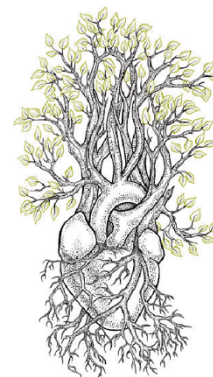


College Avenue Presbyterian Church
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”You shall love the Lord
 your God with all your heart, and
 with all your soul,
 and with all your strength,
 and with all your mind’
 and ‘your neighbor as yourself.’”

Matthew 22:36-40



Sunday • September 24, 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 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 Goldy 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 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

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

PRELUDE “There’s Just Something About That Name”

GATHERING MASH-UP SONG “Come Sing O Church In Joy” - Glory to God #305
 “We Are Standing On Holy Ground” - Glory to God #406

CALL TO WORSHIP

SONG OF PRAISE “Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive” - Glory to God #444
 Children are invited to depart for Godly Play upstairs with today’s Story-Teller

LISTENING FOR GOD’S WORD

HEARING SCRIPTURE Matthew 5:17-32

PROCLAIMING GOD’S WORD “Roots, Shapes & Mold” - Rev. Monte McClain

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

SONG OF RESPONSE “Up On A Mountaintop” - 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.

OFFERING SONG “God Hath Spoken Thru The Prophets” - Insert

THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

SENDING SONG “Walking In The Light Of The Lord” -Insert

SENDING CALL AND RESPONSE

Leader: God is good!

People: All the time!

Leader: And all the time!

People: God is good!

EXHORTATION & BLESSING

PASSING THE PEACE OF GOD “La paz de Christo” - Spanish

POSTLUDE “Cazadero”

**Reflections on
Today's Reading
Matthew 5:13-16**

The main recorded teaching of Jesus is commonly called the Sermon on the Mount. It's recorded in Matthew 5-7. The context of the Sermon on the Mount is radically important, without it the teachings can seem like disparate moral teachings, as opposed to a radical reinterpretation and recreation of the world.

Just before our chapter and this teaching, Jesus has invited everyone to "Repent. Change the Way they live. Because the kingdom of heaven is here." (4:17) And then "to follow him!" (4:19, 22) Those that respond in chapter 4 are fisherman, the sick, the broken, the marginalized - those who are overlooked and unimportant in the Roman Empire and the way of the World - but blessed and included in the Kingdom of Heaven. They are those looking for and in need of good news, and who then respond to it. (4:23-25).

Jesus teaches those followers and seekers that they have to be more righteous than the pharisees and scribes. They have to surpass the professional religious people in their spirituality. Their love of God and other people has to not just maintain the status quo (like those elites did) but transform it. We tend to forget that the word righteousness in Greek and Hebrew also means justice. So it's not just an interior attitude or thought, but an external action and way of being in the world.

Jesus then gives six for example statements to depict what life looks like for those called to be the light of the world and the salt of the earth. Jesus addressed the commandments, reinterpreting and expanding them, and then giving a larger definition of them centered around life and relationship. The commandments are about respecting life - not murdering, stealing, lying, or cheating. Jesus addresses examples of anger and murder, jealousy and strife, and adultery and divorce.

In his teachings he insists on relationship, reconciliation, and wholeness in holy living.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION & EXAMEN:

- What engaged, enraged, or surprised you in these texts?
- How have you experienced the practice of the Way of Jesus, love, and community in the church as too small or narrow? When?
- The teaching of Jesus is simple and profound. What questions does it leave you with?
- 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?



September Birthdays

2 Betty Trowbridge	9 Diana Geary
3 Mercy Beatty	11 Linda Davis
7 Michael Mendonca	19 Sylvan Zappin
8 Monte McClain	23 Karl Shadley
23 Gwen Haynes	28 Lisa Ko

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 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 19-20. Resources & info 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 Friday our high school partners of Piedmont Community Service Crew are heading up the cooking! Our FNM Leadership is finalizing a new expression of norms and behaviors for our volunteers and guests. This is intended to make our FNM as safe, real, and open as possible for all.

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

Planning for Advent and Christmas Meet-Up after worship on Sunday, October 1st. *We'll meet for no more than 45 minutes to begin planning for Advent and Christmas 2023.* If you'd like to help plan and/or lead our Sunday services during Advent, special Advent gatherings, or the Christmas Eve Service plan on coming to the initial planning meeting, or talk to Monte.

Building News - This week we installed new windows in the gym! Take a look this morning.

Alameda All Faiths Coalition is hosting their fourth interfaith dialogue on Saturday, October 21st from 2 pm to 4 pm. The event will be on Zoom. Our topic this year is "The Diversity of Christianity". Featured are people from the Catholic, Methodist, and Lutheran tradition. They would love to have someone from the Presbyterian church round out our circle. This person does not have to be clergy, just someone who is comfortable talking about your faith. *If you're interested contact Mahri Holt in the office for more info.*

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 Sing, O Church, in Joy!

Brian Dill | Glory to God #305

Refrain

In bold accord
Come celebrate the journey now
And praise the Lord

1. Come sing O church in joy
Come join O church in song
For Christ the Lord has led us
Through the ages long

2. Long years have come and gone
And still God reigns supreme
Empowering us to catch the vision
Dream the dream

3. Let courage be our friend
Let wisdom be our guide
As we in mission
Magnify the Crucified

4 Come sing O church in joy
Come join O church in song
For Christ the Lord has triumphed
Over the ages long

“We Are Standing on Holy Ground (Holy Ground)”

Geron Davis | Glory to God #406 | © 1983 Songchannel Music

Verse 1

When I walked through the doors
I sensed His presence
And I knew this was the place
Where love abounds
For this is a temple
Jehovah, God abides here
And we are standing in His presence
On holy ground

Pre-Chorus 1

We are standing on holy ground
And I know there are

angels all around
Let us praise
Jesus now
For we are standing
in His presence on holy ground

Verse 2

In His presence I know there is joy
Beyond all measure
And at His feet

Sweet peace of mind
Can still be found
For when we have a need
He is still the answer
Oh, reach out and claim it
For we are standing on holy ground

Chorus

Let us praise
let us praise God now
For we are standing
(we are standing in His presence)
We are standing
(in His holy wonderful presence)
We are standing
(He loves us in our hour of sorrow)
We are standing
(He's our hope, our hope for tomorrow)
For we are standing in His presence
on holy ground
Holy ground

Call to Worship Opening litany

Written to be said with the Gospel According to Matthew, 5:38-48.

<https://reimaginingworship.com/god-of-love-we-need-you-now-matthew-538-48/> **The people read the bold text**

One: God of Love, we need you now.

ALL: Teach us to love those we have learned to hate.

One: Teach us to pray for our enemies

ALL: To love you even in those we despise.

One: God of Peace, we need you now.

ALL: Teach us how to reconcile.

One: Teach us to speak when we are silenced.

ALL: Teach us to give up power when our power renders others powerless, or mute.

One: God of Joy, we need you now!

ALL: Receive our burdens, they are many.

One: Lift our spirits, they are weighed down.

ALL: God of life, we need you now,

One: Grant us grace where shame restricts us,

ALL: Grant us life where pain takes hold,

One: Grant us wisdom where we would settle for easy answers,

ALL: Grant us love, rooted in the eternal,

As we seek to live each day in you!

In the name of the Creator, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit.

AMEN.

"Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive"

Rosamond E. Herklots | Glory to God #444

© 1969, 1983 Rosamond E. Herklots

1. 'Forgive our sins as we forgive,'

You taught us, Lord, to pray

But you alone can grant us grace

To live the words we say

2. How can your pardon reach and bless

The unforgiving heart

That broods on wrongs and will not let

Old bitterness depart?

3. In blazing light your cross reveals

The truth we dimly knew:

What trivial debts are owed to us

How great our debt to you!

4. Lord, cleanse the depths within our souls

And bid resentment cease;

Then, bound to all in bonds of love

Our lives will spread your peace

"Up On A Mountaintop"

Tune: Traditional Irish melody ("Be Thou My Vision") (MIDI)

Text: Copyright © 2011 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette.

1. Up on a mountaintop, Jesus sat down,

Teaching the people who gathered around:

Look for the blessings that God kindly brings;

God's loving kingdom is changing all things.

2. You are the salt and you're also the light.

Flavor God's world, with your faith shining bright.

Know that I've come here, God's word to fulfill.

Keep the commandments and follow them well.

3. Let go of anger, for it is a sin.

It will destroy you, both outside and in.

Even your thinking can lead you astray;

Whatever tempts you, just throw it away.

4. Keep strong the bonds between husband and wife;

Keep your commitments for all of your life.

Don't swear by heaven or by earth below;

Let "yes" be "yes" then,

and let "no" be "no."

5. If any hurt you, then you may resist,

But not with hatred or weapon or fist.

God's way is stronger than any you face;

Stand up and love them! And give them God's grace.

6. Love those who hate you and pray for them, too.

God's mercy reaches out far beyond you.

Seek, as God's people, God's wholeness each day

So you can witness to God's perfect way.

"God Hath Spoken Thru The Prophets"

Author: G. W. Briggs (1952)

Glory to God (Music ed.) #9

1. God has spoken by the prophets,

Spoken the unchanging Word;

Each from age to age proclaiming

God the One, the righteous Lord!

'Mid the world's despair and turmoil

One firm anchor holding fast:

God eternal reigns forever,

God the first and God the last.

2. God has spoken by Christ Jesus,

Christ, the everlasting Son,

Brightness of the Father's glory,

With the Father ever one;

Spoken by the Word incarnate,

God of God ere time was born;

Light of light, to earth descending,

Christ as God in human form.

3. God is speaking by the Spirit,

Speaking to our hearts again,

In the age-long word declaring

God's own message, now as then.

Through the rise and fall of nations

One sure faith is standing fast:

God abides, the Word unchanging,

God the first and God the last.

“Walking In The Light Of The Lord”

Lou Rawls

1. Walking in the light of the lord
Walking in the light of the lord
I ain't got no more trouble

Chorus 1

Walking in the light of the lord
Walking in the sight of the lord
Walking in the sight of the lord
I feel so good all over
Walking in the sight of the lord

2. Wanna do some good each day that's the way to live
Anyone can take and take but you got to learn how to give

Chorus 2

Walking in the light of the lord
Walking in the light of the lord
I got no need to worry
Walking in the light of the lord

3. Well I've got no need for riches got no need for fame
Walking in the footsteps of his precious name

THE CHURCH

305 Come Sing, O Church, in Joy!

1 Come sing, O church, in joy! Come join, O church, in song!
2 Long years have come and gone, and still God reigns su - preme,
3 Let cour - age be our friend; let wis - dom be our guide,
4 Come sing, O church, in joy! Come join, O church, in song!

For Christ the Lord has led us through the a - ges long!
em - power - ing us to catch the vi - sion, dream the dream!
as we in mis - sion mag - ni - fy the Cru - ci - fied!
For Christ the Lord has tri - umphed o'er the a - ges long!

In bold ac - cord, come cel - e - brate the jour - ney now and praise the Lord!

This text was the winner in a hymn competition sponsored by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Bicentennial Committee for the 1983–1989 observance, which had the theme “Celebrate the Journey.” The late 18th-century tune (first used with Psalm 145) is appropriately celebratory.