

College Avenue Presbyterian Church
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April 24, 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.

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

"My Tribute"

GATHERING SONG

"Halle, Halle, Halle"

- *Glory to God #591*

CALL TO WORSHIP

SONG OF PRAISE

"Thine Is The Glory"

- *Blue Hymnal #122*

HEARING GOD'S WORD

LISTENING TO SCRIPTURE

John 20:19-31

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

"Oh Me of Little Faith"

- *Rev. Monte McClain*

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

SONG OF RESPONSE

"Doubting Thomas"

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

"You Have Come Up to The Lakeshore" - *Blue Hymnal # 377*

THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

SENDING SONG

"Peace Like A River"

- *Blue Hymnal #368*

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]

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

"St Thomas"

Reflections on Today's Readings John 20:19-31

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.

Today's selection of two encounters with the resurrected Jesus is seemingly about faith and doubt. We tend to think that they're the opposite of each other. But biblically speaking it seems more like certitude and self-sufficiency are the opposites of faith. Not doubt.

Webster's dictionary defines "certitude" as "Freedom from doubt, especially in matters of faith." This misunderstanding of faith often translates to the sentiment, "If I have faith, I will have no doubts and will have an answer to all of life's questions, the problems I experience, and the issues in the world." But anyone who has live and believed knows that's impossible. Faith is about our relationship with God. The more we mature, the more we tend to realize that we know less than we thought we did, and the fewer things we become absolutely certain about even in the Christian life

The opposite of faith also seems not be doubt (wether you question Gods' ability or existence entirely), but instead self-sufficiency ... Although the Bible tells us that faith isn't the result of hard work or diligence because it is a gift from God (Ephesians 2:8-9), it also tells us that God rewards those who seek his ways (Hebrews 11:6), and both blesses and guides those who focus and listen to his Word (Matthew 7:24).

Looking closer at today's story about doubting Thomas we see that it's maybe less about Thomas than about all of us, and maybe less about doubt than the challenge to believe and trust without the certitude of seeing with your own eyes what the scriptures talk about. Thomas seems to be a dolt, and yet he's actually just really human. We tend to believe that seeing is believing; yet these two encounters with Jesus imply that believing (or trusting) is about being a new creation, a process that leads to continual re-creation and growth, to expanded vision, understanding and self-awareness.

Some of my writing comes from two blog posts at <https://www.ctsnet.edu/the-opposite-of-faith-is-certitude> & <https://www.ourgodgivenmission.com/opposite-faith-not-doubt/>

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION & EXAMEN:

- What engaged you, enraged you, or surprised you in this story?
- What does it mean that the disciples could see and touch the wounds of Jesus?
- We often think of this story as being about the opposition between seeing and touching. But in fact the main contrast is between seeing and coming to faith. How does that speak to you?
- The word Believe (πιστεύω in the text) means "to believe, as in have confidence in...or be persuaded in... It also means to have faith in, and to put one's trust in." What relationship do you see between seeing – believing – and having new life?
- 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?

Weekly Calendar

THIS MORNING...

Post Service Garden Party! Join us for light snacks and the chance to connect and chat outside in the garden!

Deacons Meeting – after our gathering today

Pete Feltman is heading off for 3 weeks of vacation! Be sure to say goodbye, wishing him rest & fun as he visits family in Iowa.

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.



Presbyteri-WHAT? – Thursday, April 28th 6:00pm on Zoom. A new 4-week class in May on what it means to be a church member and to be Presbyterian.



Session Meeting – Thursday, April 28th 7:00pm on Zoom.

Blessing Bags – Friday, April 29th 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 29th 6:00-7:00PM. We're looking for Someone to cook! 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!



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: Myrna Shadley
Godly Play: Beth Beatty
Music: Pete Feltman, Dave Eagle (Drums),
Ben Kramarz, Roger Kim
Prayer Liturgist: Myrna Shadley
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.

“Halle, Halle, Hallelujah”

Carribean

Halle, halle, halle --lujah!
Halle, halle, halle --lujah!
Halle, halle, halle --lujah!
Hallelujah, Hallelujah!

Hallelujah in Hebrew means – Praise Yahweh [GOD - /jah/]. It also is both a proclamation and a prayer.

Call to Worship

*~ written by Tim Graves and posted on LiturgyBits.
<https://liturgybits.wordpress.com>*

One: We gather as people on a journey.

**ALL: We believe & we have doubts,
we do good & we sin.**

**We are imperfect humans,
and still beloved by God.**

One: Love and grace. Hope and faith.
These are the essence of the one we call God.

**ALL: We seek forgiveness & grace from
the One and from those we've harmed.**

One: Assured of that grace,
we are ready to grow again.

**ALL: We yearn for a new way,
a new perspective,
and a clear path.**

One: Though we are full of trust
and full of doubt, we are here.

Speak to us, God!
Continue creating us!
**ALL: Inspire our hearts.
Enlighten our minds.
Guide our actions. Amen.**

“Thine Is The Glory”

*Translator: Richard Birch Hoyle; Author: Edmond Budry (1904)
The Blue Presbyterian Hymnal #122 | Glory to God #238*

1 Thine is the glory,
Risen, conquering Son;
Endless is the victory
Thou o'er death hast won.
Angels in bright raiment
Rolled the stone away,
Kept the folded grave clothes
Where Thy body lay.

Refrain:

Thine is the glory,
Risen, conquering Son;
Endless is the victory
Thou o'er death hast won.

2 Lo! Jesus meets us,
Risen from the tomb;
Lovingly He greets us,
Scatters fear and gloom.
Let the church with gladness
Hymns of triumph sing,
For the Lord now liveth;
Death hath lost its sting.

3 No more we doubt Thee,
Glorious Prince of life!
Life is naught without Thee;
Aid us in our strife.
Make us more than conquerors
Through Thy deathless love;
Bring us safe through Jordan
To Thy home above.

“Doubting Thomas”

Nickel Creek

1. What will be left when I've drawn my last breath,
Besides the folks I've met and the folks who know me,
Will I discover a soul saving love,
Or just the dirt above and below me,

Chorus

I'm a doubting Thomas,
I took a promise,
But I do not feel safe,
Oh me of little faith,

2. Sometimes I pray for a slap in the face,
Then I beg to be spared 'cause I'm a coward,
If there's a master of death I'll bet he's holding his
breath,
As I show the blind and tell the deaf about his power,

Chorus 2

I'm a doubting Thomas,
I can't keep my promises,
'Cause i don't know what's safe,
oh me of little faith

3. Can I be used to help others find truth,
When I'm scared I'll find proof that its a lie,
Can I be lead down a trail dropping bread crumbs,
That prove I'm not ready to die,

Bridge

Please give me time to decipher the signs,
Please forgive me for time that I've wasted,

Chorus 3

I'm a doubting Thomas,
I'll take your promise,
Though I know nothin's safe,
Oh me of little faith

“You Have Come Up to The Lakeshore”

© 1979 Cesáreo Gabaráin, OCP Publications
The Blue Presbyterian Hymnal #377

1. You have come up to the lakeshore
Looking neither for wise nor for wealthy
You only wanted that I should follow

Continued in the next column...

chorus

O Lord with Your eyes you have searched me
And while smiling You have called out my name
Now my boat's left on the shoreline behind me
Now with you I will seek other seas

2. You know that I own so little
In my boat there's no money nor weapons
You'll only find there my nets and my labor

3. You need the caring of my hands
Through my tiredness may others find resting
You need a love that just goes on loving

4. You who have fished other oceans
Ever longed for by souls that are waiting
My dear and good friend as thus You call me

“I've got peace like a river”

African American spiritual
The Presbyterian Hymnal #368
Glory to God #623

1 I've got peace like a river;
I've got peace like a river;
I've got peace like a river, in my soul.
I've got peace like a river;
I've got peace like a river;
I've got peace like a river, in my soul.

2 I've got joy like a fountain;
I've got joy like a fountain;
I've got joy like a fountain, in my soul.
I've got joy like a fountain;
I've got joy like a fountain;
I've got joy like a fountain, in my soul.

3 I've got love like an ocean;
I've got love like an ocean;
I've got love like an ocean, in my soul.
I've got love like an ocean;
I've got love like an ocean;
I've got love like an ocean, in my soul.