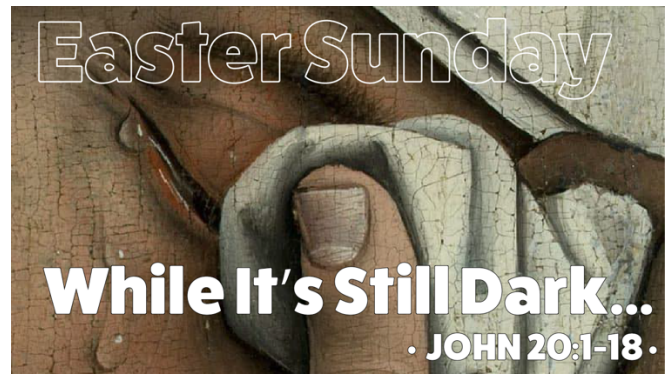


College Avenue Presbyterian Church  
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April 17, 2022 • Easter Sunday  
 at 10:30am in Person & on Zoom

**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.

**HYBRID WORSHIP**

Our Church leadership has made the decision to 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.'

CCL #1137062.

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

PRELUDE "For the Beauty of the Earth"

ARRIVAL OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

ENTRANCE OF THE CROSS

ENTRANCE SONG "Jesus Christ Is Risen Today" - Blue Hymnal #123

*We invite all those present this morning, who have experienced bereavement and loss to death this past pandemic season, to come forward and form a Circle of Hope around the Cross. Together we will symbolically lay our burdens before the Cross: God's ultimate word on loss, as we live the mystery of life.*

CALL TO WORSHIP

SONG OF PRAISE "Praise Ye The Lord"

HEARING GOD'S WORD

LISTENING TO SCRIPTURE John 20:1-18 - Sharon Nelson

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD "While It's Still Dark..." - Rev. Monte McClain

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

SONG OF RESPONSE "Christ Is Risen"

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 "Jesus Our Divine Companion"

THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

SENDING SONG "O Happy Day"

SENDING CALL AND RESPONSE

Leader: God is good! **People: All the time!** Leader: And all the time!  
**People: God is good!**

EXHORTATION & BENEDICTION

PASSING THE PEACE OF GOD (Ukrainian)

"Мир Христа" pronounced [Mwir Hryrsta]  
 "Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen indeed!"

*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 "How Great Thou Art"

## Reflections on Today's Readings John 20:1-18

The gospel of John is one of four Biblical narratives telling the story of Jesus. Written in ancient Greek, it includes significant metaphor, poetry, and references to ancient Greek Philosophy. It's because of this theological development that most scholars believe it was the last of the four gospel stories of the life of Jesus to be written down. Each of the gospels tell the story of the Resurrection of Jesus, but do so differently, as four different people who witnessed the same accident might describe it.

One of the oldest meanings of the word "religion" is "to bind together," that which connects God with us and us with each other. Today a majority of people describe themselves as "spiritual but not religious." Sometimes critics decry spirituality as individualism. Spirituality is personal. Think of when you're overcome by the wonder of the presence of God in nature, in life events, or in reflection. The problem is that, in the last two centuries, religion has actually allowed itself to become privatized. In the same way that our political and economic concerns contracted from "we" to "me," so has our sense of God and faith. In many quarters, religion abandoned a prophetic and creative vision for humanity's common life in favor of an individual quest to get one's sorry ass to heaven. And in the process, community became isolated behind the walls of buildings where worship experiences corresponded to members' tastes and preferences and confirmed their political views. *(quoted from p. 237 of Grounded by Diana Butler Bass).*

Mary comes early to the tomb. The sabbath day of rest has ended. Now it's permitted to come to the tomb to finish the embalming work for the body of Jesus. Bound to her tradition, she expresses her love for Jesus as teacher and friend by caring for him in this last possible way. Having been forever transformed by his teaching and friendship, having lived for him, she comes to show her total respect, gratitude, and love. In her shock of not finding the body where it should be, she runs to those to whom she's been bound by her existential choices and confession of faith. She returns to her community, those with whom she is in communion (a relationship of mutual sharing of gifts and interdependence). Rev. Dr. King Jr referred to such communion as "our inescapable network of mutuality" in which we all live. It's not a theory. It's the reality that Jesus invites us to. It's the reality made aggressively real in his death and resurrection, his life-giving love that overcomes evil with good. In his life, death and resurrection, Jesus makes plain what we take for granted: we are not alone.

The deepest sense of life is realized when we serve others, out of empathy, in compassion, learning to love our neighbor as God first loves us. Maybe escaping the death star magnetism of our own egos and the pull of our selfie-culture is what resurrection life is all about....learning to live, realizing that maybe we weren't fully alive.

### QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION & EXAMEN:

- What engaged you, enraged you, or surprised you in this story?
- How do you identify with the hope that keeps Mary moving even in her despair? How do you long for such hope in our own life 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?

## April Birthdays

20 Kelechi Okereke


## Weekly Calendar


### THIS MORNING...


**Post Service Garden Party!** Join us for light snacks and the chance to connect and chat outside in the garden! Much thanks to the Women's Group for hosting us today!

**Easter Egg Hunt -- today after our gathering for Kids!** We have baskets for kids to use in the hunt for eggs and other goodies! Details TBA during our gathering.

**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 – 6-7 pm on Zoom .** We gather together to talk about race matters and how race matters in our lives of faith. Currently on vacation, meeting again on 4/25. 

**Blessing Bags – Friday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> 5:00-5:45PM.** We pass out new underclothes and toiletries to the unsheltered. You can volunteer or give to support our efforts! 

**Friday Night Meal – Friday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> 6:00-7:00PM.** Bright & Remya David are preparing a chicken curry meal that we'll serve. Help us respond to the hungry of Oakland by signing up online to help with set-up serving, and clean-up – this - or any Friday! 

**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

**Thank you to Today's Leadership:**  
Garden-Party Hosts: The Women's Group  
Godly Play: Beth Beatty  
Music: Pete Feltman, Tom Beyer, (Bass)  
Dave Eagle (Drums), Macgregor Munson (Banjo), Will Tacher (Guitar)  
Prayer Liturgist: Myrna Shadley  
Preaching: Monte McClain  
Reader: Sharon Nelson  
Video Tech: 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.*

### “Jesus Christ Is Risen Today ”

*Charles Wesley (1740)  
Blue Hymnal #123*

1 Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!  
Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!  
Who did once, upon the cross, Alleluia!  
Suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!

2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!  
Unto Christ, our heavenly King, Alleluia!  
Who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!  
Sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!

3 But the pains which He endured, Alleluia!  
Our salvation have procured; Alleluia!  
Now above the sky He's king, Alleluia!  
Where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!

4 Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!  
Praise eternal as God's love; Alleluia!  
Praise our God, ye heavenly host, Alleluia!  
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!

### Call to Worship

*Litany from Isaiah 40 & 43*

One: But now, says the Lord—  
the one who created you,  
the one who formed you in the divine image,  
**ALL: Don't fear, for I have redeemed you;  
I have called you by name; you are mine.**

One: When you pass through the waters,  
I will be with you;  
**ALL: when you pass through the rivers,  
they won't sweep over you.**

One: When you walk through the fire,  
you won't be scorched  
and flame won't burn you.  
**ALL: I am the Lord your God.**

Continued in the next colukmn....

One: Do not fear when war thunders,  
and famine rumbles,

**ALL: Even when more than six million die  
from COVID around the world,**

One: When depression rages among your young  
and inflation puts your seniors at dis-ease,

**ALL: Even in the hard-to-pierce darkness,  
when you struggle to see the way forward,**

One: I will go before you  
to make the rough ground level,

**ALL: So that you might walk together  
in the Way of God's mercy and peace.**

### “Praise Ye The Lord Hallelujah”

*J. Jefferson Cleveland (1981)  
Glory to God #633*

*chorus*

Praise ye the lord Hallelujah  
Everybody praise the Lord  
Everybody praise the Lord 2x

1. Praise God with the sound of the trumpet  
Praise God with the lute and the harp  
Praise God with timbrel and dancing  
Praise God wherever you are

*chorus*

2. Praise God with holy cymbals  
Praise God with strings and pipes  
Praise God with clashing cymbals  
Praise God with all of your might

*chorus*

3. Praise God in the holy temple  
Praise God for almighty deeds  
Praise God for those bountiful mercies  
For God fulfills our needs

*chorus*

4. Praise God on top of the mountains  
Praise God both day and night  
Praise God down in the low valleys  
Praise God because it's alright

*chorus*

## “Christ Is Risen”

John Bell and Graham Maule

© 1988, 1996 WGRG, admin. GIA Publications, Inc.,

1. Christ has risen while earth slumbers,  
Christ has risen where hope died,  
as he said and as he promised,  
as we doubted and denied.  
Let the moon embrace the blessing;  
let the sun sustain the cheer;  
let the world confirm the rumor.  
Christ is risen, God is here!

2. Christ has risen for the people  
whom he loved and died to save;  
Christ has risen for the women  
bringing flowers to grace his grave  
Christ has risen for disciples  
huddled in an upstairs room.  
He whose word inspired creation  
is not silenced by the tomb.

3. Christ has risen to companion  
former friends who fear the night,  
sensing loss and limitation  
where their faith had once burned bright.  
They bemoan what is no longer,  
they expect no hopeful sign  
till Christ ends their conversation,  
breaking bread and sharing wine.

4. Christ has risen and forever  
lives to challenge and to change  
all whose lives are messed or mangled,  
all who find religion strange.  
Christ is risen. Christ is present  
making us what he has been –  
evidence of transformation  
in which God is known and seen.

## “Jesus Our Divine Companion”

Henry Van Dyke (1909; alt.)

The Blue Presbyterian Hymnal #305

1. Jesus our divine companion  
by Your lowly human birth  
You have come to join the workers  
burden bearers of the earth  
You the carpenter of Nazareth  
toiling for Your daily food  
By Your patience and Your courage  
You have taught us work is good

2. Where the many toil together  
there you are among Your own  
Where the solitary labor  
You are there with them alone  
You the peace that passes knowledge  
dwelling in the daily strife  
You the bread of heaven  
are broken in the sacrament of life

## “O Happy Day”

a 1967 gospel music arrangement of the 1755 hymn  
by clergyman Philip Doddridge.

Recorded by the Edwin Hawkins Singers,  
it became an international hit in 1969,

Oh happy day (oh happy day)  
Oh happy day (oh happy day)  
When Jesus washed (when Jesus washed)  
When Jesus washed (when Jesus washed)  
When Jesus washed (when Jesus washed)  
He washed my sins away (Oh happy day)  
Oh happy day (oh happy day)

He taught me how to walk,  
fight, and pray, fight and pray  
And live rejoicing every day,  
every day

