

College Avenue Presbyterian Church  
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Sunday • July 9, 2023 at 10:30am  
 in Person & on Zoom

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

- PRELUDE "He Never Failed Me Yet"
- GATHERING SONG "Come All You People" - *Insert*
- CALL TO WORSHIP - *David Kittams*
- SONG OF PRAISE "Just A Closer Walk With Thee" - *Insert*  
*Children are invited to depart for Godly Play upstairs with today's Story-Teller*
- LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD
- HEARING SCRIPTURE Romans 8:1-6,9-31, 35, 37-39 - *David Kittams*
- PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD "Real Christianity" - *Rev. Monte McClain*
- DIALOGUE SERMON WITH LORI CASTNER & GARY YEE
- RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD
- SONG OF RESPONSE "Jesus Is The Answer" - *Insert*
- PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER - *Chickwendu Okereke*  
 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 "Rain Down" - *Glory to God #48*
- THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH
- SENDING SONG "We Wait The Peaceful Kingdom" - *Glory to God #378*
- 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 "Angeline The Baker"

**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 you 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

## Reflections on Today's Readings Romans 8:1-6,9-31, 35, 37-39

Today we continue reflecting around what REAL means in terms of faith and church. Last week we looked at some of the various visions of what Christianity really is in our larger culture, including as a colonial tool for settling foreign countries, a materialist way to make those who are oppressed accept their lot in life as a spiritual duty, and as a way to escape this world for a more spiritual one.

As I wrote last week this last word (REAL), shapes the first two words (SAFE | OPEN) that we've used in our past mission statement. This week we're looking at REAL through the lens of the Apostle Paul, in particular the majestic vision of radical hope that he lays out in chapter 8 of his letter of pastoral advice to the church in ancient Rome (Romans). It's a passage that attempts to portray how the life and death of Jesus of Nazareth frees us from sin as individuals and as all of creation, to know the fullness of God's love and presence.

Famous German Jesuit theologian Karl Rahner (1904 – 1984) called this transformative love known in Jesus "God's self-communication." God, who is beyond our understanding, becomes tangible for us in the experience of Jesus. God is both the giver and the gift: giving us the knowledge of God's love, passion, redemptive grace and liberating purpose for creation through the gift of himself in Jesus.

This redemptive love, from which no power in the universe can separate us, is transformative, liberating us from the narrow place of self-centered, other-fearing, sin-full expectations to the wide-open green pastures of trust, grace, and cooperation. It's in knowing God's wholeness that we are fulfilled, becoming all of who we are created to be.

REAL faith involves transformation, existential change, choosing and acting, receiving and accepting, growth and inclusion. It's not just a religious doctrine, or theological doctrine, but a blue-pill sort of existential liberation, hopeful promise, a becoming more than our wildest dreams could ever imagine. It implies forgiving and accepting ourselves – and others – as we are, trusting that God is healing and redeeming us into something more.

### QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION & EXAMEN:

- What engaged, enraged, or surprised you in these texts?
- In this chapter Paul paints a picture of the purpose, goal or hope of all of creation. What does that look like?
- We're talking about REAL in terms of faith and church in our mission statement. How do you experience or practice the vision of this chapter as REAL? How do you struggle with 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
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.

**Tuesday - no Community Bible Study** 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](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.

**Roof & Solar donations** – Last week we approved as a congregation that taking out of 2 loans to pay for the re-roofing of all of our buildings and the installation of solar panels on our gym roof. You can donate to that project at any time. Label that gift as for "Roof and Solar" – in order for it to be designated to the correct place.

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

**Theology on Tap** – looking to start back up! We're looking to get this fun conversation group going again. Talk to Monte about helping to choose a monthly meeting date/time.

### Thank You to Today's Leadership:

Godly Play: Beth Beatty

Liturgist Prayer: Chickwendu Okereke

Liturgist Reader: David Kittams

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

~ Matthew 13 from [www.ministrymatters.com](http://www.ministrymatters.com)

**The people read the bold**

One: Come and worship God with your whole heart.

**ALL: We come as mustard seeds of faith.**

One: Come and worship God with your whole being.

**ALL: We come as leaven for the world.**

One: Come and worship God with your whole mind.

**ALL: We come as treasures  
and pearls of great price,  
enriching the world with our witness.**

One: Come and worship God with your whole lives.

### “Just A Closer Walk With Thee”

*African-American Spiritual*

1. I am weak but thou art strong  
Jesus, keep me from all wrong  
I'll be satisfied as long  
As a I walk, let me walk close to Thee

*Chorus*

Just a closer a walk with Thee  
Grant it Jesus is my plea  
Daily walking close to Thee  
Let it be, dear Lord, let it be

2. Through this world of toil and snares  
If I falter, Lord who cares?  
Who with my my burden shares?  
None but Thee, dear Lord, none but Thee  
chorus

3. When my feeble life is over  
Time for me will be no more  
Guide me gently safely o'er  
To Thy shore, dear Lord, to Thy shore

### “Jesus Is The Answer”

*Andraé Crouch*

*chorus*

Jesus is the answer, for the world today  
Above him there's no other, Jesus is the way  
Jesus is the answer, for the world today  
Above him there's no other, Jesus is the way  
Jesus is the way, Jesus is the way

1.If you have some questions  
in the corners of your mind  
Traces of discouragement,  
the peace you cannot find  
Reflections of your past,  
seem to face you everyday  
But this one thing I do know,  
that Jesus is the way

2. I know you've got mountains,  
that you think you cannot climb  
I know your skies have been dark,  
the think that sun won't shine  
But in case you don't know  
that the word of God is true  
Everything he's promised  
he will do it all for you,

## **Rain Down**

*Glory to God #48 | Jaime Cortez (1991)*

Rain down; rain down;  
Rain down your love on your people.  
Rain down; rain down;  
Rain down your love, God of life.

## **We Wait The Peaceful Kingdom**

*Author: Kathleen Rae Moore (2010)*

*© 2010 The Hymn Society (admin. Hope Publishing Company)*

*Glory to God #378*

1 We wait the peaceful kingdom,  
when wolf and lamb shall lie  
in gentleness and friendship  
without a fear or sigh,  
when lion shall be grazing,  
when snake shall never strike;  
a little child shall lead us  
both strong and weak alike.

2 Where is the peaceful kingdom?  
When will this new day start?  
We long for peace and comfort  
to reign within each heart.  
Yet not in our lives only,  
nor simply in our home:  
we pray that all creation  
will one day find shalom.

3 When wars of desolation  
and hate come to an end,  
when nation meets with nation  
and calls the other "friend,"  
still peace in all its fullness  
will only have begun:  
shalom for all creation  
begins with justice done.

4 That little child shall lead us  
to walk the chosen way,  
to share the peaceful kingdom,  
to greet God's newborn day.  
The child born in a stable  
is sent to break our chains,  
to bring through word and table  
the day when justice reigns.