

College Avenue Presbyterian Church
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The Third Sunday of Advent
 December 11, 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 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) have high health risks.

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 "I Wonder As I Wander"
- GATHERING SONG "Love Has Come" - *Glory To God #110*
- CALL TO WORSHIP LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH
- SONG OF PRAISE "Joy to the World" - *Blue Hymnal #40*
- HEARING GOD'S WORD
- LISTENING TO SCRIPTURE Isaiah 35:1-10 & Matthew 1:18-25 - *Marji Wilkens*
- PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD "Before & After" - *Monte McClain*
- RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD
- SONG OF RESPONSE "Hark The Herald Angels Sing" - *Blue Hymnal #31*
- AFFIRMATION OF FAITH
- 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
- OFFERING SONG "Jesus O What A Wonderful Child" - *Glory to God # 126*
- THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH
- SENDING SONG "Go Tell It On The Mountain" - *Blue Hymnal # 29*
- 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 "It's Beginning To Look A Lot Like Christmas"

Reflections on Today's Readings Isaiah 35:1-10 & Matthew 1:18-25

Isaiah writes to his people who walk in the darkness of banishment and exile, enduring cultural genocide, societal enslavement and oppression in the 8th century BCE. They have known a before and an after....before they lost their freedom and after. The poetry of oppression begun in chapter 34 of Isaiah turns to another before and after that we read today in chapter 35. Before there was wilderness – dry land – desert. After the intervention of the God who has seemed distant and absent where there was deathliness there will be a triad of fertility: Lebanon-Carmel-Sharon (the richest areas of agricultural fertility that the people knew in that day). Where before there were weak hands and feeble knees, there will be strength and well-being. Where there is no way out of the wilderness, God who is again visible active, available, and decisive, will make a way. This highway of divine deliverance and homecoming will transform aridness and drought into waters, streams, pools, and springs. God's vengeance will smite the wicked and right the wrongs suffered injustice, bringing justice into an oppressive world. Then where there is brokenness, disability, limitations, exclusion there the powers of death and dysfunction will be destroyed by the God-who-is-with-us, and life will be full, inclusive, and joyous.

As followers of the Way of Jesus we link this sign of God's presence and our homecoming into God's provision with the ministry of Jesus. Where Jesus us present the blind see, the deaf hear, the lame dance, the poor have good news brought to them (Luke 7:22). This is the child that Joseph is invited to adopt as his own and raise without fear, going against the old, stuck, hierarchical structures of society; open to the holy disruptions through which God is making all things new.

There will be left no trace of the old sorrow of displacement or the old sighs of dysfunction. It will be as Frederick Buechner concludes: "Joy is home...God created us in joy and for joy, and in the long run not all the darkness there is in the world and in ourselves can separate us finally from that joy, because whatever else it means to say that God created us in his image, I think it means that even when we cannot believe in him, even when we feel most spiritually bankrupt and desert by him, his mark is deep within us. We have God's joy in our blood" (*The Longing for Home*, p 128).

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION & EXAMEN:

- What engaged, enraged, or surprised you in these texts?
- 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?

artwork "Attention" by Scott Erickson



December Birthdays

13 Lane Stahl
15 Janet Majors

14 Fredora Darmstadt
31 Gianelle Beatty 2011

Weekly Calendar

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

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.

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



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!

SING JAM :: SingJam Holiday Jam-a-ganza – TODAY -- Sun., Dec 11, 4:00 pm here in the sanctuary

Winter Solstice Labyrinth Walk: Wednesday, December 21 at Sunset (5-7pm) A chance to mark the longest night of the year – the return of the light by walking the labyrinth by candlelight.

Next Sunday – Dec 18th: We celebrate Christmas together on the 4th Sunday of Advent (next week) – come to church in your favorite Christmas Sweater ready for treats and sweets. We'll also be collecting our annual Change to Change Lives offering to participate in redemptive work among India's Dalit people through Witnessing Ministries for Christ.

Christmas Eve Celebration: Dec 24th at 7:00pm – candles, carols, chocolate & an instant pageant.

There is no church service on Sunday, Dec 25th.

Magi Fun for Littler Ones: The 3 magi are traveling around the sanctuary on the way to Bethlehem. If you find them tell Monte to get a prize!

Thank You to Today's Leadership:

Godly Play: Monte McClain

Liturgist: Marji Wilkens

Music: Pete Feltman, Dave Eagle, Ben Kramarz, & Roger Kim

Prayer Liturgist: Myrna Shadley

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

Love Has Come

*Words by Ken Bible Music: French Carol Melody, attr. to Saboly, 17th c., arr. by Ken Bible
© 1996 by LNWhymns.com. CCLI Song #2060820.
Glory To God #110*

1 Love has come, a light in the darkness!
Love explodes in the Bethlehem skies.
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it.
Hear how their song of joy arises:
Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior!
Love! Love! Glory to God on high!

2. Love is born! Come share in the wonder.
Love is God now asleep in the hay.
See the glow in the eyes of His mother.
What is the name her heart is saying?
Love! Love! Love is the name she whispers.
Love! Love! Jesus, Immanuel.

3. Love has come, He never will leave us!
Love is life everlasting and free.
Love is Jesus within and among us.
Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.
Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas.
Love! Love! Praise to You, God on high!

Joy To The World

*Author: Isaac Watts (1719)
Tune: ANTIOCH (Handel)
The Blue Presbyterian Hymnal #40 | Glory to God #134*

1. Joy to the world the lord is come
Let earth receive her king
Let every heart prepare him room
And heaven and nature sing
And heaven and nature sing
And heaven and heaven and nature sing

2. Joy to the world the Savior reigns
Let us, our songs employ
While fields and floods, rocks, hills,
and plains repeat the sounding joy
Repeat the sounding, repeat, repeat the sounding joy

Continued in the next column...

3. No more let sins and sorrows grow,
nor thorns infest the ground
He comes to make His blessings flow
far as the curse is found
Far as the curse is found, far as,
far as the curse is found

4. He rules the world with truth
and grace and makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love
And wonders of this love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

Hark! the herald angels sing

*Alterer: George Whitefield; Author: Charles Wesley (1739)
Tune: MENDELSSOHN (51171)
Glory to God #119 | The Blue Presbyterian Hymnal #31*

1 Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King.
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic host proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Refrain:

Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"

2 Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ the everlasting Lord!
Late in time, behold Him come,
Offspring of the virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
Hail the incarnate Deity,
Pleased in flesh with us to dwell,
Jesus our Emmanuel.

3 Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings,
Risen with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by,
Born that we no more may die.
Born to raise us from the earth,
Born to give us second birth.

Affirmation of Faith

An affirmation of faith offered for the Third Sunday of Advent in the liturgy that we're using from A Sanctified Art.

PEOPLE:

We believe

**in a God who offers second chances
and does not hold grudges.**

We believe

**in a God who opens the door to new life
and leaves the porch light on for us
when we get lost.**

We believe

**in a God who believes in us—
believes that we can make a difference,
that we can choose grace over comparison,
love over hate,
peace over war.**

And so,

we strive to live our lives in love.

**We strive to listen as Joseph listened,
and to be the people that God calls us to be.**

It's all that easy,

and it's all that hard.

This we believe.

Amen.

Jesus, Jesus, oh, what a wonderful child

Author: Margaret Allison (1950)

Tune: WONDERFUL CHILD

Glory to God #126

Jesus, Jesus, O what a wonderful child.
Jesus, Jesus, so holy, meek and mild;
new life, new hope the child will bring.

Listen to the angels sing:

"Glory, glory, glory!"

Let the heavens ring.

Go Tell It On The Mountain

Adapter: John W. Work

Tune: GO TELL IT

- Glory to God # 136

Blue Presbyterian Hymnal #29

1. Go tell it on the mountain
over the hills and everywhere
Go tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born
While shepherds kept their watching
O'er' silent flocks by night
Behold throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light

2. Go tell it on the mountain
over the hills and everywhere
Go tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born
The shepherds feared and trembled
when lo! Above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus t
hat hailed our savior's birth

3. Go tell it on the mountain
over the hills and everywhere
Go tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born
Down in a lowly manger
the humble Christ was born
And God sent us salvation
that blessed Christmas morn
Go tell it on the mountain
over the hills and everywhere
Go tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born

NEXT WEEK – 12/18

