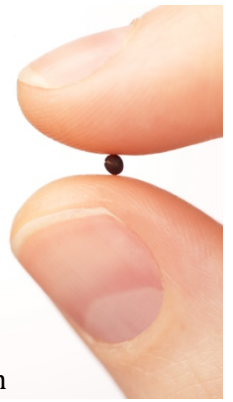


College Avenue Presbyterian Church
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Pastor Monte's Re-Entry Service!!!



October 9, 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 your 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 "Hymn Of Promise"
- GATHERING SONG "The Summons" - *gtg367, insert*
- CALL TO WORSHIP
- SONG OF PRAISE "I Sing The Mighty Power Of God" - *gtg32, insert*
- HEARING GOD'S WORD
- LISTENING TO SCRIPTURE
 Readings: Matthew 13:31-32; Isaiah 2:1-5; 25:6-9; Revelation 21:1-5a
- PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD "Stay Gentle" - *Monte McClain*
- RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD
- SONG OF RESPONSE "To What Can The Kingdom Of God Be Compared" - *insert*
- 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.
- A MOMENT TO RECOGNIZE AND AFFIRM COORDINATING LEADERSHIP
 DURING MONTE'S SABBATICAL - Rev. Bill Beatty
- COLLECTION OF OUR OFFERINGS AND GIFTS
 OFFERING SONG "Amen" - *gtg507; insert*
- THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH
- SENDING SONG "The Lord Will Make A Way Somehow" - *insert*
- SENDING CALL AND RESPONSE
 Leader: God is good! Leader: And all the time!
People: All the time! People: God is good!
- EXHORTATION & BLESSING
- Invitation to Celebrate Pastor Monte's & Kristy's Return During Garden Party
- PASSING THE PEACE OF GOD "Мир Христа"(Ukrainian) [Mwir Hryrsta]
- POSTLUDE "Bare Necessities"

Reflections on Today's Readings

Matthew 13:31-32; Isaiah 2:1-5; 25:6-9; Revelation 21:1-5a

This simple parable of Jesus is confusing. Today we know that the world's smallest seeds are produced by certain orchids in the tropical rainforest. (not mustard). Some of those seeds are only 1/300th of an inch (85 micrometers) long, which is below the resolving power of the unaided human eye. Orchid seeds are dispersed into the air like minute dust particles and come to rest in the upper canopy of rainforest trees, where they eventually germinate.

But Jesus says that mustard seeds are the smallest. Was he just a bad farmer, not knowing what he was talking about?

In the first century world of the Roman Empire, in which Jesus lived, mustard was widely grown and used. Believed to first come from Ancient Egypt, the Greeks later used Mustard as a medicine and a spice. The Romans emulated them using it as both food and medicine as well, ascribing it as a cure for anything from hysteria to snakebite to bubonic plague. It became known as a sign of power, healing and flavor-enhancing vigor.

In the 1st Century, mustard seeds were considered an invasive, noxious weed. If a gardener did not uproot it from their garden, they'd soon not have a garden left to tend. Then, as now, weeds should be rooted out lest they take over, crowding out crops that are intentionally planted there. Yet the parable portrays mustard as beneficially invasive, or transformative. It's the image of a weed growing into a tree that benefits those around it means that we've classified as a weed something that is actually a fruit bearing tree.

But let's be clear: mustard plants don't grow into trees. If what we have labeled as "mustard" grows into a tree, it's not mustard weed. We've made a mistake. It's something entirely different from mustard. Jesus likens the new community of nonviolence, mutual aid, and resource redistribution of those who follow him to a tree that is originally seen as a weed. In other words, the way 1st Century farmers viewed the mustard plant was the way people viewed Jesus's teachings and the community of Jesus-followers centered in those teachings. Their existence was to be rooted out. They were as welcome as the weed.

But then Jesus's saying takes a hard right turn. What the people think is a noxious mustard weed doesn't produce the same results as mustard. It doesn't take over the garden like a weed and leave nothing for anyone. No, it becomes a tree, a source of shelter and food for all in its vicinity! It's originally viewed as a weed, but it does not bear the same fruit as a weed.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION & EXAMEN:

- What engaged you, enraged you, or surprised you in this story?
- Jesus often quotes the prophet Isaiah saying, "let those with eyes to see, see, and those with ears to hear, hear." (Matthew 13:9 & 15) How does that apply here in today's parable?
- 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.

Global Missions Meeting - Today 2:45-4:30pm. Marda Stothers will share about her recent experience with Wycliff Missionaries. | 2600 Warring St, Berkeley | (510) 540-7173

Zoom Connection Calls Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays 12-12:30pm a time for holy conversation (Mon) and the practice of Lectio Divina (Fri).

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/

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!

Survey Look for a survey in your email inbox, or pick up a paper copy today, as we take the temperature of our congregational life as we exit this time of pastoral sabbatical.

Halloween Parade Sunday, October 30th after church. This is a yearly event that brings hundreds of people to our doorstep, giving us the chance to introduce ourselves to folks who don't know us. Would you like to be involved in envisioning how to do get the word out about how great we are through candy and a kids' craft area? Talk to Monte.

Thank You to Today's Leadership:

Garden-Party Host:

Godly Play: Beth Beatty

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

The Summons

John L. Bell & Graham Maule

1. Will you come and follow me
if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know
and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown?
Will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?
2. Will you leave yourself behind
if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind
and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare
should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer in you
and you in me?
3. Will you let the blinded see
if I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free
and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean
and do such as this unseen,
and admit to what I mean in you and you in me?
4. Will you love the "you" you hide
if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside
and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found
to reshape the world around,
through my sight and touch and sound in you
and you in me?
5. Lord your summons echoes true
when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
In Your company I'll go
where Your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you
and you in me.

Call to Worship: *a riff on Psalm 121*

- ONE: God of the promise, we hunger for your justice,
ALL: We thirst for peace,
ONE: We yearn for your kingdom,
ALL: Yet we live in a time of war,
ONE: Shootings in our schools,
ALL: fires in our hills,
ONE: Civilians bombed with drones,
ALL: The hungry unable to afford food,
ONE: The persecuted who walk miles and miles
to distant lands of hope.
**ALL: Those who do evil against the weak and
humble are rewarded and grow in power.**
- ONE: We raise our eyes toward the mountains.
ALL: Where will our help come from?
ONE: The psalm poet reminds us that our help
comes from the Lord,
the maker of heaven and earth.
**ALL: The God who won't let our foot slip.
Our protector who never falls asleep on the job,
always somehow makes a way.**
- ONE: God, we struggle to see
that you protect us from all evil.
**ALL: We are reminded that for evil to triumph
fully it needs two victories,**
ONE: The first victory happens when an evil deed
is perpetrated.
**ALL: The second victory, when evil
is returned for evil.**
ONE: God protect us from the evil
and injustice we may endure,
And also that which we often chose to pay forward.
**ALL: Protect us with your mighty power
from all evil;
Protect us on our journeys— in going or
coming— surprise us with hidden things as
you somehow make a way where there
seems to be none.**
- ### I Sing The Mighty Power Of God
- tune: Ellacombe text: Isaac Watts; Glory to God #32*
1. I sing the mighty power of God
that made the mountains rise
That spread the flowing seas abroad
and built the lofty skies
I sing the wisdom that ordained
the sun to rule the day
The moon shines full at God's command
and all the stars obey

2. I sing the goodness of the Lord
that filled the earth with food
God formed the creatures with a word
and then pronounced them good
Lord, how thy wonders are displayed
where'er I turn my eyes
If I survey the ground I tread
or gaze upon the skies

3. There's not a plant or flower below
but makes Thy glories known
And clouds arise and tempests blow
by order from Thy throne
While all that borrows life from Thee
is ever in Thy care
And everywhere that we can be,
Thou, God are present there

Amen

Amen Amen
Amen Amen Amen

To What Can the Kingdom of God Be Compared

tune: "To God Be the Glory"

Text: Copyright © 2011 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette.

Biblical References: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52; Mark 4:26-34

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.

The Lord Will Make A Way Somehow *Thomas A.*

Dorsey; © 1943 by Hill and Range Songs, Inc

1. Like a ship that's tossed and driven,
battered by an angry sea;
When the storms of life are raging,
and their fury falls on me,
I wonder what I have done,
that makes this race so hard to run;
Then I say to my soul, take courage,
the Lord will make a way somehow.

Refrain:

The Lord will make a way somehow,
when beneath the cross I bow,
He will take away each sorrow,
let Him have your burdens now;
When the loads bears down
so heavy the weight is shown upon my brow,
There's a sweet relief in knowing
the Lord will make a way somehow.

2. Try to do the best in service,
try to do the best you can;
When I choose to do the right thing
evil's present on every hand;
I look up and wonder why
that good fortune passed me by;
Then I say to my soul, be patient,
the Lord will make a way somehow.

3. Often there's misunderstanding,
out of all the good I do;
Go to friends for consolation,
and I find them complaining, too;
So many nights I toss in pain,
wondering what the day will bring;
Then I say to my heart, don't worry,
the Lord will make a way somehow.