

College Avenue Presbyterian Church
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seeking:
 How do we
 begin again?



March 5, 2023 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 allows 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) have high health risks.

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

We 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.'

WIFI

Capc1 | PW 5106583666
 CCL #1137062

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

- PRELUDE "Gospel Plow (Hold On)" - Insert
- GATHERING SONG "Pass Me Not Oh Gentle Savior" - Insert
- CALL TO WORSHIP - Chickwendu Okereke
- SONG OF PRAISE "Nicodemus Sought Out Jesus" - Insert
- LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD
- HEARING SCRIPTURE Genesis 12:1-4a & John 3:1-17 - Chickwendu Okereke
- CELEBRATING GOD'S GOOD CREATION IN & BEYOND BLACK HISTORY MONTH
 - Louise Bay Waters
 - Rev. Monte McClain
- PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD
- RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD
- SONG OF RESPONSE "You Must Be Born Again" - Glory to God # 324
- COMING TO THE TABLE
- 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.**
- COMMUNION – BEING NOURISHED IN OUR JOURNEY OF FAITH
 AS WE CELEBRATE THE COMMUNION MEAL YOU ARE INVITED TO COME FORWARD TO RECEIVE BREAD AND A CUP FROM OUR SERVERS IN THE CENTER SPACE. WE WELCOME ALL WHO HUNGER FOR THE PEACE OF CHRIST
- TABLE SONG "Let Us Break Bread Together" - The Blue Hymnal #513
- COLLECTION OF OUR OFFERINGS AND GIFTS
- THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH
- SENDING SONG "One More Step Along The World I Go" - Insert
- SENDING CALL AND RESPONSE
 Leader: God is good! Leader: And all the time!
People: All the time! People: God is good!
- EXHORTATION & BENEDICTION
- PASSING THE PEACE OF GOD "Udo diri gi" (Udo, spoken in Nigeria)
- POSTLUDE "Nobody's Fault But Mine"

Reflections on Today's Readings Genesis 12:1-4a & John 3:1-17



The hardest questions of life seem to come at night. Often, they're about what we're facing, enduring, or seeking to solve. In our scriptures today we hear of Nicodemus who comes to Jesus on just such a sleepless night. He's challenged by Jesus to be born again, born from the heavens on high. It's not just a question of improvement, but of transformation. It's a calling to perpetually be renewed, made-new by the Spirit of God who expands our vision, focuses our hearing, becoming our true word and wisdom. Such transformation isn't forced, but rather chosen; responded to as a vocation. It's a perpetual reality that each time "the saints gather to encounter Jesus, the Spirit calls us to continuous transformation, calling dead things into new life and Holy Spirit revival." Faith is this process, journey of being re-formed and redeemed.

Abraham and Sarah receive a similar call to a new beginning, requiring them to leave what they've known for a new different land promised to be a home long longed for. There was no GPS, or iPhone to use for navigation. They had to cross borders physical, spiritual, and social, leaving behind an identity rooted in their ancestry and tribal identity. And it wasn't just the destination that would be their blessing, but in the journeying itself they would be blessed and disciplined into becoming a blessing to all the families of the earth.

We've talked much these past three years about new normal-s, leaving the past behind that has often siloed and divided us over historic notions of racial superiority and legacy, immigrants leaving everything in the hope to cross borders for a new life. New beginnings is something that we all long for, and maybe something that we're not that good at. Maybe this challenge is at the root of faith? Only God can bring us to and through the new beginnings that we all need and long for. The word repentance (ΜΕΤΑΝΟΙΑ in Greek: ΜΕΤΑ (change) + ΝΟΙΑ (of mind)). It's similar to the word ΜΕΤΑΜΟΡΦΩΣΙΣ from Greek: ΜΕΤΑ (change) ΜΟΡΦΩΣΙΣ (of form or shape). It's not a tweaking, or making better, but a resurrection, a total transformation of something, someone who mysteriously remains the same like a caterpillar becoming a butterfly.



QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION & EXAMEN:

- What engaged, enraged, or surprised you in this text?
- Do you believe in the possibility of new beginnings?
How are you in need of one? And, when the opportunities are revealed before you, Will you be willing to step into the promise of what may be in faith?

Some quotes and wording come from Lenten devotions written by Hann Garrity & Carmelle Beaugelin | A Sanctified Art LLC |

March Birthdays

1 Al Barnes	6 Jeff Trowbridge
8 Breeze Ramirez	11 Michael Evans
12 Kristy McClain	17 Louise Hirschman
22 Ellen Brylawski	24 Marda Stothers
28 Lucian Haynes 2010	

March Anniversaries

1 Cam and Mercy Beatty
3 Mike and Lori Castner 1979
10 Richard and Marge Harvey 2011
28 Maya Patil's adoption date 2003

Today at & around CAPC Oakland

Post Service Garden Party! Join us for light snacks and the chance to connect after our service.

Letters of Love: *Everyone loves getting mail!* Pick up an addressed envelope in the back and write a note of encouragement and love to someone who could use a good word. Recipients and their situations are explained on the magnetic board.

**This Week at & around CAPC Oakland
Community Bible Study (Wrestling with
Scripture) – Tues 7pm on Zoom | John 11:1-44**

Friday Night Meal – Fridays 6:00-7:00PM.

Sign up online to help with set-up, serving, and clean-up – this -or any Friday!
Capcoakland.org/ or use this QR Code

Women's Group: Saturday 9:30-10:30am on Zoom.

Godly Play: Sundays 9:30-10am on Zoom – our Montessori-approach to Sunday School!

Lent Devotionals. Pick up your copy of the daily devotional for Lent. Copies are in the entryway.

Spiritual Journey Groups during Lent – Look for information about these small groups in the entry.

Praying with the 5 Senses Meet Up 1 Thursday, 3/9 6-7pm in person & on Zoom

Congregational Meeting Sunday, March 26th – Save the date for our annual meeting to elect new elders and deacons, and receive the budget.

St Patricks' Day Meet-up for BYO food and fun – Friday, March 17th at 1pm at the Golden Squirrel

Thank You to Today's Leadership:

Black History Month Sharing: Louise Bay Waters
Godly Play: Monte McClain
Music: Pete Feltman, Dave Eagle, Ben Kramarz, Roger Kim
Prayer Liturgist: Myrna Shadley
Reader-Liturgist: Chickwendu Okereke
Video Tech: Thom Faulkner, Dann Wilkens, Albert Hussian

LYRICS & RESPONSES FOR TODAY'S CELEBRATION

We affirm that God is neither male 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 our use of gender inclusive language

Pass Me Not Oh Gentle Savior

Fanny Crosby (1868)
The Celebration Hymnal #489

1 Pass me not, O gentle Savior;
Hear my humble cry;
While on others Thou art calling,
Do not pass me by.

Refrain:

Savior, Savior,
Hear my humble cry;
While on others Thou are calling,
Do not pass me by.

2 Let me at a throne of mercy
Find a sweet relief;
Kneeling there in deep contrition,
Help my unbelief. *[Refrain]*

3 Trusting only in Thy merit,
Would I seek Thy face.
Heal my wounded, broken spirit;
Save me by Thy grace. *[Refrain]*

4 Thou, the Spring of all my comfort,
More than life to me,
Whom have I on earth beside Thee?
Whom in heav'n but Thee? *[Refrain]*

Call to Worship ~ Prayer by Rev. Sarah A. Speed
A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

One: What is it like to begin again?
**ALL: It is like flowers in the spring
that push through frozen ground.
It is like babies learning to walk,
one clumsy step at a time.
It is like Nicodemus in the night,
asking Jesus for guidance.
It is like a Sunday morning,
starting our week anew.**

One: May we find God in our seeking.
ALL: May we learn as we go.

One: May we be brave enough to begin again.

**ALL: Let us worship
the God of new beginnings.**

Nicodemus Sought Out Jesus

*New words to old tunes | sung to NETTLETON 8.7.8.7 D
("Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing")
Text: Copyright © 2011 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette.*

1. Nicodemus sought out Jesus
at a lonely, quiet hour.
He said, "Teacher, God is with you!
For in you we see God's power."
Jesus turned and gave an answer
filled with challenge and with love:
"You can never see God's kingdom
till you're born from heav'n above."
2. "Born again!" said Nicodemus.
"Is that something one can do?"
Jesus said, "Don't be surprised now
that you must be born anew.
And it's not by your own doing;
wind and Spirit will blow free!
They are not for your controlling;
trust in God for what will be."
3. God, your Spirit still surprises
like an ever-changing wind,
Bringing life and love and justice
where despair and death have been.
May we see your Spirit working
as a gift from heav'n above.
Blest, may we then be a blessing
to this world that you so love.

Confession of Sin

*Prayer by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC |
sanctifiedart.org.*

One: God of new life, you call us into unknown
places,

ALL: and we bury our heads in the sand.

One: You promise all the stars in the sky,

ALL: and we doubt it can be true.

One: You speak of new life in the Spirit,

**ALL: and we tell ourselves
we've missed our chance.**

One: Over and over and over again,
you invite us closer to you.

ALL: Show us the way.

Forgive our mistakes.

**Give us the courage to begin again with
you. Amen.**

Affirmation of Faith

Prayer by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

ALL: We believe in a God

**who meets us in the shadows,
who welcomes our questions,
who invites us to begin again.**

We believe that Jesus

**showed us a new way,
a deeper faith,
a more compassionate existence.**

We believe that all of our beginnings

**should return us to this foundation,
and that no matter how many times
we lose our way,
God always welcomes us home.**

Amen.

You Must Be Born Again

Mahalia Jackson

Old Nicodemus went calling,
to see the Lord one day;
Said, "Master",
something's wrong with me
My heart's not feeling right
You'll never dream the feeling my son,
My Master did explain
You'll only know the answer
When you've been born again.

Chorus

There is no substitute
Salvation is the only route
If you wish to pass the day
You must be born again.
No ticket can you buy
No place for the soul to hide
You'll be lost if you wait outside
You must be born again.

Bridge

Oh the Lord expects no person
even when we die
The rich man and the pauper w
ill have to live side by side
and the judgment shall reveal
every deed that did conceal
We'll find these words are real
You must be born again.

Let Us Break Bread Together

*African American spiritual
The Blue Presbyterian Hymnal #513*

1 Let us break bread together on our knees;
(on our knees;)

Let us break bread together on our knees.
(on our knees.)

When I fall on my knees,
With my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me. (on me.)

2 Let us drink wine together on our knees;
(on our knees;)...

3 Let us praise God together on our knees;
(on our knees;)...

One More Step Along The World I Go

Sydney Carter (1971)

1 One more step along the world I go,
one more step along the world I go,
from the old things to the new
keep me travelling along with you:

Refrain:

And it's from the old I travel to the new.
keep me travelling along with you.

2 Round the corners of the world I turn,
more and more about the world I learn;
all the new things that I see
you'll be looking at along with me. *[Refrain]*

3 As I travel through the bad and good
keep me travelling the way I should;
where I see no way to go
you'll be telling me the way, I know: *[Refrain]*

4 Give me courage when the world is rough,
keep me loving though the world is tough;
leap and sing in all I do,
keep me travelling along with you: *[Refrain]*

5 You are older than the world can be,
you are younger than the life in me.
ever old and ever new,
keep me travelling along with you: *[Refrain]*