

College Avenue Presbyterian Church  
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If a picture is 1,000 words, how many pictures are in a word?  
 1 KINGS 19:1-13 & JOHN 14:1-7

Sunday • July 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.

As a community we are committed to inclusivity and mutual empowerment which is why all our community gatherings are hybrid. *(both in person and via Zoom).*

This allows us to gather together and be consistent with our values and commitments.

In our community, face masks are not required, but always welcome. We want you to do to what you need to do for you! Masks are available in the entry.

**CHILDREN**

We have Godly Play – “Sunday School” for children during our service. It’s a Montessori-like approach to teaching children language to use to learn to express faith through the telling of Bible Stories. The Godly Play group and leaders leave for their arranged learning space after the 2<sup>nd</sup> song.

**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.’

**WI-FI**

Want Wi-Fi during our gathering?  
 Select our network - Capc1.  
 Our password is 5106583666

CCL #1137062

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

PRELUDE

“Over My Head”

GATHERING SONG

“God Welcomes All”

- *Glory to God #399*

CALL TO WORSHIP

MASH-UP SONG OF PRAISE

“Open Our Eyes Lord/Open The Eyes Of My Heart”

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

LISTENING FOR GOD’S WORD

HEARING SCRIPTURE

1 Kings 19:1-13 & John 14:1-7

PROCLAIMING GOD’S WORD

“Open. But to what? And why?”

- *Rev. Monte McClain*

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

SONG OF RESPONSE

“O Spirit Send Doubt”

- *Insert*

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.**

COLLECTION OF OUR OFFERINGS AND GIFTS

OFFERING SONG

“In The Lord I’ll Be Ever Thankful”

- *Glory to God #644*

THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

SENDING SONG

“Holy Most Holy Lord (Sanna Sannanina)”

- *Glory to God #597*

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

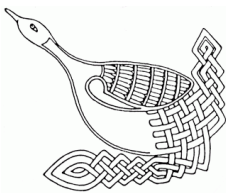
“La Paix du Christ”

- *French*

POSTLUDE

“Billy In The Lowground”

## Reflections on Today's Readings 1 Kings 19:1-13 & John 14:1-7



It often seems like the deepest truths in life are paradoxical. They appear to be made up of contradictory or opposing positions and perspectives; *and yet* they hold together. Think about **love**. It both opens our eyes to more and blinds us at times to what is right in front of us. Or think of **pain**. It can shut us down and also motivate us to action.

Today's scriptures point to the paradoxical reality of God. God is *both* beyond our knowing (transcendent) *and also* infinitely close and intimately knowable (immanent). God is *both* open and welcoming to all, *and yet* also desirous of a seemingly exclusive commitment.

I grew up hearing that life – and God – and faith – are all black and white. Things are really clear. But as I've grown, I've had to wrestle with the way in which that's untrue, or incomplete – the world has a lot of grey. God is both knowable and can't be put in a box. Living for Jesus is both clear and not clear. Doubt isn't the opposite of faith, but rather something else. The famous preacher Barbara Brown Taylor wrote, "Doubt often brings me to poke at what I believe. And when it topples, I realize it was an idol. And so, doubt has been a divine gift that has led me deeper into God."

Elijah is at his wit's end, facing burn-out, ready to give up. He's lived for God, but now seems to struggle to know or hear God. God comes to him, speaks to him, in the sheer silence after the storm. In John 14 the disciples are confused, they don't know the objective or destination of Jesus – where is he going? Where are they going? Jesus' answer is paradoxical – you do know because you know me. It's less the destination in walking the way of Jesus that matters than the walking. Truth and life are less about head knowledge and more about relationship.

For me the word OPEN is a vehicle for that dialectic notion of paradox. It's being open to everything and committed to something in particular: the Way of Jesus. It's recognizing that sometimes our certainty, or our need for black-and-white clarity to make ourselves feel safe and secure – is actually idolatry that blinds and deafens us to the wild ways of God. It's part of why the early Celtic Church represented the Triune God known in Jesus as a wild goose who shows up un-announced and uncontrolled in your garden.

### QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION & EXAMEN:

- What engaged, enraged, or surprised you in these texts?
- How have you experienced God in your life? More like the silence after the wind or in relationship with Jesus?
- How are you open to experiencing God or hearing God's voice? How or where are you "closed off" to that? Why?
- What invitation do you hear the Spirit of God speaking to you – *or to us* – through this word of scripture?

## July Birthdays

11 Dave Eagle	11 Gloria Lim
11 Ann Iverson	13 Alana D'Attilio
15 Chris Olson	21 Chickwendu Okereke
22 Kaya Ramirez Blake	24 Maya Patil
27 John LaMotte	31 Lisa Wu

### 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

**Quilters Club** (a new small group!) Mondays 10a-12p, in the library. No experience required.

**Coffee and Conversation** – Starting back up! Tuesday, July 18<sup>th</sup>, 10-11a. Come join us for a BYO time of impromptu conversation around a theological question over a cup of coffee! We meet on the patio in front of Safeway at College @ Claremont.

**Community Bible Study** – Tuesday 7:00-8:00PM on Zoom. We're wrestling together with the book of 1 Samuel. This week we're reading 1 Samuel 1-2:12. Resources & info online at [www.capcoakland.org/wrestling-with-scripture](http://www.capcoakland.org/wrestling-with-scripture)



**Friday Night Meal** – Fridays 6:00-7:00PM. Sign up online to help with set-up, serving, and clean-up – this -or *any* Friday! This coming Friday Daniel Stoops is heading up the cooking team!

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

**Theology on Tap** – Talk to Monte about helping to choose a monthly meeting date/time.



**Roof & Solar donations** – Please label any such gifts as for "Roof and Solar"



**Roof & Solar Update** – We have received engineering approval for our solar system from PG&E. We're locked into NEM 2 and this step gets us trigger ready for installation. We are still waiting on the permit for City of Oakland and the PG&E service application to be approved.

### Thank You to Today's Leadership:

Godly Play: Beth Beatty  
Liturgist Prayer & Reader: Linda Davis & Sharon Nelson  
Music: Pete Feltman, Dave Eagle, Ben Kramarz, & Roger Kim  
Video Tech: Dann Wilkens, Thom Faulkner, 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*

### “God Welcomes All”

*Author: John L. Bell (2008)*

*Tune: AMEN THEMBA | Glory to God #399*

God welcomes all,  
strangers and friends;  
God's love is strong  
and it never ends.

### Call to Worship Opening litany

*~ written by Tim Graves and posted on LiturgyBits.*

***The people read the bold***

One: We gather as people on a journey.

**ALL: We believe & we have doubts,  
we do good & we sin.  
We are imperfect humans,  
and still beloved by God.**

One: Love and grace. Hope and faith.  
These are the essence of the one we call God.

**ALL: We seek forgiveness & grace from  
the One and from those we've harmed.**

One: Assured of that grace,  
we are ready to grow again.

**ALL: We yearn for a new way,  
a new perspective,  
and a clear path.  
Though we are full of trust  
and full of doubt, we are here.**

One: Speak to us, God!  
Continue creating us!

**ALL: Inspire our hearts.  
Enlighten our minds.  
Guide our actions.  
Amen.**

### “Open Our Eyes Lord”

*Author: Robert Cull*

*© 1976 Maranatha! Music/CCCM Music (ASCAP)*

Open our eyes Lord we want to see Jesus  
To reach out and touch him, and say that we love him  
Open our ears Lord and help us to listen  
Open our eyes Lord, we want to see Jesus

### “Open The Eyes Of My Heart”

*Paul Baloche*

Open the eyes of my heart lord  
Open the eyes of my heart  
I want to see you,  
I want to see you  
*repeat*

To see you high and lifted up  
Shining in the light of your glory  
Pour out your power and love  
As we sing holy holy, holy

Holy, holy, holy  
Holy, holy, holy

Holy, holy, holy,  
I want to see you

### “O Spirit Send Doubt”

*David Bjorlin, b. 1984 | 2020 GIA Publications, Inc.*

*In much of classic Western hymnody, doubt is always cast in a negative light. Yet, as Barbara Brown Taylor note, "Doubt often brings me to poke as what I believe. And when it topples, I realize it was an idol. And so doubt has been a divine gift that has led me deeper into God." This song thus asks for doubt when we have created idols out of our certainties.*

1. O Spirit, send doubt when our faith turns to fact  
That harden to doctrines obscure and abstract.  
Come teach us the wisdom of story and song  
That help us live answers beyond right and wrong.

2. O Spirit, send doubt when our faith turns to pride  
And build bigger walls to keep others outside.  
Come teach us the wisdom of letting you choose  
The scope and extravagance of your good news.

*Continued on the back of the page...*

3. O Spirit, send doubt when our faith turns to fear  
Of all that is foreign, uncommon, or queer.  
Come teach us the wisdom of all we find strange  
That baffles our bias and leads us to change.

4. O Spirit, send doubt as a gift of your grace  
To topple the idols still shrouding your face.  
Come teach us the wisdom of all we yet know,  
For only in wonder can faith finally grow.

### **In The Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful**

*Glory to God #654 | Taizé Community (1986), 2013  
© 1991 Les Presses de Taizé (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)*

In the Lord, I'll be ever thankful;  
In the Lord I will rejoice!  
Look to God; do not be afraid.  
Lift up your voice; the Lord is near.  
Lift up your voice, the Lord is near.

### **Holy Most Holy Lord (Sanna Sannanina)**

*English; Swahili | Glory to God #597  
Source: Swahili text: trad. South African; English text: para. of Sanctus  
English text © 2008 Greg Scheer*

*English:*  
Holy, most holy Lord, Lord God of power and might,  
Heaven and earth are filled, filled with your holy light.  
O blessed is the One, the One who comes,  
Comes in the name of God.  
Hosanna in the highest,  
hosanna, sanna, sanna, sanna.

*Swahili:*  
Sanna, sannanina,  
sanna, sanna, sanna.  
Sanna, sannanina,  
sanna, sanna, sanna.  
Sanna, sanna, sanna sannanina,  
sanna, sanna, sanna.  
Sanna, sanna, sanna sannanina,  
sanna, sanna, sanna.



*"May I never grow tired  
of starting over  
or helping others  
to do the same  
My hope is always  
in renewal and resurrection.*

Artwork & prayer by Scott Erickson  
<https://www.scottericksonart.com/>