

College Avenue Presbyterian Church
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EASTER

more than just a story



the most effective means of resistance
 isn't more noise but a compelling
 counter narrative

Easter Sunday • March 31, 2024 at 10:30am
 in Person & on Zoom



Welcome to CAPC Oakland!

We are a reformed, multicultural, community of followers of Jesus. Together we are committed to vigorously living our faith in our words, actions, and relationships in the East Bay.

In our community, face masks are not required, but always welcome. Masks are available in the entry.

As a community we are committed to being safe, open and real. We'd love to know you better. Use this QR Code to share your contact info or questions with our staff so we can follow up. We will not sell, share or abuse your personal info.



CHILDREN

We are moving towards restarting 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. Until then we have quiet toys, and activity sheets around today's scripture in the play area up front.

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 – Capc-net.
 Our password is 5951CAPC

CCL #1137062

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

- PRELUDE “I Danced In The Morning”
 ARRIVAL OF THE CHRIST CANDLE
 ENTRANCE OF THE CROSS
 ENTRANCE SONG “Jesus Christ Is Risen Today” - Blue Hymnal #123
We invite all those present this morning, who have experienced bereavement and loss to death this past pandemic season, to come forward and form a Circle of Hope around the Cross. Together we will symbolically lay our burdens before the Cross: God's ultimate word on loss, as we live the mystery of life.
- CALL TO WORSHIP
 SONG OF PRAISE “Come On Children Lets Sing” - Insert
- LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD
 HEARING SCRIPTURE Mark 16:1-8 - John LaMotte
 PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD “Rhinoceri, the People of God & Running Away” - Rev. Monte McClain
- RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD
 SONG OF RESPONSE “Praise The One Who Breaks The Darkness” - insert
 PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER - Liturgist
 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 “The Sun Above The Clouds” - insert
- THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH
 INSPIRING LIGHT
 SENDING SONG “Ain't That Good News” - Spiritual
- 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 - Traditional Easter Greeting
 “Christ is Risen. He (Christ) is risen indeed!”
- POSTLUDE “Liberty”

Reflections on Today's Readings

Mark 16:1-18 & 1:1

The "gospel" may be a familiar idea in the Christian faith today, but that doesn't mean it's easy to believe or follow. In fact, in our country today we increasingly disagree in what this "good news" is and means (The word gospel means good news). The Gospel authors—Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John—took it upon themselves to explain this strange, good news in writing. These narratives have a twofold purpose, to present the life and teachings of Jesus and convince readers to follow Jesus in response.

Common consensus holds that Mark was the first to embark on this epic task. But the Gospel of Mark has a peculiar feature that people don't often talk about—a jarring, dissatisfying ending. The women come to the tomb, find it empty. There is no body of Jesus, instead they encounter a young man in a white robe, seemingly a messenger from God (Mark 16:4-5). He starts talking to the women, proclaiming that Jesus is risen from the dead! He then commands them to go and share this good news with the disciples in Galilee (Mark 16:6-7). This command came with a promise—if the women believed and obeyed, they would see Jesus there when they arrived. (Mark 16:7).

But the women don't respond as we'd expect. Trembling, they flee the scene. It's unclear whether they obey the command to go to Galilee. The final words of Mark's "good news" leave us wanting more—"they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid" (Mark 16:8). So the gospel ends with flight and fear! Why would Mark write this?

Remember, the gospel authors are supposed to be convincing us of the gospel. Although Mark gives readers a gripping tale of Jesus' life, we arrive at the end, and it is missing everything we would expect. Why did Mark include women, who were culturally less-credible witnesses than men? Why didn't he include a sighting of Jesus to prove he had risen from the dead? Why does he include the obvious human failure of the women's fear and disobedience in response to the gospel? Did he forget to conclude the story?

But what if we asked ourselves another question? What if we asked ourselves to reconsider Mark's abrupt ending as an intentional, compelling invitation to discover the risen Jesus?; to return to Galilee for another look. In fact that's what the first sentence of the gospel seems to say.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION & EXAMEN:

- What engaged, enraged, or surprised you in this text?
- How do you respond to this abrupt ending?
- 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?

* adapted from text found at <https://bibleproject.com/articles/missing-end-mark-gospel/>

April Birthdays

12 Chuck Marut 13 Toni Proulx
18 Carol Dolezal 20 Kelechi Okereke
25 Dann Wilkens

April Anniversaries

2 Karl & Myrna Shadley 1987

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

Community Bible Study Sunday Edition

(Sundays 9:30-10:20am). Discussing the text used in our gathering each Sunday. .

Quilters Club Mondays 10a-12p, in the library.

Community Bible Study Wednesday Edition

Wednesdays at 7pm on Zoom. *No meeting this week.*

Friday Night Meal – Fridays 6-7:00pm.

Sign up online to help with set-up, serving, & clean-up! *Trinity Fellowship of Berkeley is cooking. Thom Faulkner is the host.*

Book Clubs Options - We're looking at our next Book Club Options. We're going to read *Man's Search for Meaning* by Viktor Frankl and *Everything Good about God is True: Choosing Faith* by Bruce Reyes-Chow. Sign up online to let Monte know if you plan to read and want to discuss one, or both, books.

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

Support our ministry for the next 100 years! – Pick up a flyer in the entryway today about how you can continue to – or begin to – partner with us!

Next Week 4/7 – Pete Feltman will be on vacation. We're having communion in worship and our testimonies series where you tell us in 12 words (more or less) about your faith today.

Thank You to Today's Leadership:

LITURGIST: John LaMotte

MUSIC: Pete Feltman, Dave Eagle,

Ben Kramarz, Kate Rose, Tom Beyer & Anna Lei

VIDEO TECH: Thom Faulkner, Dann Wilkens, 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

“Jesus Christ Is Risen Today”

*Charles Wesley (1740)
Blue Hymnal #123*

1 Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!
Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
Who did once, upon the cross, Alleluia!
Suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!

2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!
Unto Christ, our heavenly King, Alleluia!
Who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!
Sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!

3 But the pains which He endured, Alleluia!
Our salvation have procured; Alleluia!
Now above the sky He's king, Alleluia!
Where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!

4 Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!
Praise eternal as God's love; Alleluia!
Praise our God, ye heavenly host, Alleluia!
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!

Call to Worship Opening litany

~ Prayer “for Easter Sunday” by Kate Bowler in the. Collection entitled The Lives We Actually Have.

One: Oh God, I stretch out my hands to you
In this early Easter darkness.

**ALL: I need you to pull me up
And set me on my feet again,
For I am weak and tired.
God, have mercy.**

One: Christ, have mercy.

ALL: Spirit, have mercy.

One: God, on that first Easter morning
While it was still dark,
One woman went alone to the tomb
To do what could be done to honor you,

Though hope had drained away.

**ALL: Two bright angels met her there,
and then – how is it possible? –**

One: You were there, fully alive, beyond belief.

**ALL: Blessed are we who stretch out our
hands to you
In doubt and grief,
In sickness of body and mind and spirit,
Our prayers not fully realized,
Rejoicing....anyway.**

**For that is what makes us Easter people:
Carrying forth the realized hope
Of the Resurrected One,
Singing our alleluias great and small,
While it is still dark.**

One: Christ is risen.

**ALL: Christ will come again.
Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

“Come On Children Let's Sing” *H. Smith*

1. Come on children, let's sing
About the goodness of the Lord
Come on children, let's shout
All about God's rich reward
Guide our footsteps everyday
Keeps us in the narrow way
Come on children, let's sing!
About the goodness of the lord
Yeah, come on children, let's sing!
About the goodness of the lord
Come on children, let's shout!
All about God's rich reward
Guide our footsteps everyday
Keeps us in the narrow way
Come on children, let's sing!
Come on children, let's shout!
How Lord almighty has brought us out
- none like him without a doubt
Come on children, let's sing!
About the goodness of the Lord

2. He has been my all an' all
He will never let me fall
That is why I can sing That is why I can shout
Because I know what it's all about
The goodness of, the Lord,
the Lord, the Lord, hey!

"Praise The One Who Breaks The Darkness"

Author: Rusty Edwards | The Celebration Hymnal #293

© 1987 by Hope Publishing Company

1 Praise the One who breaks the darkness
With a liberating light;
Praise the One who frees the pris'ners,
Turning blindness into sight.
Praise the One who preached the gospel,
Healing every dread disease,
Calming storms and feeding thousands
With the very bread of peace.

2 Praise the One who blessed the children
With a strong yet gentle word;
Praise the One who drove out demons
With a piercing two-edged sword.
Praise the One who brings cool water
To the desert's burning sand;
From this well comes living water
Quenching thirst in every land.

3 Praise the one true love incarnate:
Christ, who suffered in our place;
Jesus died and rose for many
That we may know God by grace.
Let us sing for joy and gladness,
Seeing what our God has done.
Praise the one redeeming glory;
Praise the One who makes us one.

The Sun Above The Clouds

Anna Lei will lead on Guzheng

Song by Joanne Wu

When you soar on high in the sunny sky,
Or walk thru the valley far below the sky
Wherever you are, you will see a star,
God prepared it for you and me.
High above the rain, the Sun stays the same.
Tearful rainbows will be dried away.
High above the rain, the Sun stays the same,
ha-ah it stays the same.

Ain't That Good News

traditional spiritual

I got a crown up in that kingdom
Ain'ta that good news
I got a crown up in that kingdom
Ain'ta that good news
I'm a gonna lay down this world
gonna shoulder up a my cross
Gonna take it home to my Jesus
Ain'ta that good news

I got a robe up in that kingdom
Ain'ta that good news
I got a robe up in that kingdom
Ain'ta that good news
I'm a gonna lay down this world
gonna shoulder up a my cross
Gonna take it home to my Jesus
Ain'ta that good news