

Presbyterian Church  
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# CALLED TO BE EXHIBITIONISTS



THE SIX GREAT ENDS OF THE CHURCH  
 Don't Just go to Church, BE the Church

August 8, 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:

"Hold to God's Unchanging Hand"

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

GATHERING SONG

"Come Now Is The Time To Worship"

CALL TO WORSHIP

SONG OF PRAISE

"Praise To The Lord The Almighty"

HEARING GOD'S WORD

LISTENING TO SCRIPTURE

Matthew 13:1-3; 24-34

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

"Called to be Exhibitionists" – Rev. Monte McClain

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

SONG OF RESPONSE

"To What Can The Kingdom Of God Be Compared"

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

"We Are Marching In The Light Of God"

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

"Big Sciota"

## Reflections on Today's Readings Matthew 13:1-3; 24-34

The post-modern German philosopher with the best moustache that you might not ever have heard of, Friedrich Nietzsche, has greatly shaped our contemporary perception of the Church and the world. He famously wrote "The 'Kingdom of Heaven' is a condition of the heart — not something that comes 'upon the earth' or 'after death'." Brought to its logical conclusion, it becomes an instinctive hatred of all reality, a flight into the "intangible", a feeling of being at home in a world in which no sort of reality survives, a merely "inner" world, a "true" world, an "eternal" world... "The Kingdom of God is within you" ... The Anti-Christ 34 & 29.

Nietzsche was the son of a pastor. Upon his father's death he was expected to take his place in the pulpit. But all this weight of expectation was deeply claustrophobic. It was almost inevitable that he would reject this path, declaring "God is dead" which may have been a great release for him. Nietzsche's case against Christianity was that it kept people down; that it smothered them with morality and self-loathing. His hatred of Christianity comes mostly from his hatred of renunciation and the promotion of selflessness. His ideal human is one who is free to express himself (even if sexist, racist and hateful). Morality is for the little people. It's the way the weak manipulate the strong. The people Nietzsche most admired and aspired to be like were those who were able to reinvent themselves through some tremendous act of will.

Nietzsche's ideas can seem shocking and disturbing, yet when you ponder the dominant culture of our world it's strikingly familiar. The weak are despised. The wealthy, beautiful, entirely-independent, self-focused are worshipped as the greatest and the goal for us to emulate. They are great because they've overcome limitations placed upon them by others, intending to keep them down. Think of who is often considered a hero today?

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?
- Why do you think Jesus would talk about God's empire in the world in parables, and not just spell it out? Which of the parables most speaks to you and your imagination?
- When have you experienced the Church as embracing the Kingdom of God? & when as for the values of Nietzsche?
- Why? How is the Spirit of God inviting you – or us as a church to exhibit the Kingdom of God today, here in the East Bay? What might we need to let go of to do so?

## August Birthdays

8 Anne Marie Adams  
12 Sharon Nelson David Kittams

## August Anniversaries

9 Thom and Tina Faulkner 2002

## Weekly Calendar

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

**Race Matters Zoom Meeting** Monday, August 9th at 7pm (Zoom). More info online at [capcoakland.org/racematters](http://capcoakland.org/racematters)

**Mission Matters Zoom Meeting** Wednesday, August 11th at 7pm (Zoom).

**Friday Night Meal - Friday, August 13<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. Monte is putting together a team to cook.

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

**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).

**Berkeley Presbyterian Mission Homes Open House Sat, 8/14 2-4pm.** Flyer in entryway.

Save the Date for **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

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

Coffee Hour: Marda Stothers  
Greeters: Fredora Darmstadt  
Music: Pete Feltman, Ben Kramarz, Dave Eagle  
Preaching: Monte McClain  
Video Tech: 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

**"Come Now Is The Time To Worship"**

*Brian Doerksen*

Come, now is the time to worship  
Come, now is the time to give your heart  
Come, just as you are to worship  
Come, just as you are before your God  
Come

One day every tongue will confess You are God  
One day every knee will bow  
Still the greatest treasure remains for those  
Who gladly choose You now

**Call to Worship Litany – Psalm 78 riffed by Monte**

One: We come God to bend our ear to your teaching,  
Hungry to chew on the truths of your parable-  
words.

**PEOPLE: We come to hear of your fame  
and fortune,  
the marvelous things you have done.**

One: Stories we heard from our fathers,  
counsel we learned at our mother's knee.

**PEOPLE: We don't want to keep these  
words of life to ourselves,  
We're passing them along to the next genera-  
tion—**

One: Our ancestors in faith made mistakes...  
They wanted to be like you, to replace you and so ate  
from the tree

**PEOPLE: You freed them from slavery  
and then they complained about eating the same  
thing each day in the desert**

One: They kept your covenant when it felt conven-  
ient, They walked in your Way when it was easy.

**PEOPLE: They forgot your deeds  
when things got sticky  
They whined like spoiled children  
when your way was not their way.**

One: Despite their complaints, whining,  
and ghost-lighting,  
you remained faithful.

**PEOPLE: Your provided the Bread of Heaven  
in the wilderness  
And springs of living water in the desert heat.**

One: You are compassionate and merciful, God.  
The ancients described you as "slow to anger,  
abundant in love"

**PEOPLE: Come. Speak. Reveal yourself to us.  
Give us ears to hear and eyes to see  
your reign among us.**

**"Praise To The Lord The Almighty"**

*Author: Joachim Neander (1680)*

*Translator: Catherine Winkworth (1863; alt.)  
The Blue Presbyterian Hymnal #482*

1 Praise to the Lord the almighty  
the king of creation  
Oh my soul praise Him  
for He is thy health and salvation  
All ye who hear now to His temple draw near  
Join me in glad adoration

2. Praise to the Lord who  
o'er all things so wondrously reigneth  
Shelters thee under His wings  
yes so gently sustaineth  
Hast thou not seen  
how all thy longings have been  
Granted in what he ordaineth?

3. Praise to the Lord who  
doth prosper thy work and defend thee  
Surely his goodness and mercy  
here daily attend thee  
Ponder anew what the almighty can do  
If with His love He befriend thee

4. Praise to the Lord  
O let all that is in me adore Him  
All that hath life and breath come now with  
praises before Him  
Let the amen sound from His people again  
Gladly for aye we adore Him

## **“To What Can The Kingdom Of God Be Compared”**

Author: © Carolyn Winfrey Gillette (2011)

New words to an old hymn tune “To Go be the Glory”

1. To what can the kingdom of God be compared?  
A mustard seed falls where a field's been prepared, And  
there, where predictable plantings should be, There  
grows up a wild bush — as big as a tree!  
God of love, here on earth, hidden things still surprise:  
Loving deeds ... signs of birth ... faithful, Spirit-filled lives.  
Your reign is amazing, your ways still astound,  
Just like that new life springing forth from the ground.

2. A small bit of leaven will change the whole bread:  
A poor woman sees that her neighbors are fed,  
A church reaches out to the youth in the town,  
A man shares his faith and God's blessings abound.  
God of love, here on earth, hidden things still surprise:  
Loving deeds ... signs of birth ... faithful, Spirit-filled lives.  
Your reign is among us, creation is blessed,  
When even a few faithful lives change the rest.

3. While some look for treasure or one priceless pearl,  
God's reign is the gift wise ones seek in this world.  
A girl sells possessions to help those in need;  
A boy chooses faithfulness rather than greed.  
God of love, here on earth, hidden things still surprise:  
Loving deeds ... signs of birth ... faithful, Spirit-filled lives.  
Your reign is a treasure that wise ones pursue;  
May we seek your kingdom in all that we do.

## **“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

## **“We Are Marching In The Light Of God”**

South African Traditional Song

Language: English; Xhosa

Glory to God #853

© 1984, Peace of Music Publishing AB,

1. We are marching in the light of God  
We are marching in the light of God  
We are marching, we are marching oh  
We are marching in the light of God  
We are marching, we are marching oh  
We are marching in the light of God

2. Siyahambay kookay nyen kwen kos

3. We are living in the love of God

4. We are moving in the power of God