

College Avenue Presbyterian Church
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FROM
 GENERATION
 TO GENERATION...
We see God in each other

The Fourth Sunday of Advent
 December 18, 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 "Little Drummer Boy"

GATHERING SONG "In Bethlehem A Newborn Boy" - *Glory To God # 153*

CALL TO WORSHIP LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

SONG OF PRAISE "What Child Is This" - *Blue Hymnal #53*
 COLLECTION OF THE CHANGE TO CHANGE LIVES OFFERING

HEARING GOD'S WORD

LISTENING TO SCRIPTURE Luke 1:39-58

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD "Mary's Secret Sauce" - *Monte McClain*

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

SONG OF RESPONSE "Mary Did You Know?" - *insert*

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 "Raise A Song Of Gladness" - *Glory to God # 155*

THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

SENDING SONG "Rise Up Shepherd And Follow" - *Blue Hymnal # 50*

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 "Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas"

Reflections on Today's Readings Luke 1:39-58



Today's text makes clear how the stories of Elizabeth and her cousin Mary are interconnected. As they encounter each other it's as if the earth trembles and the clouds part, making clear what God is up to in the world. They spend months together as the babies in their wombs mature and their hope gestates in conversation and shared prayer.

Luke has Mary proclaim her "Magnificat" – or song of faith inspired and shaped by Hebrew women who sang of God bringing down rulers from their thrones and humbles lords of this world such as Deborah, Judith, Miriam, and Hannah. Mary's song is a passionate, proud, and powerful proclamation of the revolutionary God who loves her; the One who lifts up those deemed small and unimportant in the eyes of the world; who glorifies the disenfranchised facing shame, gossip. In the first half of the song (v.46-49) Mary reflects on what God has done for her. The second (v.50-55) is what God has done throughout history. Mary has learned from scripture, from the stories of those who came before and served God. She was ready and able to experience it herself, to enter into God's will for the world.



Theologians have long seen in Mary the reversal of Eve, who in the story of Genesis 2-3 exalts herself, grasping at equality with God by eating from the forbidden tree. Mary is poor in spirit, robed in humility and "being obedient she became the cause of salvation for herself and for the whole human race" (Irenaeus 130-202 AD)

Mary knows that the strength of God is shown to those who are faithful to God's word. And so, she entrusts herself to God despite the fear of rejection, gossip, shame, and despair that she faces. She waits in her humble state, for God to act. In this way she becomes and is known as the *Theotokos* (Θεοτόκος) translated as "Mother of God" or "God-bearer". She makes God and God's way of peace visible to others through her humble obedience that refuses to envision faith as a spectator sport. She bears God to us.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION & EXAMEN:

- What engaged, enraged, or surprised you in these texts?
- How does it intersect with your life today?
- 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 "Virgin Mary and Eve" by Scott Erickson, original by Sr. Grace Remington,
OSCO © 2005, Sisters of the Mississippi Abbey

December Birthdays

15 Janet Majors

31 Gianelle Beatty 2011

Today at & around CAPC Oakland

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.

Change to Change Lives: Today we're collecting our annual Change to Change Lives offering to participate in redemptive work among India's Dalit people through Witnessing Ministries for Christ.

This Week at & around CAPC Oakland

Community Bible Study (Wrestling with Scripture) We meet for discussion around the text for the week on Tuesdays at 7p on Zoom. Tuesday we're wrestling with Luke 2:1-20



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.

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!

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

Christmas & New Year's Day are both Sundays

There is no church service on Sunday, Dec 25th. Find a video devotion you can experience on your own on our website under "WORSHIP ON THE GO"

Sunday, January 1st we're having a ZOOM only service at 10:30am. Call in like you do for regular Sundays.

Thank You to Today's Leadership:

Godly Play: Monte McClain

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

In Bethlehem A Newborn Boy

*Rosamond E. Herklots (1969, alt.)
Glory to God #153 purple*

1. In Bethlehem a newborn boy was hailed with song of praise and joy.
Then warning came of danger near:
King Herod's troops would soon appear.
2. The soldiers sought the child in vain: not yet was he to share our pain; but down the ages rings the cry of those who saw their children die.
3. Still rage the fires of hate today, and innocents the price must pay, while aching hearts in every land cry out, "We cannot understand!"
4. Lord Jesus, through our night of loss shines out the wonder of your cross, the love that cannot cease to bear our human anguish everywhere.
5. May that great love our lives control and conquer hate in every soul, till, pledge to build and not destroy, we share your pain and find your joy.

What Child Is This

*Author: W. Chatterton Dix (1871)
Tune: GREENSLEEVEES
Glory to God #145*

1. What child is this, who, laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary!

2 Why lies he in such mean estate
where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
the silent Word is pleading.

...
(continued in the next column)

Nails, spear, shall pierce him through;
the cross be borne for me, for you.
Hail, hail, the Word made flesh,
the babe, the son of Mary!

3. So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;
come, one and all, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high.
The virgin sings her lullaby.
Joy, joy, for Christ is born,
the babe, the son of Mary!

Mary Did You Know?

*Author: Mark Lowry
Words © 1991 Word Music and Rufus Music*

Mary, did you know that your baby boy
Would one day walk on water?
Mary, did you know that your baby boy
Would save our sons and daughters?
Did you know that your baby boy
Has come to make you new?
This child that you delivered, will soon deliver you

Mary, did you know that your baby boy
Will give sight to a blind man?
Mary, did you know that your baby boy
Will calm the storm with his hand?

Did you know that your baby boy
Has walked where angels trod?
When you kiss your little baby
You kiss the face of God

Mary, did you know?
Mary, did you know?
Mary, did you know? Did you know?
Mary, did you know? Mary, did you know?
Mary, did you know? Mary, did you know?
Mary, did you know? Mary, did you know?

The blind will see, the deaf will hear
The dead will live again
The lame will leap, the dumb will speak
The praises of the Lamb

...
(continued on the back of the page)

Mary, did you know that your baby boy
Is Lord of all creation?
Mary, did you know that your baby boy
Would one day rule the nations?
Did you know that your baby boy
Is heaven's perfect Lamb?
That sleeping child you're holding is the great, I Am

Mary, did you know? (Mary, did you know?)
Mary, did you know? (Mary, did you know?)
Mary, did you know? Oh

Affirmation of Faith

*Prayer by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC |
sanctifiedart.org*

PEOPLE:

We believe

that creation is inextricably linked.
We belong to one another in an undeniable way.
We are bone of bone and flesh of flesh,
life breathed into dust.

We believe that God invites us
to live into that truth—
to love without abandon,
to see the good in one another,
to trust that all belong to God.

We know that this life of connection
is easier said than done,
which is why we gather in this space,
week after week,
generation after generation,
to be reminded:

We see God in each other.
This we believe.
Amen.

Raise A Song Of Gladness

Taizé Community (1978)

Composer Jacques Berthier (1978)

© 1979 Les Presses de Taizé || Glory to God #155

English:

Raise a song of gladness, peoples of the earth.
Christ has come, bringing peace, joy to ev'ry heart.
Alleluia, alleluia, joy to ev'ry heart!
Alleluia, alleluia, joy to ev'ry heart!

Latin:

Jubilate Deo omni terra.
Servite Domino in laetitia.
Alleluia, alleluia, in laetitia!
Alleluia, alleluia, in laetitia!

Rise Up Shepherd And Follow

Traditional Spiritual

Glory to God #135

The Presbyterian Hymnal #50

1 There's a star in the east on Christmas morn.
Rise up, shepherd, and follow.
It will lead to the place where the Christ was born.
Rise up, shepherd, and follow.

Refrain

Follow, follow;
rise up, shepherd, and follow.
Follow the star of Bethlehem.
Rise up, shepherd, and follow.

2 If you take good heed to the angel's words,
rise up, shepherd, and follow.
You'll forget your flocks, you'll forget your herds.
Rise up, shepherd, and follow.

[Refrain]



artwork "Attention" by Scott Erickson,