

College Avenue Presbyterian Church
 5951 College Avenue | Oakland | 94618
 www.capcoakland.org | www.capcoakland.me
 Office : 510.658.3665 | capc.manager@gmail.com
 Pastor Monte: Cell 510.520.0746
 montemclain@gmail.com



October 23, 2022 at 10:30am
 in Person & on Zoom

**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 allows 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've reconfigured out how to do our Godly Play program for children via Zoom. We meet 9:30-10am on Sundays via Zoom. Info in the announcements on the back.

HYBRID WORSHIP

We do our Sunday Gatherings hybrid style – both in person and online for those that prefer that option. We're seeking to do that, using Zoom, to affirm our value of participation and collaboration in our gatherings.

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.'

WIFI

Capc1 | PW 5106583666
 CCL #1137062

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

PRELUDE "We Come To You For Healing Lord"

GATHERING SONG "God Is Calling Through The Whisper" - *Glory to God #410*

CALL TO WORSHIP

SONG OF PRAISE "What A Friend We Have In Jesus" - *insert*

HEARING GOD'S WORD

LISTENING TO SCRIPTURE
 Readings: Matthew 13:44-50; Deuteronomy 5:1-5, 12-15 - *David Kittams*

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD "Losing Control" - *Monte McClain*

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

SONG OF RESPONSE "Be Thou My Vision" - *Blue Hymnal #560*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER
 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

OFFERING SONG "Amen" - *Glory to God # 450*

THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

SENDING SONG "Do Lord" - *insert*

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 "Мир Христа"(Ukrainian) [Mwir Khrysta]

POSTLUDE "Walk In Jerusalem Just Like John"

Reflections on Today's Readings Matthew 13:44-50; Deuteronomy 5:1-5, 12-15

In our modern world religion has often been deeply intertwined with power and control. In the mid-19th century, Karl Marx wrote that religion is “the opiate of the masses” – disconnecting disadvantaged people from the here and now, and dulling their engagement in progressive politics. The notion he developed was that those who are in power now use religion as a tool, a cudgel to get those they control and dominate to settle for is now in the hope of what might be in the hereafter. While his observation is accurate and has often proved to be true historically through the rule of tyrants, colonial powers and fascists; it doesn't tell the whole story.

Today's parables seem to talk about control. In the first of the three the day laborer sells everything to buy the land containing the hidden treasure. In the second the searcher finds a pearl beyond belief and sells everything to make sure to own it. The third tells of a net, a common biblical symbol or metaphor for empires that captures all types of fish, and then from which the good ones are separated from the bad ones. (cf. *Habakkuk 1:15-17; Isaiah 19:8; & Ezekiel 26:5, 14.*) At first glance it can seem like the Kingdom of God – the thing the parables are seeking to disclose is about controlling what's discovered or unexpected. But I think it's actually about allowing something found, unexpectedly encountered to disrupt our daily lives and priorities; to transform them. It seems to me that they're pointing more towards letting go, or losing control, rather than maintaining it all cost. The Kingdom of God – the experience of the Holy One and the people of God in movement – makes all things new!

The selection from the Hebrew scriptures is about the fourth commandment – observing sabbath rest. The Israelites were the only people in the ancient world to observe a day of rest from work each week. And it was more than just sleeping in late and going for brunch! The time off was meant for renewal of relationships, and the body, as well as meditation and worship of God. The people are to rest because God did after creating the world; and to remember that once they were slaves who never had time off. In a sense sabbath is about remembering that we don't control life; that there is something bigger than us. Sabbath reminds us that **God is holy and we are holy** (set apart for something specific); reminding us of what life is about in the mix of all the powers that try to control our attention, time, and money.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION & EXAMEN:

- What engaged you, enraged you, or surprised you in this story?
- What do you hear Jesus saying about how we experience and respond the new world order exemplified by the life of Jesus?
- As you hear the sabbath commandment what do you hear? Are we to rest because God is holy?; because life is holy?; how does such rest invite us to realize that we (you) are holy: set apart for a specific purpose? How do you struggle to live such a “holy” life in your every day?
- What invitation do you hear the Spirit of God speaking to you – or to us, as a church – to act, speak, be or change through this word of scripture?

October Birthdays

5 Emma Fleming	7 Cameron Beatty
14 Mike Castner	26 Chinyere Okereke
30 Robbin Peach &	Joshua Beatty

Weekly Calendar

Post Service Garden Party! Join us for light snacks and the chance to connect and chat outside in the garden.

Letters of Love– Lina Foltz is going in for surgery for her liver cancer this coming Thursday. She's getting treatment and convalescing in Southern California. Help us overwhelm her with love, support and grace by picking up an addressed stamped letter or post card today and sending her a word of encouragement.

Deacons Meeting today after worship. Talk to convener Marji Wilkens if you have questions.

Race Matters Group Mondays – 6-7 pm on Zoom. We gather together to talk about race matters and how race matters in our lives of faith.



Friday Night Meal – Fridays 6:00-7:00PM.

Help us respond to the hungers of Oakland by signing up online to help with set-up, serving, and clean-up – this -or any Friday! Capcoakland.org/ or use this QR Code



Women's Group Saturday 9:30-10:30am on Zoom. Contact Anne Marie Adams for info.

Godly Play Sundays 9:30-10am on Zoom – our Montessori-approach to Sunday School!

Church Survey WE NEED YOU!!!

Be sure to respond – you can find it in the newsletter, paper copies today or use this QR



Celebrating the Life of Larisa Banoff – Next Saturday, October 29th at 10:30am in the sanctuary.

Halloween Parade Sunday, October 30th after church. We expect heavy traffic along the avenue, starting while we are in our worship service.

Monte will be out of town this week through Friday for a yearly pastor's covenant group retreat.

Thank You to Today's Leadership:

Counters: Sharon Nelson, Louise Hirschman

Garden-Party Host: Joy Barnes

Godly Play: Monte McClain

Liturgist: David Kittams

Music: Dave Eagle (Drums),

Ben Kramarz, Roger Kim

Video Tech: Thom Faulkner, Albert Hussian, Dann Wilkens

LYRICS & RESPONSES FOR TODAY'S CELEBRATION

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 through using gender inclusive language

God Is Calling Through The Whisper

*Mary Louise Bringle (2003) | Glory to God #410
© 2006 GIA Publications, Inc.*

1. God is calling through the whisper
Of the Spirit's deepest sighs,
Through the thrill of sudden beauties
That can catch us by surprise.
Flash of lighting, crash of thunder,
Hush of stillness, rush of wonder:
God is calling – can you hear?
God is calling – can you hear?
2. God is calling through the voices
Of our neighbors urgent prayers,
Through their longing for redemption
And for rescue from despair.
Place of hurt or face of needing;
Strident cry or silent pleading:
God is calling – can you hear?
God is calling – can you hear?
3. God is calling through the music
Of sublime and human arts,
Through the hymns of earth and angels,
And the carols of our hearts.
Lift of joy and gift of singing;
Days and nights our praises bringin:
God is calling – can you hear?
God is calling – can you hear?

Call to Worship:

a mash up of Romans 8 & Matthew 11:28-30

ONE: We are saved in hope. If we see what we hope for, that isn't hope. Who hopes for what they already see? But if we hope for what we don't see, we wait for it with patience.

ALL: In the same way, we believe that the Spirit of God comes to help us in our weakness. We don't know what we should pray, but the Spirit pleads our case with unexpressed groans - expressing what we cannot.

One: So what are we going to say about these things? If God is for us, who can stand against us? God didn't spare his own Son but gave Christ up for us all. Won't God also then freely give us all things with Christ?

ALL: And this ruler over all things invites us to join the Kingdom of Heaven saying: "Come to me, all you who are struggling hard and carrying heavy loads, and I will give you rest. Put on my yoke, and learn from me. I'm gentle and humble. And you will find rest for yourselves. My yoke is easy to bear, and my burden is light."

One: Who can then separate us from Christ's love? Will we be separated by trouble, or distress, or harassment, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?

ALL: But in all these things we win a sweeping victory through the one who loved us. Nothing can separate us from God's love in Christ Jesus our Lord: not death or life, not angels or rulers, not present things or future things, not powers or height or depth, or any other thing that is created.

What A Friend We Have In Jesus

tune: Converse text: Joseph Scriven

1. What a friend we have in Jesus
All ours sins and grief's to bear
What a privilege to carry
Everything to God in prayer

2. O what peace we often forfeit
O what needless pain we bear
All because we do not carry

3. Have we trials and temptations
Is there trouble anywhere
We should never be discouraged
Take it to the Lord in prayer

Continued on back of page....

What A Friend We Have In Jesus

Continued...

4. Can we find a friend so faithful
Who will all our sorrows share
Jesus knows our every weakness
Take it to the Lord in prayer

5. Are we weak and heavy laden
Cumbered with a load of care
Precious Savior still our refuge
Take it to the Lord in prayer

6. Do thy friends despise forsake thee
Take it to the Lord in prayer
In His arms He'll take and shield thee
Thou wilt find a solace there

Be Thou My Vision

Translator: Mary E. Byrne; Versifier: Eleanor H. Hull

Ancient Irish; Irish, ca. 700

The Blue Presbyterian Hymnal #339 | Glory to God #450

1. Be thou my vision O lord of my heart
Nought be all else to me save that thou art
Thou my best thought by day or by night
Waking or sleeping thy presence my light

2. Be thou my wisdom and thou my true word
I ever with thee and thou with me lord
Thou my soul's shelter and thou my high tower
Still be my vision O ruler of all

3. Riches I heed not nor vain empty praise
Thou mine inheritance now and always
Thou and thou only first in my heart
Great God of heaven my treasure thou art

4. High King of heaven my victory won
May I reach heaven's joys O bright heaven's sun
Heart of my own heart whatever befall
Still be my vision O ruler of all

Amen

Amen Amen

Amen Amen Amen

Do Lord

traditional Afro-American spiritual

Refrain:

Do Lord, oh, do Lord, oh, do remember me
Do Lord, oh do Lord, oh, do remember me
Do Lord, oh, do Lord, oh, do remember me
Way beyond the blue

1. I've got a home in Gloryland
that outshines the sun
I've got a home in Gloryland
that outshines the sun
I've got a home in Gloryland
that outshines the sun
Way beyond the blue

2. I took Jesus for my Savior, you take him too
I took Jesus for my Savior, you take him too
I took Jesus for my Savior, you take him too
Way beyond the blue

3. If you don't bear the cross,
then you can't wear the crown
If you don't bear the cross,
then you can't wear the crown
If you don't bear the cross,
then you can't wear the crown
Way beyond the blue

4. Now I'm goin' up to Glory, open the gates
Now I'm goin' up to Glory, open the gates
Now I'm goin' up to Glory, open the gates
Way beyond the blue