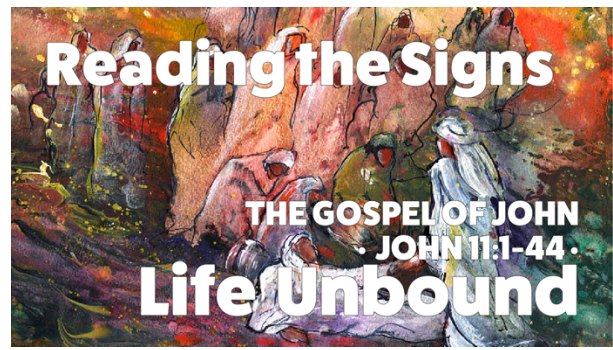


College Avenue Presbyterian Church  
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 Pastor Monte: Cell 510.520.0746  
 montemcclain@gmail.com



March 13, 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 we'll get better at each time we gather, allowing 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.

**VIRTUAL WORSHIP  
 THIS MONTH**

Due to the Omicron Surge in Covid transmission we are meeting virtually through mid-February to keep everyone safe and community spread of COVID at bay. You're invited to participate in worship via CHAT function and the open audio channel after service.

**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.'

CCL #1137062.

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

- PRELUDE "Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley"
- GATHERING SONG "O Freedom"
- CALL TO WORSHIP
- SONG OF PRAISE "There Is A Redeemer"
- HEARING GOD'S WORD
- LISTENING TO SCRIPTURE John 11:1-44
- PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD "Life Unbound" - Rev. Monte McClain
- RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD
- AFFIRMATION OF FAITH The Brief Statement of Faith
- SONG OF RESPONSE "Healer Of Our Every Ill"
- 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  
 "Nobody Knows The Trouble I See"
- THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH
- SENDING SONG "There Ain't No Grave"
- 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 (Ukrainian)  
 "Мир Христа" pronounced [Mwir Hryrsta]  
*In the season of a pandemic new normal, you're invited to pass the peace of God however and to whoever you can this day as we live our lives of disciples of Jesus sheltering-in-place, as a living sign of the Dominion of God at work moving us toward the healing transformation of the world.*
- POSTLUDE "That's Life"

## Reflections on Today's Readings John 11:1-44

Today's story is unique to the gospel of John. It also holds a unique place in the way that John tells the story of Jesus. For we're told in John 11:45-53 – that it's because of the resurrection healing of Lazarus that the religious leaders ultimately decide to seek the death of Jesus in order to silence him.

John began the gospel with a retelling of the Genesis story of creation as a creative conversation between God and the *Logos*: the eternal word or essence from which all was made according to Greek Philosophy which was the dominant world-view at this time. This "story of the creative conversation in the word and person of Jesus is structured around 7 signs – the word that John uses for miracle. They continue the word of God in Genesis during the seven days of Creation. It would be difficult to tell these stories without conveying some sense of wonder that we're being let in on something extraordinary, a realization that these signs are evidence that God is still at work in creation and isn't just its Maintenance Engineer." (Eugene Peterson)

The miracles, or signs, inspire some to faith and wondering, incite others to anger and hate. "All Jesus' miracles are signs of what he is and what he has come to give humanity, but in none of them does the sign more closely approach the reality than in the gift of life. The physical life that Jesus gives to Lazarus is still not in the realm of the life from above, but it is so close to that realm that it may be said to conclude the ministry of signs and inaugurate the ministry of glory. (These are the two sub-books that make up John according to the dominant hermeneutical theories. The book of Signs ends with today's passage, which opens then on the Book of glory in Chapter 12)." – Raymond E. Brown, *The Gospel of John* Vol. 1.

Jesus' giving of life is what leads to his death. Maybe it's the cost for the life that he gives?; a life abundant that the world cannot give, nor understand. Lazarus, once back to life from the dead, was he afraid of death or threats of death by his adversaries? Was he unbound to a new form of life, a new dynamic of freedom, truth-telling, mercy-giving, service-of-others-doing?

Today's sign summarizes everything about Jesus. He's moved by great love – intense emotion – at the news of the death of his friend. He struggles, labors, and intercedes for his life. And Lazarus is delivered from what the psalmists poetically call the snares of death. The ultimate enemy is overcome, bankrupted, defeated. What does life look like in such freedom?

### QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION & EXAMEN:

- What engaged you, enraged you, or surprised you in the text?
- What is the miraculous sign in this story?
- How does this story, or this sign, speak to our life and world today?
- 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?

## March Birthdays

12 Kristy McClain      17 Louise Hirschman  
24 Marda Stothers      28 Lucian Haynes

## March Anniversaries

10 Richard and Marge Harvey 2011

## Weekly Calendar

**We have re-started In-person worship.** For those who come in person we will continue the previously practiced protocol. You can find info about it in the entryway

**Today - 3:00-4:30pm Global Missions Gathering.** Bright and Remya David will share about the South Indian church. Meeting at the home of Marda Stothers 2600 Warring St. Berkeley | 510.540.7173

**Connection Calls** Mondays & Fridays 12-12:30pm a time for holy conversation (Mondays) and the practice of Lectio Divina (Fridays). On our regular Zoom channel.

**Race Matters Group Mondays - 6pm on Zoom** Monday 6-7pm - talking about how we talk about how race matters to and in how we articulate our faith in Jesus. We're sharing our own written confessions of Faith nourished by our sharing together. Find info at [www.capcoakland.org/race-matters](http://www.capcoakland.org/race-matters)

### SPECIAL LENT ACTIVITIES & PROGRAMS

**Atonement Theories – Tuesdays at 7pm on Zoom.** Talking about why Jesus had to die and what his death means today.

**Journey Group Gatherings – various times during the week.** Signup for a small group centered around spiritual practices and sharing. [www.capcoakland.org/lent](http://www.capcoakland.org/lent)

**Friday Night Meal – Friday, March 19<sup>th</sup> 6:00-7:00PM.** Our partners of Montclair Presbyterian are cooking. Sign up online to help with set-up and serving, and clean-up.

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

**Godly Play** Sundays 9:30-10am on Zoom

**Thank you to Today's Leadership:**  
Garden Party Food: Gloria Lim  
Godly Play: Monte McClain  
Music: Pete Feltman, D Eagle, B Karmar, R Kim  
Preaching: Monte McClain  
Video Tech: Dann Wilkens, Albert Hussian,

## 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.*

### “O Freedom”

*African-American spiritual  
African American Heritage Hymnal #545*

1. O freedom, O freedom  
O freedom over me (over me)

*Chorus*

And before I'd be a slave  
I'd be buried in my grave  
And go home to see my lord and be free

2. No more moaning  
No more moaning  
No more moaning over me

3. No more crying  
No more crying  
No more crying over me

4. There'll be singing  
There'll be singing  
There'll be singing over me

### Call to Worship

*Structured around the 7 “I Am” Statements of Jesus in John's Gospel.*

One: One: Jesus says: “I am the bread of life.” (John 6:35, 41, 48, 51)

**ALL: We come God hungry for a word to orient and dynamize our daily life.**

One: Jesus says: “I am the light of the world.” (John 8:12)

**ALL: We come God to you in the darkness and confusion of our world, looking for illumination, spiritual guidance and radical guru to teach us.**

One: Jesus says: “I am the door of the sheep.” (John 10:7,9)

**ALL: Holy One in this time of pandemic and war, economic dislocation and physical isolation we look to you for guidance, wholeness and peace.**

One: Jesus says: “I am the resurrection and the life.” (John 11:25)

**ALL: Lord of Life in the swirling of ideas and ideologies, marketing slogans and propaganda we yearn for clarity about life and how our life matters in you.**

One: Jesus says: “I am the good shepherd.” (John 10:11, 14)

**ALL: Gentle Healer, we are here, choosing to be part of your fold, the circle of life, you knit together.**

One: Jesus says: “I am the way, the truth, and the life.” (John 14:6)

**ALL: Light of the World, open our hearts and minds that we might glimpse and join into what God is already doing in our world.**

One: Jesus says: “I am the true vine.” (John 15:1, 5)

**ALL: Jehovah Jireh, the God who heals, we connect ourselves to the life that flows from you by pledging to walk with one another.  
Come, Teach us the Way.**

### “There Is A Redeemer”

*Author: Melody Green  
Glory to God #443*

There is a redeemer  
Jesus God's own Son  
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah,  
Holy One

Jesus my redeemer  
Name above all names  
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah  
Oh for sinners slain

*(chorus)*

Thank you Oh my Father  
For giving us your Son  
and leaving your spirit till  
The work on earth is done

When I stand in glory  
I will see His face  
There I'll serve my King forever  
In that Holy place

## “Healer Of Our Every Ill”

Marty Haugen | Glory to God #795

© 1987, GIA Publications, Inc.

*Refrain:*

Healer of our every ill,  
light of each tomorrow,  
give us peace beyond our fear,  
and hope beyond our sorrow.

1 You who know our fears and sadness,  
grace us with your peace and gladness;  
Spirit of all comfort, fill our hearts.

2 In the pain and joy beholding  
how your grace is still unfolding,  
give us all your vision, God of love.

3 Give us strength to love each other,  
every sister, every brother;  
Spirit of all kindness, be our guide.

4 You who know each thought and feeling,  
teach us all your way of healing;  
Spirit of compassion, fill each heart.

## “Nobody Knows The Trouble I See”

*Rare Version | Traditional Spiritual*

Nobody knows the trouble I see Lord  
Nobody knows the trouble I see  
Nobody knows the trouble I see Lord  
Nobody knows like Jesus

1. Mothers will you pray for me  
Mothers will you pray for me  
Mothers will you pray for me  
An help me to drive ol Satan away

2. (Brothers)...

3.

4. (Sisters) ....

## “There Aint No Grave”

*Don Moen*

*Refrain*

There ain't no grave Can hold my body down  
There ain't no grave Can hold my body down  
When I hear that trumpet sound I'm gonna rise  
right out of the ground  
Ain't no grave Can hold my body down

1. Well, look way down the river  
And what do you think I see  
I see a band of angels  
And they're coming after me  
Ain't no grave Can hold my body down

2. Well, look down yonder, Gabriel  
Put your feet on the land and sea  
But Gabriel, don't you blow your trumpet  
Until you hear from me  
There aint no grave can hold my body down

3. Well meet me, Jesus, meet me  
Meet me in the middle of the air  
And if these wings don't fail me  
I will meet you anywhere  
There aint no grave can hold my body down

**PREFACE TO  
A BRIEF STATEMENT OF FAITH  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)**

In 1983 the two largest Presbyterian churches in the United States reunited. *The Plan for Reunion* called for the preparation of a brief statement of the Reformed faith for possible inclusion in the *Book of Confessions*. This statement is therefore not intended to stand alone, apart from the other confessions of our church. It does not pretend to be a complete list of all our beliefs, nor does it explain any of them in detail. It is designed to be confessed by the whole congregation in the setting of public worship, and it may also serve pastors and teachers as an aid to Christian instruction. It celebrates our rediscovery that for all our undoubted diversity, we are bound together by a common faith and a common task.

The faith we confess unites us with the one, universal church. The most important beliefs of Presbyterians are those we share with other Christians, and especially with other evangelical Christians who look to the Protestant Reformation as a renewal of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Diversity remains. But we are thankful that in our time the many churches are learning to accept, and even to affirm, diversity without divisiveness, since the whole counsel of God is more than the wisdom of any individual or any one tradition. The Spirit of Truth gives new light to the churches when they are willing to become pupils together of the Word of God. This statement therefore intends to confess the catholic faith.

No confession of faith looks merely to the past; every confession seeks to cast the light of a priceless heritage on the needs of the present moment, and so to shape the future. Reformed confessions, in particular, when necessary even reform the tradition itself in the light of the Word of God. From the first, the Reformed churches have insisted that the renewal of the church must become visible in the transformation of human lives and societies. Hence "A Brief Statement of Faith" lifts up concerns that call most urgently for the church's attention in our time. The church is not a refuge from the world; an elect people is chosen for the blessing of the nations. A sound confession, therefore, proves itself as it nurtures commitment to the church's mission, and as the confessing church itself becomes the body by which Christ continues the blessing of his earthly ministry.

**THE BRIEF STATEMENT OF FAITH**

1 In life and in death we belong to God.  
2 Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
3 the love of God,  
4 and the communion of the Holy Spirit,  
5 we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel,  
6 whom alone we worship and serve.

7 We trust in Jesus Christ,  
8 fully human, fully God.  
9 God raised this Jesus from the dead,

10 vindicating his sinless life,  
11 breaking the power of sin and evil,  
12 delivering us from death to life eternal.

13 We trust in God,  
14 whom Jesus called Abba, Father.  
15 Despite our faithlessness, God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation.  
16 In everlasting love,  
17 the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people  
18 to bless all families of the earth.  
19 Loving us still,  
20 God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant.  
21 Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child,  
22 like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home,  
23 God is faithful still.

52 We trust in God the Holy Spirit  
53 everywhere the giver and renewer of life.  
54 The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith,  
55 sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor,  
56 and binds us together with all believers  
57 in the one body of Christ, the Church.  
58 The same Spirit  
59 who inspired the prophets and apostles  
60 rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture,  
61 engages us through the Word proclaimed,  
62 claims us in the waters of baptism,  
63 feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation,  
64 and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church.  
65 In a broken and fearful world  
66 the Spirit gives us courage  
67 to pray without ceasing,  
68 to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,  
69 to unmask idolatries in Church and culture,  
70 to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,  
71 and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.  
72 In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,  
73 we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks  
74 and to live holy and joyful lives,  
75 even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth,  
76 praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

77 With believers in every time and place,  
78 we rejoice that nothing in life or in death  
79 can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.  
80 Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.