

College Avenue Presbyterian Church
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May 1, 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 your requests in the chat on ZOOM labeling it with 'prayer.'

CCL #1137062.

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

PRELUDE

GATHERING SONG "Gather Us In" - *Glory to God #591*

CALL TO WORSHIP

SONG OF PRAISE "Halle, Halle, Halle" - *Blue Hymnal #122*

HEARING GOD'S WORD

LISTENING TO SCRIPTURE Luke 7:18-35

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD "Struggling to see What's Right in Front of Us"
 - *Rev. Monte McClain*

A CONVERSATION WITH DANN WILKENS ABOUT WHAT HE SEES

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

SONG OF RESPONSE "Be Thou My Vision" (*sung during communion*)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

WE USE A CALL AND RESPONSE LITURGICALLY PRAYED AT THE CONCLUSION OF SHARING A PRAYER.

Leader: God, in your mercy. **People: Hear our prayer.**

COMMUNION – BEING NOURISHED IN OUR JOURNEY OF FAITH

TODAY WE'RE CELEBRATING THIS FOUNDATIONAL MEAL BY INTINCTION WHEREVER YOU ARE. HERE IN THIS SPACE WE'LL CELEBRATE BY COMING FORWARD SELECTING A PIECE OF BREAD AND A SMALL CUP OF JUICE. PLEASE APPROACH THE TABLE FROM THE CENTER AND RETURN ON THE SIDES. YOU CAN LEAVE YOUR OFFERING ON THE PLATE ON THE COMMUNION TABLE.

COLLECTION OF OUR OFFERINGS AND GIFTS

THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

SENDING SONG "Amazing Grace" - *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]

We pass the peace in different languages to embody the depth and width of the Commonwealth of God at work moving us toward the healing transformation of the world.

POSTLUDE

Reflections on Today's Readings

Luke 7:18-35

¹⁸ John's disciples informed him about all the miraculous things that Jesus was doing. John called two of his disciples ¹⁹ and sent them to the Lord. They were to ask him, "Are you the one who is coming, or should we look for someone else?"

²⁰ When they reached Jesus, they said, "John the Baptist sent us to you. He asks, 'Are you the one who is coming, or should we look for someone else?'"

²¹ Right then, Jesus healed many of their diseases, illnesses, and evil spirits, and he gave sight to a number of blind people. ²² Then he replied to John's disciples, "Go, report to John what you have seen and heard. Those who were blind are able to see. Those who were crippled now walk. People with skin diseases are cleansed. Those who were deaf now hear. Those who were dead are raised up. And good news is preached to the poor. ²³ Happy is anyone who doesn't stumble along the way because of me."

²⁴ After John's messengers were gone, Jesus spoke to the crowds about John. "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A stalk blowing in the wind? ²⁵ What did you go out to see? A man dressed up in refined clothes? Look, those who dress in fashionable clothes and live in luxury are in royal palaces. ²⁶ What did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ²⁷ He is the one of whom it's written: Look, I'm sending my messenger before you, who will prepare your way before you. ²⁸ I tell you that no greater human being has ever been born than John. Yet whoever is least in God's kingdom is greater than he." ²⁹ Everyone who heard this, including the tax collectors, acknowledged God's justice because they had been baptized by John. ³⁰ But the Pharisees and legal experts rejected God's will for themselves because they hadn't been baptized by John.

³¹ "To what will I compare the people of this generation?" Jesus asked. "What are they like? ³² They are like children sitting in the marketplace calling out to each other, 'We played the flute for you and you didn't dance. We sang a funeral song and you didn't cry.' ³³ John the Baptist came neither eating bread nor drinking wine, and you say, 'He has a demon.' ³⁴ Yet the Human One came eating and drinking, and you say, 'Look, a glutton and a drunk, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.' ³⁵ But wisdom is proved to be right by all her descendants."

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION & EXAMEN:

- What engaged you, enraged you, or surprised you in this story?
- John sees Jesus but can't see him. Just like the people of "this generation" seem to see John and Jesus but not see them. What keeps you from seeing what's right in front of your eyes? When is a time that you had such an experience and had your eyes open and saw what was there all along?
- Our world has changed a lot in 3 years. What are we not seeing, or not wanting to see ... as people?; as a church?
- 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?

May Anniversaries

2 Karl & Myrna Shadley 1987

Weekly Calendar

THIS MORNING...

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

Pete Feltman (our minister of music) is on vacation through mid-May. We're grateful to all those who helped lead the music for our gathering today!

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.



Monte Sabbatical News– Monte is taking a sabbatical from June 6 to October 5th. Our elected session continues to be in charge of our staffing, worship and physical needs as a congregation. Elder Jeff Trowbridge will be reporting back to the community this morning about details around this sabbatical time.

Friday Night Meal – Friday, May 6th

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 Host: Marda Stothers

Godly Play: Beth Beatty

Music: Dave Eagle (Drums),

Ben Kramarz, Roger Kim

Prayer Liturgist: Myrna Shadley

Reader: Fredora Darmstadt

Video Tech: Thom Faulkner, 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.

“Gather Us In”

Marty Haugen, 1991

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Glory to God #401

1. Now is the darkness vanished away,
See in this space our fears and our dreamings,
Brought here to you in the light of this day.
Gather us in - the lost and forsaken,
Gather us in the blind and the lame;
Call to us now, and we shall awaken,
We shall arise at the sound of our name.
2. We are the young our lives are a myst'ry
We are the old who yearn for your face,
We have been sung throughout all of hist'ry,
Called to be light to the whole human race.
Gather us in the rich and the haughty,
Gather us in the proud and the strong;
Give us a heart so meek and so lowly,
Give us the courage to enter the song.
3. Here will will take the wine and the water,
Here we will take the bread of new birth,
Here you shall call your sons and your daughters,
Call us anew to be salt for the earth.
Give us to drink the wine of compassion,
Give us to eat the bread that is you;
Nourish us well, and teach us to fashion lives that are holy
And hearts that are true.
4. Not in the dark of buildings confining,
Not in some heaven, light-years away,
But here in this place the new light is shining,
Now is the Kingdom, now is the day.
Gather us in and hold us forever,
Gather us in and make us your own;
Gather us in - all peoples together,
Fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

Call to Worship

~ written by Monte McClain rooted in Isaiah 35:1-10 and a text from <https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/4441/worship-ements-december-15-2019>

One: We gather looking for where God is on the
Loose, moving, turning the world upside down

**ALL: in our world, in our nation and culture,
In our city, our church community
and our relationships..**

One: The ancient Israelites often crossed such
deserts, parched lands seemingly barren
wilderness, where God was hard to see..

**ALL: The prophet Isaiah told them to
Strengthen the weak hands,
and support the unsteady knees.**

**Say to those around you who are panicking:
“Be strong! Don’t fear!
Here is your God!”**

One: Upside-down God,
you announce your coming with exciting news:
the hungry will eat their fill,
the oppressed will dance
in newfound freedom;

**ALL: you proclaim your mission with hard news:
the well fed will go hungry,
the powerful will lose their status.**

One: We find ourselves squirming
as we acknowledge our participation
in structures that oppress and marginalize.
Seeing who and how we actually are isn't easy.

**ALL: Open our eyes that we might
See the good news of your promises –
Like flowers blooming in the wilderness,
Like water gushing forth in the desert,
Like the eyes of the blind being opened,
And the lame leaping like the deer.**

“Halle, Halle, Hallelujah ”

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

*Hallelujah in Hebrew means – Praise Yahweh
[GOD - /jah/]! It's both a proclamation and a prayer.*

“Be Thou My Vision”

*Translator: Mary E. Byrne; Versifier: Eleanor H. Hull
The Blue Presbyterian Hymnal #339
Glory to God #450*

1. Be thou my vision O lord of my heart
Nought be all else to me save that thou art
Thou my best thought by day or by night
Waking or sleeping thy presence my light

2. Be thou my wisdom and thou my true word
I ever with thee and thou with me lord
Thou my soul's shelter and thou my high tower
Still be my vision O ruler of all

3. Riches I heed not nor vain empty praise
Thou mine inheritance now and always
Thou and thou only first in my heart
Great God of heaven my treasure thou art

4. High King of heaven my victory won
May I reach heaven's joys O bright heaven's sun
Heart of my own heart whatever befall
Still be my vision O ruler of all

“Amazing grace!”

*Author: John Newton (1779)
The Blue Presbyterian Hymnal #280*

- 1 Amazing grace (how sweet the sound)
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
was blind, but now I see.

2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed!

3. Through many dangers, toils and snares,
I have already come;
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.

4. The Lord has promised good to me,
His Word my hope secures;
He will my Shield and Portion be,
As long as life endures.

5. When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we'd first begun.