

College Avenue Presbyterian Church  
 5951 College Avenue | Oakland | 94618  
 www.capcoakland.org | www.capcoakland.me  
 Office : 510.658.3665 | capc.manager@gmail.com  
 Pastor Monte: Cell 510.520.0746  
 montemclain@gmail.com



If a picture is 1,000 words, how many pictures are in a word?



Sunday • July 23, 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 “It Is Well With My Soul”

GATHERING SONG “God Welcomes All” - *Glory to God #399*

CALL TO WORSHIP

SONG OF PRAISE “Open My Eyes That I May See” - *Glory to God #451*  
*Children are invited to depart for Godly Play upstairs with today’s Story-Teller*

LISTENING FOR GOD’S WORD

HEARING SCRIPTURE Mark 7:1-30

PROCLAIMING GOD’S WORD “It’s not a story that just happened back then”  
 - *Rev. Monte McClain*

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

SONG OF RESPONSE “When our Lord walked the earth” - *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 “We cannot measure how you heal ” - *Insert*

THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

SENDING SONG “In Christ There Is No East Or West” - *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 “All I Really Wanna Do”

## Reflections on Today's Readings

### Mark 7:1-30

My friend Scott Erickson when talking of the stories of the Bible says, "It's not a story that just happened back then...it's a story that's happening right now." Part of being open is being open to experiencing the story of Jesus and the people of God as ours: realizing that we are the people of God. Part of that is realizing that it's more true than just literal truth. Another part is realizing that we to be delivered of our own Egypt, like the Passover Haggadah reminds those who eat the meal. Did you know that the Hebrew word for Egypt is Mizraim מִצְרַיִם which means narrow place (as in there isn't enough room), or land of distress? We too live in Mirzraim.

Today's scripture talks about the teaching of Jesus around the ways in which the tradition of the elders has become constricting, leading to spiritual blindness. In the effort to live righteous lives, to encourage everyone to live as rightly as the priests do in applying the teachings of the Torah to daily life, the Pharisees have diminished their vision. They've "ironically made the Law into an obstacle to real encounter with God, because the means have been mistaken for the end." They're so concerned about doing this rightly and in a Godly way that they seem to have forgotten or lost sight of why God has asked the people to live in such a unique way. We then see Jesus - who maybe is challenged himself - getting a new set of eyes in terms of how he reacts to this Gentile (as in non-Jewish) woman incessantly asking him for help with her daughter.

Scott Erickson made this curious art piece about vision and resurrection, commenting upon it: "What happens when you get to the end of all that you had envisioned is that you receive a new set eyes. What happens on the other side of a death of a dream is you receive a new perspective. What is the power of dying and resurrecting if not a new way of seeing everything?"



It speaks to me about being OPEN. We want to be people and a people that are open to tradition, but not bound or constricted by it. We want to remember the past but see the present through eyes hungering for the future.

### QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION & EXAMEN:

- What engaged, enraged, or surprised you in these texts?
- When have you experienced vision focused on the past? Maybe in our life together when we've said, "we've never done it like that before." Or "We tried that, it didn't work."
- How is the Spirit giving us eyes with which to see and ears with which to hear what God is up to today? (Mt 13:16)
- 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.

**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 Gary Yee 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 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.

**Process Theology Reading** - We're talking about who we are and want to be as a church. Process Theology is one of the newer ways of thinking about Christian faith. Pick up a reading today (or find it online in our newsletter) to continue the conversation. *In the entryway today.*

**Staff Vacation News** Pete Feltman will be on vacation Sundays, August 6<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>.

### Thank You to Today's Leadership:

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*

### “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

*~ Isaiah 35 | Common English Bible*

***The people read the bold***

One: The desert and the dry land will be glad;  
the wilderness will rejoice and blossom  
like the crocus.

**ALL: They will burst into bloom,  
and rejoice with joy and singing.  
They will receive the glory of Lebanon,  
the splendor of Carmel and Sharon.  
They will see the Lord's glory,  
the splendor of our God.**

One: Strengthen the weak hands,  
and support the unsteady knees.

**ALL: Say to those who are panicking:  
“Be strong! Don't fear!  
Here's your God,  
coming with vengeance;  
with divine retribution  
God will come to save you.”**

One: Then the eyes of the blind will be opened,  
and the ears of the deaf will be cleared.

**ALL: Then the lame will leap like the deer,  
and the tongue of the speechless will sing.  
Waters will spring up in the desert,  
and streams in the wilderness.**

One: The burning sand will become a pool,  
and the thirsty ground, fountains of water.  
The jackals' habitat, a pasture;[a]

grass will become reeds and rushes.

**ALL: A highway will be there.**

**It will be called The Holy Way.**

**The unclean won't travel on it,**

**but it will be for those walking on that way.**

**Even fools won't get lost on it;**

One: no lion will be there,  
and no predator will go up on it.  
None of these will be there;  
only the redeemed will walk on it.

**ALL: The Lord's ransomed ones will return  
and enter Zion with singing,  
with everlasting joy upon their heads.  
Happiness and joy will overwhelm them;  
grief and groaning will flee away.**

### “Open My Eyes That I May See

*Clara H. Scott (1895) | Public Domain*

*Glory to God #451*

1. Open my eyes that I may see  
glimpses of truth thou hast for me  
Place in my hands the wonderful key  
that shall unclasp and set me free  
Silently now I wait for thee,  
ready my God thy will to see  
Open my eyes, illumine me,  
Spirit divine

2. Open my ears that I may hear  
voices of truth thou sendest clear  
And while the wave notes fall on my ear  
everything false will disappear  
Silently now I wait for thee,  
ready my God thy will to see  
Open my heart illumine me  
Spirit divine

3. Open my mouth, and let me bear  
Gladly the warm truth ev'rywhere;  
Open my heart, and let me prepare  
Love with Thy children, thus to share:  
Silently now I wait for Thee,  
Ready, my God, Thy will to see;  
Open my eyes, illumine me,  
Spirit divine!

## **“When our Lord walked the earth”**

*(John Bell)*

1. When our Lord walked the earth,  
All the world found its worth;  
As declared at his birth,  
God became our neighbor,  
Granting, with his favor,

### *Refrain*

Power to speak and heal,  
Grace to know what’s real,  
Wisdom, insight and faith,  
Love and understanding.

2. Through his life, through his death,  
Through each gesture and breath,  
Jesus joined faith and deed,  
Model for our caring,  
Showing and yet sharing

3. Jesus loves all his friends  
And that love never ends;  
To his Church gifts he sends  
Through the Holy Spirit.  
These we still inherit:

4. Sing and smile and rejoice,  
Clap your hands, raise your voice;  
For, with unnerving choice,  
God, in Christ, has found us  
And displays around us

## **We cannot measure how you heal**

*John L. Bell & Graham Maule (1989)*  
*The Irish Presbyterian Hymnbook #367*  
*Glory to God #797*

3. So some have come who need Your help  
and some have come to make amends,  
as hands which shaped and saved the world  
are present in the touch of friends.  
Lord, let Your Spirit meet us here  
to mend the body, mind and soul,  
to disentangle peace from pain  
and make Your broken people whole.

## **In Christ there is no east or west**

*Author: John Oxenham (1908)*  
*The Presbyterian Hymnal #440*

1 In Christ there is no east or west,  
in him no south or north,  
but one great fellowship of love  
throughout the whole wide earth.

2 In Christ shall true hearts ev’rywhere  
their high communion find.  
His service is the golden cord  
close binding humankind.

3 Join hands, then, people of the faith,  
whate’er your race may be.  
All children of the living God  
are surely kin to me.

4 In Christ now meet both east and west,  
in him meet south and north.  
All Christly souls are joined as one  
throughout the whole wide earth.



“Newness is possible”

*By Scott Erickson*

<https://www.scottericksonart.com>