

College Avenue Presbyterian Church
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November 20, 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 "God Bless The Child"
- GATHERING SONG "We Gather Together" - *Glory to God #336*
- CALL TO WORSHIP
- SONG OF PRAISE "Christ In The Stranger's Guise"
- HEARING GOD'S WORD
- LISTENING TO SCRIPTURE Matthew 25:31-46
- PRACTICING GOD'S WORD "Surprised by the Unexpected" - *Monte McClain*
 TODAY OUR PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL IS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR US TO PRACTICE GOD'S WORD. WE'LL BE SHARING ALOUD IN A CIRCLE OF AFFIRMATING TESTIMONIES OUR GRATITUDE FOR GOD SHOWING UP IN OUR WORLD, CHURCH AND LIVES – AND WHERE WE'VE SEEN JESUS IN OUR MIDST AND MINISTRY
- RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD
- SONG OF RESPONSE "The Face Of Christ"
- 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 "Give Thanks" - *Glory to God # 44*
- THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH
- SENDING SONG "Let All Things Now Living" - *Blue Hymnal #554*
- 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 "Harvest Home"



Reflections on Today's Readings Matthew 25:35-46



It could be said that the whole Gospel of Matthew has been moving towards and preparing for this dramatic parable. In

Matthew, Jesus is the great teacher, and this parable is his last formal act of teaching, the final point, the parting lesson, the cumulative moment in his teaching ministry. Moreover, this parable not only concludes Jesus' ministry of teaching; it also sums up the major theological themes of Matthew's Gospel by presenting a majestic picture of the triumphant Jesus reigning in glory as king and judge at the end of time.

It begins as a victory hymn to Christ set in the future. He who was accused of being an agent of Satan, and rejected by his hometown, is now revealed as the holy Lord of Lord and elevated in glory above everything in all the earth.

As the camera pulls back to encompass the entire scene, we are shown all of the nations of the earth, row after row of humanity gathered before the throne of the Son of Man. As a shepherd in that time would separate a combined flock of goats and sheep, the Son of Man separates the sheep, the true heirs of God's kingdom because they provided food, drink, hospitality, clothing, and care for the Son of Man. The goats who did none of that are punished rather than blessed.

This sort of story is common in the Bible, but then the parable takes a curious twist. It becomes apparent that the sheep had no idea whatsoever that, in their compassion toward people in need, they were providing ministry to the Son of Man. Likewise the goats had no clue that in their indifference they were neglecting the Lord of all the nations.

There are three readings of the parable in regards to the identity of the least of these: 1) they are Christian brothers and sisters, missionaries sent in Christ's name to share his Way of life; 2) the least of these refers to all human being in need, to everyone who is poor and needy and not just Christian missionaries; and 3) maybe it's both of them – the missionaries/emissaries of the Church and the poor.

The shock of this parable is that no one – not the goats and not even the sheep – recognized Christ because they assumed that the triumphant Lord of all time would surely appear as a powerful presence in history. But this isn't God's way in the world.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION & EXAMEN:

- What engaged you, enraged you, or surprised you in this text ?
- How have you experienced this seeing Jesus in unexpected places, in the face of others in your own life?... When? ... Where?
- What invitation to act, speak, be(come), or change do you hear the Spirit of God speaking to you – or to us in this text?

Today's writing is taken from **Matthew**, Thomas C. Long, pp. 283-285.

November Birthdays

3 Nenna Okereke	5 Harry Hussan
11 Al Hussian	13 Elaine Price
15 Pete Feltman	16 Ruth Ann Friedland
16 Elodie McClain. 2005	19 Radman Beatty 2006

Weekly Calendar

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

Letters of Love- Everyone loves getting mail! Pick up an addressed envelope in the back and write a note of encouragement and love to someone who could use a good word. Recipients and their situations are explained on the magnetic board.

Race Matters Group Mondays – 6-7pm on Zoom.

Community Bible Study (Wrestling with Scripture) We meet for discussion around the text for the week on Tuesday nights at 7p on Zoom.



Friday Night Meal – Fridays 6:00-7:00PM.
There is NO DINNER this coming Friday 11/25.

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!

Decorating for Christmas :: Tomorrow from 9am onwards. *We need help today bringing the decorations boxes down from the storage closet.*

Thanksgiving Day Meal Thursday, 11/24 11a-12p. If you're doing cooking at home look for Sarah Evangelista are her team today to get your food-stuffs and instructions.

Advent: Starts next Sunday, Nov 27th! It's the period of four week leading to Christmas. A great way to de-commercialize Christmas and ponder the mystery of God coming to us as a baby in a manger. We're doing lots of special things to celebrate. Pick up a daily devotional today. Look for daily postings on our social media accounts.



Thank You to Today's Leadership:

Counters:, Jeff Trowbridge & Albert Hussian

Garden-Party Host:

Godly Play: Beth Beatty

Liturgist:

Music: Dave Eagle (Drums),

Ben Kramarz, Roger Kim

Video Tech: Thom Faulkner, Albert Hussian, Dann

Wilkins

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

We Gather Together

*Author: Julia C. Cory (1902) | Glory to God Hymnal #336
Original Language: Dutch | Translator: Theodore Baker (1894)
Author (attributed to): Adrianus Valerius (c. 1626)*

1 We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing;
he chastens and hastens his will to make known;
the wicked oppressing now cease from distressing.
Sing praises to his name; he forgets not his own.

2 Beside us to guide us, our God with us joining,
ordaining, maintaining his kingdom divine;
so from the beginning the fight we were winning;
thou, Lord, wast at our side; all glory be thine!

3 We all do extol thee, thou leader triumphant,
and pray that thou still our defender wilt be.
Let thy congregation escape tribulation;
thy name be ever praised! O Lord, make us free!

Call to Worship:

*An adaptation of the Beatitudes of Jesus found in
Matthew 5:2-11 ~ Carolyn Brown, Worshiping with Children.
<http://worshipingwithchildren.blogspot.ca/>*

One: We remember that to be holy is to recognize
being set apart for the purposes of God;

ALL: to be in the world, but not of the world.

One: We recall that to be a saint is to be a holy one:

ALL: one who seeks to live into the holy purposes of God.

One: We retell that saints are just dead and gone,

**ALL: Saints are among us – they even are us;
when we walk in the Way of Life that Jesus
taught – most clearly in the Beatitudes.**

One: Blessed are the saints
who trust God's power and loving care,

ALL: for they are part of the kingdom of heaven.

One: Blessed are the saints
when they are sad because the world is so unfair,

**ALL: They have God's promise that justice will
come.**

One: Blessed are the nobodies
who know they are nobodies and still do God's work.

ALL: In God's world they are the leaders.

Blessed are the saints
whose greatest wish is to do what God desires.

ALL: God will give them what they want.

Blessed are the saints who treat other people gently,

ALL: God will treat them gently.

Blessed are the saints
who get in trouble when they do what God requires,

ALL For they are surely among God's saints.

Christ In The Stranger's Guise

tune: The Leaving Of Liverpool || text: Iona community

1. From heaven to hear and from here to heaven
Is a distance less than tissue thin
And it's trod by him who in the stranger's guise
Is made known when he is welcomed in

Chorus

So come Lord Christ in the stranger's guise
Know both through scriptures
and through broken bread
Your kingdom come and on the earth
your will be done
By the people you've loved and you've led

2. The folk who journey on the road with Christ
Are the ones who've left their selves behind
Their song is taught them by the deaf and dumb
Their horizon is shown by the blind

3. The love that's shared along the royal road
Is a love not found when standing still
It loves and grows wherever faith is known
As a movement grounded in God's will

4. From heaven to here and from here to heaven
Is a distance less than tissue thin
And it's trod by those who meet the risen Christ
As a stranger to be welcomed in

Behold the Face of Christ

Author: Bernadette Farrell (2002)

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Sung Refrain

Behold the face of Christ

O Jesus Christ, O Living Christ you rise among your people

But when lord when did we see you hungry and give you food to eat
When did we see you lord

Sung Refrain

But when lord when did we see you thirsty and give you water to drink
When did we see you lord

Sung Refrain

But when lord when did we see your stranger and welcome you in
When did we see you lord

Sung Refrain

But when lord when did we see you naked and give you clothes to wear
When did we see you lord

Sung Refrain

But when lord when did we see you ill and come to sit at your bedside
When did we see you lord

Sung Refrain

But when lord when did we see you in prison and come to visit you
When did we see you lord

Sung Refrain

But when lord when did we see you the Christ the son of Mary our brother, our God
When did we see you

Sung Refrain

Give Thanks

*Author: Henry Smith Tune: GIVE THANKS (Smith)
Glory to God #647*

Give thanks with a grateful heart,
give thanks to the Holy One;
give thanks, because he's given
Jesus Christ, his Son.

Give thanks with a grateful heart,
give thanks to the Holy One;
give thanks, because he's given
Jesus Christ, his Son.

And now let the weak say 'I am strong',
let the poor say 'I am rich',
because of what the Lord has done for us;

and now let the weak say 'I am strong',
let the poor say 'I am rich',
because of what the Lord has done for us.
Give thanks...God has walked with us in life.

Let All Things Now Living

*Author: Katherine Davis (1939) | Tune: ASH GROVE
Glory to God #37 | The Blue Presbyterian Hymnal #554*

1. Let all things now living
a song of thanksgiving
to God our Creator triumphantly raise;
Who fashioned and made us,
protected and stayed us,
by guiding us onto the end of our days,
God's banners are o'er us,
pure light goes before us,
a pillar of fire shining forth in the night:
Till shadows have vanished
all fearfulness banished,
as forward we travel from light into light.

2. By law God enforces,
the stars in their courses,
the sun in its orbit obediently shine,
The hills and the mountains,
the rivers and fountains,
the depths of the ocean proclaim God divine.
We too, should be voicing
our love and rejoicing
with glad adoration, a song let us raise:
Till all things now living
unite in thanksgiving,
to God in the highest, hosanna and praise.