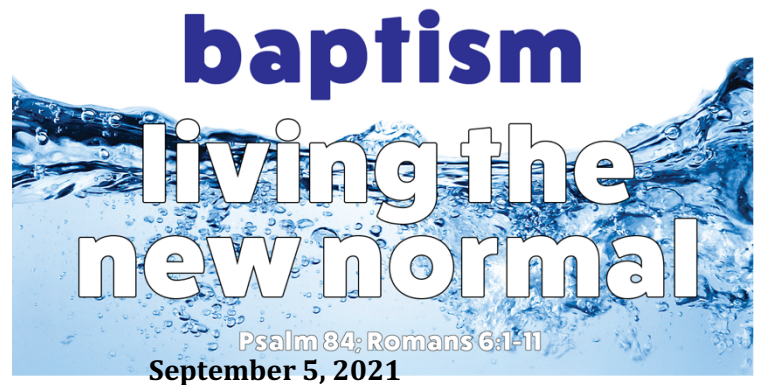


Presbyterian Church  
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**Welcome to  
 CAPC Oakland!**

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 19<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 card and share it with the liturgist or to share you requests in the chat on ZOOM labeling it with 'prayer.'

CCL #1137062.

PRELUDE: "Stand By Me Father"

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

GATHERING SONG "Take Me To The Water "

CALL TO WORSHIP

SONG OF PRAISE "Like A Mighty River Flowing"

HEARING GOD'S WORD

LISTENING TO SCRIPTURE Psalm 84 & Romans 6:1-11

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD "The New Normal: Life after ~~COVID-19~~ Baptism"

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

SONG OF RESPONSE "In Christ Alone"

COMMUNION: FINDING GOD AROUND OUR HYBRID TABLE

TODAY WE'LL CELEBRATE THIS FOUNDATIONAL MEAL BY INTINCTION WHEREVER YOU ARE. IN PERSON WE'RE USING PRE-PACKAGED WAFERS AND JUICE CUPS YOU CAN FIND IN THE ENTRYWAY.

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"

THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

SENDING SONG "Taste and See"

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 "Beaumont Rag"

## Reflections on Today's Readings Psalm 84 & Romans 6:1-11

What is the good life? That's the question humans have asked themselves over the ages. The ancient Greek philosopher Plato (428– 348 BCE), widely considered one of the most important and influential individuals in human history, and one of the founders of Western religion and spirituality; stated that defining the good life is the question that philosophy seeks to answer. How do we choose between two actions? What is the better path? How do we live with one another? Does good for me come at the expense of good for another? When it's complicated which good do I prioritize, my own?; or that of my neighbor?

Psalm 84 wrestles with this fundamental question. The poet asserts that the good life – being happy, leading a life of integrity, is rooted in community with God. It's living in the house of God: the Temple, the space where heaven and earth meet and God dwells. It's described as a place of birth and nurturing, like an oasis of water that springs forth in a barren and lonesome land. It seems as if the poet is evoking this "good life" in the face of a challenge or threat. He asks for strength, rekindling his hope as he focuses on the proximity, promise and providence of God.

In Romans 6, Paul continues his theological project of explaining how the world is and how God in Christ makes it new. He has explained who God is, what God wants from and with us, and how sin ("missing the mark" – or "our failure to be part of God's purpose") keeps us from knowing this life-fulfilling community. We can't repair our failure on our own. We can't redeem our world of hurt with our own force and imagination. Instead we have to look to Jesus – his teachings, his life, his death – as the Way in which we rediscover what life is about, who God is, who we are created to be, how God has always intended for us to be intimately and intricately involved in the divine purpose of fulfillment, blessing and community of creation.

Paul talks of the good life as the new normal. In Christ we can access a radically different, free, and liberating way of holy living. Holiness is the word for describing what God is, where God dwells, how God moves – the new normal to which God invites us. To enter in to this dwelling place, this way of life, we have to die in the waters of baptism and be resurrected into this new normal.

### QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION & EXAMEN:

- What engaged you, enraged you, or surprised you in the text?
- Psalm 48 paints a poetic picture of what it means to live a life of integrity or happiness. How would you describe such a life in your own words?
- Paul talks of baptism as a death to an old life and a birth to a new life, like going down into the water to drown and being lifted up to a new existence. How have you experience baptism (or daily faith) as this sort of resurrection? If not, why not?
- To what do you want to die? For what do you want to live more fully?
- How is the Spirit of God inviting you – or us as a church – to act, speak, be or change through this word?

## September Birthdays

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 10<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. Our High School Partners of Piedmont Community Service 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).

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

**Thank you to Today's Worship Leadership:**  
Coffee Hour: Elaine Price  
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 Sat, Sept 11<sup>th</sup> !

## 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.*

### “Take Me To The Water”

*African-American spiritual  
Glory to God #480*

1. Take me to the water  
Take me to the water  
Take me to the water  
To be baptized
2. I love Jesus, I love Jesus  
I love Jesus Yes I Do
3. He's my Savior; He's my Savior  
He's my Savior ;Yes He Is
4. Oh when I get to heaven, when I get to heaven  
when I get to heaven; I shall see God
5. I know I got his spirit; I know I got his spirit  
His anointing falls
6. Glory Hallelujah; Glory Hallelujah  
Glory Hallelujah; to be baptized

### Call to Worship Litany –

*Based on Luke 3:15-17, 21-22 | [www.ministrymatters.com](http://www.ministrymatters.com)*

One: God is with us always  
and calls us each by name.

**People: hen we pass through difficulties  
and stress,**

One: God is with us and calls us by name.

**People: When we are discouraged  
and feel lost and alone,**

One: God is with us and calls us by name,  
and heals us.

**People: Blessed be God who knows us  
and calls us by name,  
raising us to new life and a new normal.**

### “Like A Mighty River Flowing”

*Author: Michael Perry  
The Irish Presbyterian Hymnbook #122  
Words © 1982 The Jubilate Group*

- 1 Like a mighty river flowing,  
like a flower in beauty growing,  
far beyond all human knowing  
is the perfect peace of God.
2. Like the hills serene and even,  
like the coursing clouds of heaven,  
like the heart that's been forgiven  
is the perfect peace of God.
3. Like the summer breezes playing,  
like the tall trees softly swaying,  
like the lips of silent praying  
is the perfect peace of God.
4. Like the morning sun ascended,  
like the scents of evening blended,  
like a friendship never ended  
is the perfect peace of God.
5. Like the azure ocean swelling,  
like the jewel all-excelling,  
far beyond our human telling  
is the perfect peace of God.



“Having encountered Jesus –  
risen from the dead –  
we don't evaluate people by what  
they have or how they look. We  
looked at the Messiah that way  
once and got it all wrong, as you  
know. We certainly don't look at  
him that way anymore.

Now we look inside, and what  
we see is that anyone united with  
the Messiah gets a fresh start, is  
created new.

The old life is gone; a new life  
emerges! Look at it! All this comes  
from God.”

- The Apostle Paul  
in 2 Corinthians 5:16-18

### **“In Christ Alone”**

*Keith Getty; Author: Stuart Townend  
Lift Up Your Hearts #770*

1. In Christ alone my hope is found  
He is my light, my strength, my song  
this cornerstone, this solid ground  
firm through the fiercest drought and storm  
What heights of love, what depths of peace  
when fears are stilled, when strivings cease  
My comforter, my all in all  
here in the love of Christ I stand

2. In Christ alone, who took on flesh  
fullness of God in helpless Babe  
This gift of love and righteousness  
scorned by the ones He came to save  
'Til on that cross as Jesus died  
the wrath of God was satisfied  
For ev'ry sin on Him was laid  
here in the death of Christ I live

3. There in the ground His body lay  
Light of the world by darkness slain  
then, bursting forth in glorious day  
up from the grave He rose again  
And as He stands in victory  
sin's curse has lost its grip on me  
for I am His and He is mine  
bought with the precious blood of Christ

4. No guilt in life, no fear in death  
this is the pow'r of Christ in me  
from life's first cry to final breath  
Jesus commands my destiny  
No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man  
can ever pluck me from His hand  
'til He returns or calls me home  
here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand

### **“God Whose Giving Knows No Ending”**

*Robert L. Edwards (1961)  
Glory to God #716*

1 God, whose giving knows no ending,  
From your rich and endless store:  
Nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom,  
Costly cross, grave's shattered door,  
Gifted by You, we turn to You,  
Off'ring up ourselves in praise;  
Thankful song shall rise forever,  
Gracious donor of our days.

### **“Taste and See”**

*James E. Moore Jr. (1983)  
Glory to God #520 | © 1983 GIA Publications, Inc.*

*Refrain:*  
Taste and see  
Taste and see  
The goodness of the Lord  
(repeat)

1. I will bless the lord at all times  
Praise shall always be on my lips  
My soul shall glory in the lord  
For God has been so good to me

*Refrain*

2. Glorify the lord with me  
Together let us all praise God's name  
I called the lord who answered me  
From all my troubles I was set free

*Refrain*

3. Worship the lord all you people  
You'll want for nothing if you ask  
Taste and see that the lord is good  
In God we need put all our trust

*Refrain*