

College Avenue Presbyterian Church
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May 15, 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

GATHERING SONG "I Sing The Mighty Power Of God" - Blue Hymnal #288

CALL TO WORSHIP

SONG OF PRAISE "Ancient Words" - insert

HEARING GOD'S WORD

LISTENING TO SCRIPTURE Mark 8:22-26

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD "Standpoint Epistemology: Making Space for more than just what we have seen." - Rev. Monte McClain

A CONVERSATION WITH JASMINE KADDOURA ABOUT WHAT SHE SEES

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

SONG OF RESPONSE "We Walk By Faith And Not By Sight" - Blue Hymnal #399

COLLECTION OF OUR OFFERINGS AND GIFTS

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.

THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

SENDING SONG "Guide My Feet" - insert

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 "Мир Христа" (Ukrainian)
 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

Mark 8:22-26

I grew up learning that together we can find answers and solutions to the problems we face. This requires listening to one another, wisdom, thinking through things and acknowledging our mistakes (what won't or hasn't worked). Increasingly though we are recognizing that people who share the same facts and data, have the same way of thinking through problems and data often come up with wildly different solutions and answers to the same problem. How can that be? This is in part what I think is leading to paralysis and partisanship in our nation.

Epistemology is the philosophical work for the study (-logy) of knowledge (*epistem-*). Briana Toole, professor of Philosophy at Claremont McKenna College has been working on this problem and has been forefront in the renewed interest in standpoint epistemology. Standpoint epistemology acknowledges that our knowledge is not based just on our education, or the information we possess, it's also shaped in large part by our social identities. Social identity is a person's sense of who they are based on their group membership(s) - such as racial background, gender and social class.

What she's saying is the oftentimes we don't see what someone else sees because we are different. That's how we can often look at the same situation or problem and find such different - even conflicting - things. Our personal stories intersect with and greatly shape the way that we see the world. We can never get outside of our own experience.

In today's scripture the blind man, who formerly saw, but now cannot, has his eyes opened twice. It's like he has to do a double take to expand his vision, Then Jesus sends him home telling him not to go into the village. It reminds me of the Magi who are told to return home by a different path when they've found the Christ child in the manger. It's similar to the conclusions about age that Father Richard Rohr writes about in his best-selling book *Falling Upward*. Rohr writes that many older people find themselves stuck in the culture of the first half of life, where they continue to live by the values of fame and wealth. However, there comes a point when one must look inward to contemplate life and "discover your soul." "What is the normal goal to a young person becomes a neurotic hindrance in old age."

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION & EXAMEN:

- What engaged you, enraged you, or surprised you in this story?
- Why do you think it take two times of touching the man for Jesus to heal his eyes, giving him sight?
- How do you long to see differently, or to see with new eyes? From what might you need to be healed and/or delivered to have such clear sight?
- 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 Birthdays

8 Donovan Adams 2015 15 Richard Harvey
18 Marge Harvey 23 Rebecca LaMotte
27 Paulette Leston 31 Avery Haynes 2008

Weekly Calendar

Post Service Garden Party! Join us for light snacks and the chance to connect and chat outside in the garden - today we're celebrating the ladies serving them first!

Pete Feltman (our minister of music) is on vacation through mid-May.

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 & how race matters in our lives of faith.

Presbyteri-What? - Thursdays 6-7pm on Zoom. Learn more about our church and how we understand what it means to be church together.

Monte Sabbatical News- Monte is taking a sabbatical from June 6 to October 5th.

Friday Night Meal - Friday, May 20th 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! Our partners of Montclair Presbyterian are cooking.

Concert of Prayer - Saturday, May 21st 10am-2pm A time of prayer for and with our world, our city and each other. I'll be both guided and personal, including hourly servings of communion.

ESL Project If you've signed up to help you'll hear more info soon. Interested in teaching ESL via zoom to our friends in Palin Guatemala? Contact Myrna at (510)712-1788

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: Chris Olson
Godly Play: Beth Beatty
Musicians: Dave Eagle, Ben Kramarz
Prayer Liturgist: Myrna Shadley
Video Tech: Albert Hussian, Thom Faulkner, 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.

“I Sing The Mighty Power Of God”

Isaac Watts

The Blue Presbyterian Hymnal #288

1. I sing the mighty power of God
that made the mountains rise
That spread the flowing seas abroad
and built the lofty skies
I sing the wisdom that ordained
the sun to rule the day
The moon shines full at God's command
and all the stars obey

2. I sing the goodness of the Lord
that filled the earth with food
God formed the creatures with a word
and then pronounced them good
Lord, how thy wonders are displayed
where'er I turn my eyes
If I survey the ground I tread
or gaze upon the skies

3. There's not a plant or flower below
but makes Thy glories known
And clouds arise and tempests blow
by order from Thy throne
While all that borrows life from Thee
is ever in Thy care
And everywhere that we can be,
Thou, God are present there

Call to Worship *(Psalm 63, Matthew 23:37)*

Written by Monte

One: O God, you are our God;
We seek you;

**ALL: ours souls thirsts for you;
ours flesh faints for you,
as in a dry and weary land
where there is no water.**

One: God of Life we are faced with so many questions
and conundrums,

**ALL: we struggle to find answers,
We wrestle with doubt of you,
of each other, of ourselves.**

One: None of us has the ultimate solution
or way forward.

**ALL: None of us sees everything,
or can see beyond our own point of view.**

One: You Lord are the One who was, who is,
and who is to come.

**ALL: We come to you looking for wisdom
in the ancient words of the Bible.**

One: You Lord love us like a mother hen
who gathers her chicks under her wings.

**ALL: We come to you hungry for hope,
thirsting for wider vision,
eager to belong.**

“Ancient Words”

Thomas O. Chisholm (1923)

The Blue Presbyterian Hymnal #276

1. Holy words long preserved,
For our walk in this world
They resound with God's own heart,
O let the ancient words impart
Words of life, Words of hope,
Give us strength, Help us cope
In this world where e'er we roam,
Ancient words will guide us home

Chorus:

Ancient words ever true,
Changing me and changing you
We have come with open hearts,
O let the ancient words impart

2. Holy words of our faith,
Handed down to this age
Came to us through sacrifice,
O heed the faithful words of Christ
Holy words long preserved,
For our walk in this world
They resound with God's own heart,
O let the ancient words impart

“We Walk By Faith And Not By Sight”

Author: Henry Alford (1844)

The Blue Presbyterian Hymnal #399

1 We walk by faith and not by sight;
No gracious words we hear
From Christ Who spoke as none e'er spoke;
But we believe Him near.

2 We may not touch His hands and side,
Nor follow where He trod;
But in His promise we rejoice,
And cry, “My Lord and God!”

3 Help then, O Lord, our unbelief;
And may our faith abound
To call on You when You are near
And seek where You are found:

4 That, when our life of faith is done,
In realms of clearer light
We may behold You as You are,
With full and endless sight.

“Guide My Feet”

Traditional Spiritual

Glory to God #741

Guide my feet while I run this race
Guide my feet while I run this race
Guide my feet while I run this race
For I don't want to run this race in vain

Hold my hand while I run this race

Stand by me while I run this race

I'm your child while I run this race

Search my heart while I run this race

Help me dodge that old devil man

Guide my feet while I run this race