of every blessing;  
tune my heart to sing thy grace;  
streams of mercy, never ceasing,  
call for songs of loudest praise.  
Teach me some melodious sonnet,  
sung by flaming tongues above;  
praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,  
mount of God's unchanging love!

2 Here I raise my Ebenezer;  
hither by thy help I'm come;  
and I hope, by thy good pleasure,  
safely to arrive at home.  
Jesus sought me when a stranger,  
wandering from the fold of God;  
he, to rescue me from danger,  
interposed his precious blood.

3 O to grace how great a debtor  
daily I'm constrained to be!  
Let that grace now, like a fetter,  
bind my wandering heart to thee.  
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,  
prone to leave the God I love;  
here's my heart; O take and seal it;  
seal it for thy courts above.

**“I Was There To Hear Your Borning Cry”**

© 1985 John Ylvisaker | Glory to God #488

I was there to hear your borning cry  
I'll be there when you are old  
I rejoiced the day you were baptized  
To see your life unfold  
I was there when you were but a child  
With a faith to suit you well  
In a blaze of light, you wandered off  
To find where demons dwell.

When you heard the wonder of the word  
I was there to cheer you on  
You were raised to praise the living Lord  
To whom you now belong  
If you find someone to share your time  
And you join your hearts as one  
I'll be there to make your verses rhyme  
From dusk til rising sun

**“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

**“Wade In The Water”**

*African American Heritage Hymnal #676*

*Chorus*

Wade in the water,  
wade in the water children  
Wade in the water,  
God's gonna trouble the water

See that host all dressed in white  
God's gonna trouble the water  
Leader looks like that Israelite  
God's gonna trouble the water

*chorus*

See that band all dressed in red?  
God's gonna trouble the water  
Looks like the band that Moses led  
God's gonna trouble the water

*chorus*

Look over yonder and what do you see?  
God's gonna trouble the water  
The holy ghost a coming for me  
God's gonna trouble the water

*chorus*

If you don't believe I've been redeemed  
Gods' gonna trouble the water  
Just follow me down to Jordan's stream  
Gods' gonna trouble the water

*chorus*

## **“On The Sea Of Life”**

*Doyle Lawson & Quicksilver*

1. We are on the sea of life sailing to a better home  
where the saved of all of the earth shall abide  
we've got all our trials here  
many pleasures wait us there  
when we cross the foam and reach the other side

*chorus*

(sailing on)

we are sailing onward sailing sailing on a foam  
we are talking to the captain  
as the angry billows hum

(sailing to)

soon, yes soon we'll reach the harbor  
and be safely o'er the tide  
we are going onward, to the other side

2. We've a captain brave and true  
who will guide us o'er the blue  
And will shield us when the storms hover nigh  
He can still the angry wave  
and from evil he can save  
If we'll trust Him and His loving promise try

*chorus*

3. Many millions now abide  
in that home beyond the tide  
where the ransomed pilgrims wade free from care  
there is room on board for all  
who will heed the captains call  
and take ship for heaven's country bright and fair