

College Avenue Presbyterian Church
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seeking: honest questions for deeper faith



Sunday • April 16, 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

"Will There Be Any Stars?"

GATHERING SONG

"We Walk By Faith And Not By Sight"

- Blue Hymnal #399

CALL TO WORSHIP

- Marge Harvey

SONG OF PRAISE

"O God In Raising Jesus"

- Insert

Children are invited to depart for Godly Play upstairs with today's Story-Teller

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

HEARING SCRIPTURE

John 20:19-31

- Marge Harvey

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

"If In Doubt Ask"

- Rev. Monte McClain

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

ORDINATION & INSTALLATION OF DEACONS & ELDERS

SONG OF RESPONSE

"Doubting Thomas"

- Insert

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

OFFERING SONG

"Worthy"

- Insert

THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

SENDING SONG

"One More Step Along The World I Go"

- 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

- Traditional Easter Greeting

"Christ is Risen. "He (Christ) is risen indeed!"

POSTLUDE

"Sweet Georgia Brown"

Reflections on Today's Readings

John 20:19-31



Today's scripture is commonly known as the story of Doubting Thomas. Curiously though, the story never says that he's a doubter. Told only by John, this is the third time that Thomas is mentioned in the gospel. In the first (11: 16) his zealous is manifest in his willingness to die a seeming martyr death like Lazarus. Later around the Passover table while talking with Jesus he asks Jesus to clarify his teaching. Where is he going? How will they know the way?(14:1-7). Here Thomas is seeking visual confirmation of the resurrection of Jesus. He refuses to be, or cannot be, persuaded simply by the testimony of the other disciples. He was to see Jesus himself.

Throughout Lent we've wrestling with a series of questions. Our series leading up to Easter was grounded in them. In last week's reading (20:1-18) this journey culminated in the question that Jesus asks Mary at the tomb: "Who are you looking for?"

The story of Thomas asks the question: differently, what will it take for you to trust in the one that Mary saw?; that the others saw alive? Curiously the word "doubt" isn't even in the text. It's a translation choice; verse 27 reads in the literal Greek: "do not be unbelieving, but believe" or "do not be distrusting, but trust." The word **DOUBT** is related to un-belief. Not in a disbelieving way, but in an uncertainty. The word doubt goes back to an old French word coming from the Latin *dubius* (from where we get dubious). The dub- part of the word means "two" – as in having to choose between two ways forward. Rather than disbelief, it's an uncertainty of what way to take, or what belief to trust.

I've heard this story as being about faith versus doubt (or disbelief). But maybe it's more about the questions we ask, and what it takes for us to get to a place of trust and belief? In such a scenario questions aren't an indication of doubt, but rather part of the journey to understanding.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION & EXAMEN:

- What engaged, enraged, or surprised you in this text?
- John alone includes this story about Thomas. Why?
- What does seeing have to do with believing, and believing have to do with seeing? What is John saying about faith to those - like us - who didn't live and see Jesus during their lifetimes, but rather encounter Jesus through the testimonies in scripture?
- 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?

April Birthdays

12 Chuck Marut

13 Toni Proulx

20 Kelechi Okereke

25 Dann Wilkens

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.

Godly Play: we're beginning in person Godly Play today! Our Godly Players will stay with us in worship through the second song then head up to do their work and fun together in the Godly Play room.

This Week at & around CAPC Oakland
Community Bible Study (Wrestling with Scripture) – Tues 7pm on Zoom | We're wrestling with John 21:1-21

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

Sign up online to help with set-up, serving, and clean-up – this -or *any* Friday!

Friday Night Meal Calling for Cook Teams! - We have a core of motivated leaders, a generous group of volunteer servers and a few committed cooking teams. We do, however, struggle to fill our cooking calendar. The Friday Night Meal leadership team is asking if you can help us. Providing a meal for our hungry community is really easy, a lot of fun and nourishes both our guests and our souls. So if you can help or belong to, or know of, a group or club looking for an outreach mission, please reach out to Thom & Tina Faulkner. We'll find an open date, help you with menu planning and all the logistics! 510-593-6899

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

Deacons Meeting: today after worship

R U a Heretic ? – Thinking through your own faith as we look at the historic heresies. No burning or torture will take place in this class. Wednesdays at 7pm on Zoom. Starting April 18th. *More info online.*

Thank You to Today's Leadership:

Godly Play: David Kittams

Music: Pete Feltman, Dave Eagle, Ben Kramarz, Roger Kim

Prayer Liturgist: Myrna Shadley

Reader-Liturgist: Marge Harvey

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

“We Walk By Faith And Not By Sight”

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 my 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

Call to Worship Opening litany ~ Prayer by Rev.
Mindi on her blog, Rev-o-lution. | <http://rev-o-lution.org/>

One: Where is this Jesus,
the one you call Messiah?

ALL: Christ is Risen! Christ is here among us!

One: I do not see him. I don't believe you.

**ALL (louder): Christ is Risen!
Christ is here among us!**

One: Let me see his body, his hands and his feet.

**ALL: We are Christ's body;
We are Christ's feet.**

One: You see the suffering in the world?
Where is Jesus now?

**ALL: We are going into the world
to be the body of Christ.**

One: Let us go together,
let us partner with others.

**ALL: For we are the body of Christ:
let us share the Good News!**

“O God In Raising Jesus”

Tune: Samuel Sebastian Wesley, 1864

("The Church's One Foundation")

- New Words to Old Tunes -

Text: Copyright © 2016 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette.

1. O God, in raising Jesus
that Resurrection Day,
You showed us you are with us
and will not go away.
You give us bright tomorrows
and free us from our sin;
You're with us in our sorrows
and show us love will win.

2. You give us hope of heaven
and life to live in you.
The promise you have given
is wonderful and true!
Yet resurrection glory
is more than hope you give.
For this amazing story
can change the way we live.

3. Through Jesus' resurrection,
we find our courage grow
To risk and serve your kingdom,
to go where some won't go.
Through Jesus' resurrection,
we find we're called to be
A new and hopeful people
who help set others free.

4. So send us to the places
where troubles still abound,
Where people face injustice,
where grief and pain are found.
We pray we'll go with courage
for we have peace to share;
Now help us live your message
of new life everywhere.

Doubting Thomas

Nickel Creek

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,

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

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,

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

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,

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

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

Worthy

H. Smith

1. Worthy, worthy worthy is the lamb
Worthy, worthy, worthy is the lamb

2. Praise you, praise you, praise you evermore
We praise you, we praise you, we praise you ev-
ermore

3. Love you, love you, love you evermore
We love you, we love you, we love you evermore

One More Step Along The World I Go

*Sydney Carter (1971) | Voices United Hymnal #639
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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.

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:

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:

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: