

Presbyterian Church
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THE STORIES THAT SHAPE US

Creation

Genesis 1:1-2:4

September 12, 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're restarting that program September 19th.

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 your requests in the chat on ZOOM labeling it with 'prayer.'

CCL #1137062.

PRELUDE:

"God of the Sparrow"

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

GATHERING SONG

"We Join in Proclaiming"

CALL TO WORSHIP

SONG OF PRAISE

"Creator God Creating Still"

HEARING GOD'S WORD

LISTENING TO SCRIPTURE

Genesis 1:1—2:4a

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

"The Stories that Shape Us"

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

SONG OF RESPONSE

"All Things Bright and Beautiful"

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 -

"God Whose Giving Knows No Ending". Verse 2

THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

SENDING SONG

"Every Time I Feel The Spirit"

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

"Salt Creek"

Reflections on Today's Readings Genesis 1:1—2:4a

Life is filled with questions. Some are easy to answer such as “why do we have eyeballs?” or “why do we breathe?” They’re easier to answer because we can observe life and make a relatively simple conclusions. But as we grow older, we begin to ask harder questions, such as: “Why am I here?” “what’s the meaning of the universe?” “What’s my role in the larger scheme of things?” These aren’t so easy to answer, and often haunt us. They keep us up at night, causing dread or anxiety which at times can be crushingly paralyzing.

The German philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche (*who shapes more of the way we think than we may realize*) said that the only logical answer is *nihilism* – that there is no answer. Everything is random and has no meaning. But instead of all of us sinking into depression darkness, we somehow tend to universally find meaning. Across cultures, religions, and languages we as humans articulate what Nietzsche called “True World Theories”: stories with which we make sense of the mystery of life in the universe.

The most common “*story*” is that the world in which we live is a mere shadow of the true, eternal world in which we will one day live. If you know Philosophy, this is Plato’s articulation of the pure world of the forms. In Buddhism, it’s escaping the suffering of this world for the pure samsara life of the other more spiritual one. In Christianity, some tend to say that life on earth is merely a test or trial to see if we worthy to gain access to the heavenly, spiritual world in which God resides. Post-Modern thought, rooted in the world of French philosopher Jean-François Lyotard, says that all such stories are to be doubted or disbelieved.

Yet the flip of that statement, is that no explanation of life, no any one *metanarrative*, or big story, is any less coherent or worthy of examination than another. They are inescapable. They are how we understand the world. They shape both *who* and *how* we are, whether we admit it or not. Throughout the Fall we’re looking at the stories that make up the larger story of the Hebrew Bible. Today we look at the story of creation in Genesis.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION & EXAMEN:

- What engaged you, enraged you, or surprised you in the text?
- How does it paint a picture of the world that is similar, & different from how we understand the world today? Does it matter?
- The story of creation is problematic for us - both inside and outside the Church. Is it historical fact, scientific observation or a parable-like story? What does it tell us about who we are, the meaning of life, & our role in the grander scheme of things?
- What does the creation story tell us about who we are, and what life is about? What does it assert and affirm about God?
Did you hear anything new or different as you read this story today?

September Birthdays

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 to vote for what you’d like us to do going forward.

Friday Night Meal - Friday, September 17th 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 Montclair Presbyterian are cooking.

Women’s Group – Saturdays at 9:30am on Zoom. Contact Anne Marie Adams for info about joining - amadams44@gmail.com

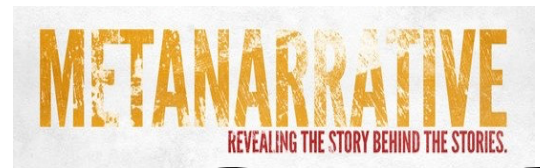
Letters of Love send a greeting card to someone who could use a good word or to one of our governmental representatives (back wall).

Men’s Group – Next Saturday 9/18 at 10am on Zoom. Contact Bill Beatty for info about joining – billbeatty55@gmail.com

Godly Play for Children/Youth : Sundays 9:30-10am We are going to restart this ministry, online via Zoom, Sunday, September 19th.

CareGiver Support Group – Next Sunday 9/19 at 3pm on Zoom. Contact Marda Stothers for info at mqstothers@gmail.com

Thank you to Today’s Worship Leadership:
Greeters: Fredora Darmstadt
Music: Pete Feltman, Ben Kramarz, Dave Eagle
Video Tech: Albert Hussian, Dann Wilkens, David



Fall Classes and Weekly Bible Study Monte is looking to start up some regular learning community groups. Help choose the themes and meeting times online at using this QR Code to access our website. **Cast your vote by the end of the day today – Sept 12th!**

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.

“We Join in Proclaiming”

Words © 2015 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

Sung to ASH GROVE (“Let All Things Now Living”)

1. We join in proclaiming the faith we believe in —
That God is Creator and we are God's own.
We trust in Christ Jesus and gladly receive him,
For we have been blessed by the love he has shown.
Christ died and is risen and, one with the Father,
He reigns now in heaven, still loving the earth.
The Spirit of God that moved over the waters
Now moves here among us,
empowering God's church.

2. O God, we have pondered
through years of our history
How you can be Father and Spirit and Son.
We've prayed and we've studied
and called it a mystery
That you are three persons and yet you are one.
Creating and saving, your church here renewing,
You still are one God working many good ways.
May we humbly thank you for all you are doing!
O God in three persons, we offer you praise.

Call to Worship Litany –

Adapted from Psalm 139:1-6,13-18.

thepastorsworkshop.com/calls-to-worship-creation/

One: You have searched me, Lord,
and you know me.

People: You know when I sit and when I rise;

One: you perceive my thoughts from afar.

**People: You discern my going out
and my lying down;**

One: you are familiar with all my ways.

**People: Before a word is on my tongue
you, Lord, know it completely.**

One: You hem me in behind and before,
and you lay your hand upon me.

**People: Such knowledge is too wonderful for me,
too lofty for me to attain.**

One: For you created my inmost being;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.

**People: I praise you because
I am fearfully and wonderfully made;
your works are wonderful,
I know that full well.**

One: My frame was not hidden from you
when I was made in the secret place,
when I was woven together
in the depths of the earth.

**People: Your eyes saw my unformed body;
all the days ordained for me
were written in your book
before one of them came to be.**

One: How precious to me are your thoughts, God!
How vast is the sum of them!

**People: Were I to count them,
they would outnumber the grains of sand—
when I awake, I am still with you.**

“Creator God Creating Still”

Lyrics Author: Jane Parker Huber

sung to ST ANNE

1. Creator God, creating still,
by will and word and deed,
create a new humanity
to meet the present need.

2. Redeemer God, redeeming still,
with overflowing grace,
pour out your love on us, through us,
make this a holy place.

3. Sustainer God, sustaining still,
with strength for every day,
empower us to do your will.
Correct us when we stray.

4. Great Trinity, for this new day
we need your presence still.
Create, redeem, sustain us now
to do your work and will.

Response: All Things Bright and Beautiful

"All Things Bright and Beautiful"

Cecil Frances Alexander (1848, alt.)

Glory to God #20.

The Blue Presbyterian Hymnal #267

Refrain:

All things bright and beautiful,
all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful,
the Lord God made them all.

1 Each little flower that opens,
each little bird that sings,
God made their glowing colors;
God made their tiny wings.

2 The purple-headed mountain,
the river running by,
the sunset, and the morning
that brightens up the sky:

3 The cold wind in the winter,
the pleasant summer sun,
the ripe fruits in the garden,
God made them every one.

4 God gave us eyes to see them,
and lips that we might tell
how great is God Almighty,
who has made all things well.

"God Whose Giving Knows No Ending"

Robert L. Edwards (1961)

Glory to God #716

2. Skills and time are ours for pressing
toward the goals of Christ, your Son:
all at peace in health and freedom,
races joined, the church made one.
Now direct our daily labor,
lest we strive for self alone.
Born with talents, make us servants
fit to answer at your throne.

"Every Time I Feel The Spirit"

African American spiritual

The Blue Presbyterian Hymnal #315

Chorus:

Every time I feel the spirit
moving in my heart I will pray.
Yes every time I feel the spirit
moving in my heart I will pray.

1. Upon the mountain when my Lord spoke.
Out of God's mouth came fire and smoke.
Looked all around me;
it looked so fine 'til I asked my Lord
if all was mine.
2. Jordan river is chilly and cold.
It chills the body but not the soul
There is but one train upon this track.
It runs to heaven and then right back
3. Down in the valley rings my Lord's voice.
It gives me freedom, and all my choice
I breathe so deeply, and breathe so well.
I know my Lord has triumphed o'er hell
4. Out in the desert amidst the sand; i
t's only my God that helps me stand
No trial too big to hinder my strife;
I will push onward, all through my life



PREMODERN

MODERN

POSTMODERN



"Because God put it there and
that's the way it's always been."

"Onwards and upwards
with inevitable progress!"

"Bllpppgghjlsdlkfjowejfalsk
djflksdjflksjldlj;aldflkj;;;df"