

College Avenue Presbyterian Church  
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May 8, 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 "Spirit of the Living God" - Blue Hymnal #322

CALL TO WORSHIP

SONG OF PRAISE "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" - Blue Hymnal #122

HEARING GOD'S WORD

LISTENING TO SCRIPTURE Genesis 12:1-4; 15:1-21

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD "Seeing What is Both Already Here and Not Yet" - Rev. Monte McClain

A CONVERSATION WITH JASMINE KADDOURA ABOUT WHAT SHE SEES

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

SONG OF RESPONSE "Amazing Grace" - Blue Hymnal #280

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 "Thuma Mina" - 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

Genesis 12:1-4; 15:1-21

Today's readings include one that's simple and one that's crazy! Genesis 12 is the call of Abraham and Sarah. God speaks to them. They recognize God's voice and step out in faith, following God's invitation to depart from what they've known for something new. Their age and barrenness points to them leaving behind paralysis, an impasse, a future without hope for a new wide open way, a new thing, a new creation.

From chapter 12 to chapter 15 we see that they're starting to wonder what's taking so long for God to keep the divine promise that was at the root of their covenant relationship. They still have no children, but they did what God asked.

We've come to understand that in ancient Mesopotamia, in Abraham's day, covenants were sometimes agreed to by preparing a sacrifice, cutting it in two pieces and halving it exactly. They would lay the pieces out on the ground. Then those making the covenant had to pass between the divided carcass. This symbolized the seriousness of their intentions to keep the covenant, because the divided carcass represented what would happen to them if they did not keep their oaths. They were committing themselves to be cut in two if they broke their word.

That was not the way every covenant was agreed to, only rather more serious covenants. They placed their lives at risk. If either party did not keep that covenant, they were pledging their life. Then after they passed through, the carcass was burned, symbolizing their acceptance.



The smoking oven and burning torch symbolize God. In many instances in the Bible, God represents Himself through the image of fire (i.e., the burning bush and the pillar of fire). The sacrifice in Genesis 15 is interesting in that only God passes between the divided carcasses because, in reality, this is an oath of only one party, God, to keep His promise. In this specific case, Abraham has agreed to nothing, but God has bound Himself with utmost seriousness to meet the requirements of His promise in full. This promise will be fulfilled only because of God's character and grace.

### QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION & EXAMEN:

- What engaged you, enraged you, or surprised you in this story?
- Covenant means relationship – it's what is at the heart of both human life and Christian faith. We are social beings. What does it mean that God assumes all the responsibility for our covenantal relationship? Does that mean God is a control freak, or seeks co-dependence? Or something else?
- 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 and what you've heard that Jasmine sees?

## 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 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Friday Night Meal – Friday, May 6<sup>th</sup> 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!

**Global Missions Meetup – Today, May 21<sup>st</sup> 2:45-4:30pm** | Meets at the home of Marda Stothers – 2600 warring St. Berkeley

**Concert of Prayer – Saturday, May 21<sup>st</sup> 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:

Conversation Partner: Jasmine Kaddoura  
Garden-Party Host: The men of CAPC Oakland  
Godly Play: Beth Beatty  
Prayer Liturgist: Myrna Shadley  
Reader: Marda Stothers  
Video Tech: 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.*

### “Spirit of the Living God”

*Daniel Iverson (1926)  
The Blue Presbyterian Hymnal #322*

Spirit of the Living God,  
Fall afresh on me,  
Spirit of the Living God,  
Fall afresh on me.  
Break me, melt me, mold me, fill me.  
Spirit of the Living God,  
Fall afresh on me.

### Call to Worship (Genesis 15, Psalm 27, Philippians 3)

<https://www.ministrymatters.com>

One: God of promises fulfilled,  
**ALL: we gather as descendants  
of Abraham and Sarah;  
we stand before you  
as faithful testimony to your covenant;  
we assemble as living proof  
that your love for humanity  
knows no limits.**

One: When we feel overwhelmed  
by the stresses of daily life,

**ALL: we need only look at the stars in the sky  
to remember your abiding faithfulness.**

One: When we are overcome with despair  
by the pain of war and poverty in our world,

**ALL: we need only see the light of a single candle  
to remember the one you sent  
as our light, our strength, and our salvation.**

One: You who are our light and salvation

**ALL: Strengthen our hearts  
and renew our strength,  
as we gather together around your word.**

### “Great is Thy faithfulness”

*Thomas O. Chisholm (1923)  
The Blue Presbyterian Hymnal #276*

1 Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father,  
there is no shadow of turning with thee.  
Thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;  
as thou hast been, thou forever wilt be.

*Refrain:*

Great is thy faithfulness!  
Great is thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
all I have needed thy hand hath provided.  
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

2 Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,  
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above  
join with all nature in manifold witness  
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.

*[Refrain]*

3 Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,  
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

*[Refrain]*

## **“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.

## **“Thuma Mina” – “Send Me Lord”**

*South African; English trans. Freedom Is Coming, 1984*

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- 1 Thuma mina.  
Thuma mina,  
thuma mina,  
thuma mina,  
Somandla.
- 2 Send me, Lord.  
Send me, Jesus,  
send me, Jesus,  
send me, Jesus,  
send me, Lord.
- 3 Lead me, Lord.  
Lead me, Jesus,  
lead me, Jesus,  
lead me, Jesus,  
lead me, Lord.
- 4 Fill me, Lord.  
Fill me, Jesus,  
fill me, Jesus,  
fill me, Jesus,  
fill me, Lord.