

College Avenue Presbyterian Church
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open
REAL
safe

Sunday • July 2, 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 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 2nd 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 “Guide My Feet”
- GATHERING SONG “Come All You People” - *Insert*
- CALL TO WORSHIP
- SONG OF PRAISE “God Is Here” - *Glory to God #409*
Children are invited to depart for Godly Play upstairs with today’s Story-Teller
- LISTENING FOR GOD’S WORD
- HEARING SCRIPTURE Matthew 25:31-46; John 13:34-35 & James 2:1-26
- PROCLAIMING GOD’S WORD “Real Christianity” - *Rev. Monte McClain*
- RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD
- SONG OF RESPONSE “When I Needed A Neighbor Were You There” - *Insert*
- 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” - *Glory to God #525*
- COLLECTION OF OUR OFFERINGS AND GIFTS
- THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH
- SENDING SONG “Whatever You Do” - *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 “pax vobiscum” - *Latin, traditional liturgy*
- POSTLUDE “Liberty”

Reflections on Today's Readings

Matthew 25:31-46; John 13:34-35 & James 2:1-26

Today we begin a six-week series reflecting from the three key words we've longed used to define, explain, and frame our church community: SAFE | OPEN | REAL. Our leadership teams have been working from these words as a starting point for articulating our shared sense of mission as a church. We may keep them. We may change them. This summer we're using them to think through what faith in God, life in community and shared mission mean for us.

The last word, as it shapes and informs the first two words. REAL. What is real Christian faith? What is a REAL church?

For years people have been talking of being spiritual but not religious. The latter has come to be seen as a negative word, filled with judgment, dogma, and exclusion. Yet the word religion comes from the Latin word *religare* which means "to bind". So rather than something that divides it's something that creates and cements community.

Christian faith is a belief in the knowing, or revelation, of God through the person, work and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth. We know of Jesus from the stories shared with us by others in gospels and testimonies. We also may have our own direct experiences of God visible in Jesus. Are those stories and experiences real or imagined, delusion or fact? How do you know? How are they real in an age where facts are relative and things seemed to be proved true if they're videoed on a smart phone and shared on the internet?

Liberation Theologian Gustavo Gutiérrez says that faith is an existential commitment here and now, to being in relationship with God and our neighbor. This involves the affirmation of truths. But while Christian truth is a truth that is thought, it is first of all done. We see that notion of faith as active and participatory in our readings today – the parable of the sheep and goats in Matthew 25. Jesus redefining the commandments as loving as he has loved. James explaining that faith without works is dead.

A recent series of articles on faith in America by Jessica Grose in the NY Times tells stories of how people lost faith, left the church, or now identify as "none of the above." Many stories tell of unanswered prayers, illogical beliefs in a scientific age, destructive community norms, debilitating dogma, and abuse. Is real faith just a question of going to church, or more? I think it has to do with our heart and behavior reflecting Jesus.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION & EXAMEN:

- What engaged, enraged, or surprised you in these texts?
- How do you define **REAL** Christian faith & community?
- 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
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

There is no Community Bible Study (Wrestling with Scripture) this week because of the holiday. We're doing an online survey to choose what to study and read together in the summer. Add your voice online at 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 our partners of Trinity Fellowship of Berkeley are heading up the cooking team!

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

Congregational Meeting – today, just after worship– we're having an official meeting to vote upon our application for two loans with the Synod of the Pacific to fund the replacement of the roof on our whole building; and the installation of a solar system of the gym.

Rock and Stroll– Saturday, July 8th 10a-5p. Enjoy live music and special events along College Avenue

Deacons Garden Clean-Up Day – Saturday, July 8 10a-1p. Bring a hat, garden gloves and sunscreen. There will be donut holes! Talk to Marji Wilkens for more info or to RSVP.

Quilters Club (a new small group!) starts tomorrow, Monday, July 3rd, 10a-12p, in the library.

Thank You to Today's Leadership:

Communion Prep: Janet Majors & John LaMotte

Godly Play: Beth Beatty

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

“Come All You People”

Alexander Gondo | 20th cent. Zimbabwe
© 1986, World Council of Churches

English:

Come all you people, come and praise your maker
Come all you people, come and praise your maker
Come all you people, come and praise your maker
Come now and worship the lord.

Zulu:

U-yeh-ee moh-seh, tin-a-ma, teh Mwa-reh
U-yeh-ee moh-seh, tin-a-ma, teh Mwa-reh
U-yeh-ee moh-seh, tin-a-ma, teh Mwa-reh
U-yeh-ee moh-seh zvi-no

Call to Worship Opening litany

~ —Psalm 113 the Message Translation
The people read the bold

One: Hallelujah!
You who serve God, praise God!
Just to speak God's name is praise!

**ALL: Just to remember God is a blessing—
now and tomorrow and always.
From east to west, from dawn to dusk,
keep lifting all your praises to God!**

One: God is higher than anything and anyone,
outshining everything you can see in the skies.
Who can compare with God, our God,
so majestically enthroned,
Surveying his magnificent
heavens and earth?

**ALL: God picks up the poor from out of the dirt,
rescues the forgotten who've been thrown out
with the trash,**

One: Seats them among the honored guests,
a place of honor among the brightest and best.

**ALL: God gives childless couples a family,
gives them joy as the parents of children.
Hallelujah!**

“When I Needed A Neighbor Were You There”

Author: Sydney Carter

Chorus

When I needed a neighbor were you there,
were you there?
When I needed a neighbor were you there?
And the creed and the color
and the name won't matter, Were you there?

1. I was hungry and thirsty, were you there,
were you there?
I was hungry and thirsty, were you there?
2. I was cold, I was naked, were you there,
were you there?
I was cold, I was naked, were you there?
3. When I needed a shelter were you there,
were you there?
When I needed a shelter were you there?
4. When I needed a healer were you there,
were you there?
When I needed a healer were you there?
5. Wherever you travel I'll be there, I'll be there,
Wherever you travel I'll be there.
And the creed and the color and the name
won't matter, I'll be there. I'll be there.

Let Us Break Bread Together

*African American spiritual
Glory to God #525*

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

Refrain:

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)
let us drink wine together on our knees.

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

Whatever You Do

Author: Carolyn Winfrey Gillete tune: St. Denio

1. "Whatever you do to the least ones of these,
I tell you in truth that you do unto me!"
Lord Jesus, you taught us! May we learn anew
That when we serve others, we also serve you.
2. When poor, waiting children pray hunger will end,
When those long-forgotten cry out for a friend,
When thirsty ones whisper, "O Lord, where are you?"
We hear, in their longing, that you're calling, too.
3. In prisons and jails, Lord, we find a surprise;
We see you in people whom others despise.
At hospital bedsides we offer a prayer
And find, when we visit the sick, you are there.
4. When we reach to others in flood-stricken lands
And offer our hearts there, and offer our hands —
We notice, Lord Jesus, the gift of your grace:
We see, in the crowds of the suffering, your face.
5. "Lord, when did we see you?" Your teaching is clear
That when we serve others, we're serving you here.
And when your church heeds you and helps those in
pain,
Then out of the chaos, hope rises again.

Learn more about the
Matthew 25 Movement
via this QR Code
or directly online at



www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/matthew-25/



Matthew 25 in the PC(USA): Join the Movement

In our Presbyterian Church USA the Matthew 25 movement is an invitation to be(come) REAL church. It focuses on Matthew 25: 31-46, the parable of the sheep and goats in which Jesus makes clear, that what we do matters to God and how we treat others is important to God.

When we welcome others, we welcome Christ; when we bring together people who are divided, we are doing God's reconciling work. We are called to serve Jesus by contributing to the well-being of the most vulnerable in all societies – rural and urban, small and large, young and not-so-young. From affordable housing to community gardens to equitable educational and employment opportunities to healing from addiction and mental illness to enacting policy change – there is not just one way to be a part of the Matthew 25 movement.

Make no mistake, Jesus is calling us to perform ordinary acts of compassion in daily life. In so doing, we continue Christ's work of proclaiming release to captives and good news to the poor — the good news of God's righteousness, justice and peace for all.

“We are no longer consumed with preservation of the institution. We are urging all of us to be open to what God is calling us into beyond ourselves.”

REV. DR. TRACY KEENAN

NEW CASTLE PRESBYTERY

