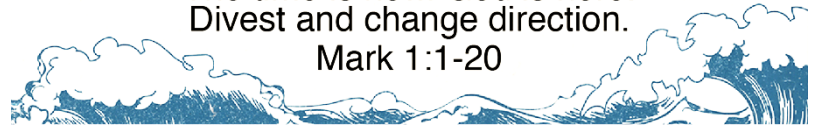


College Avenue Presbyterian Church  
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mark  
COME FOLLOW ME

The time is now. God is here.  
Divest and change direction.  
Mark 1:1-20



### 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

The Third Sunday of Easter • April 14, 2024 at 10:30am  
in Person & on Zoom

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

PRELUDE “Hymn To Freedom”

WORDS OF WELCOME

GATHERING SONG “Spirit Of God Descend Upon My Heart” - *Glory to God #688*

CALL TO WORSHIP

SONG OF PRAISE “There’s A Sweet, Sweet Spirit” - *Glory to God #408*

LISTENING FOR GOD’S WORD

HEARING SCRIPTURE Mark 1:1-20

PROCLAIMING GOD’S WORD “The Time is Now “ - *Rev. Monte McClain*

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

SONG OF RESPONSE “The Summons” - *Glory to God #726*

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 “Come Holy Spirit Heavenly Dove” - *Glory to God #279*

THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

SENDING SONG “I’ve Got Peace Like A River” - *Glory to God #623*

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 “Udo diri gi” - *Udo, spoken in Nigeria*

POSTLUDE “Beaumont Rag”

## Reflections on Today's Readings

### Mark 1:1-20

The first word of the book of Mark is the same word used in Genesis 1:1 "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth." Mark seems to be saying that is a continuation, or a renewed presence, of God's creating power in our world.

The chapter goes quickly, moving from this rhyming of creation, to connections with First Testament prophetic scriptures from the Exodus, Malachi and Isaiah, on to Jesus' baptism, battle in the wilderness and his first sermon and followers. Throughout it we hear the word "immediately" or "right away" used to describe the response of people who heard and experienced Jesus. The speed of the story-telling seems reinforced by that. Even the basic proclaimed message of Jesus contains a reference to time. "Now is the time! Here comes God's kingdom! Change your hearts and lives, and trust this good news!" He's proclaiming that God is in the world in a heavily present way, so today, now, is the moment to respond, to join in by divesting of the past and choosing a new future.

Jesus overcomes the devil in what appears as a battle in the wilderness. It's there, where God seems to not be in control, where one is hunted by hunger and wild animals, that Jesus overcomes the strong man who tempts him to choose another path. Jesus returns, crossing through the wilderness (like the Israelites in the exodus) to establish something more expansive, more inclusive, something new. But rather than starting with the elites, or those that already have power he starts with the lowly, the quotidian, the average joe-schmo: the fishermen.



### QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION & EXAMEN:

- What engaged, enraged, or surprised you in this text?
- Recognizing that God is doing something new (the good news) and joining into it involves divestment, setting the "old," "former," or familiar ways of being aside. What are some familiar things, routines, thoughts that you might need to divest yourself of in order to embrace that God's power is here and now, and you're invited to be part of the new thing God is doing?
- 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?

## April Birthdays

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

### 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. *Mark 1:21-45*

#### Friday Night Meal – Fridays 6-7:00pm.

Sign up online to help with set-up, serving, & clean-up! *Our partners of Montclair Presbyterian are cooking. Janet Majors is hosting the meal.*

**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:* by Bruce Reyes-Chow. Sign up online (using this QR Code 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!

**Construction Update** – The scaffolding is up and the prep work completed. Tomorrow, 4/15 we'll begin removing the old roof off the gym as well as updating the electrical system there to be able to process the electrical load from the new solar panels. Work should be completed within 3 weeks (5/3). Look for video updates on our social media channels and also on our blog.

#### Thank You to Today's Leadership:

MUSIC: Pete Feltman, Dave Eagle, Ben Kramarz, Kate Rose  
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*

### “Spirit Of God Descend Upon My Heart”

*George Croly (1867) | Glory to God #688*

1 Spirit of God, descend upon my heart;  
wean it from earth; through all its pulses move;  
stoop to my weakness, mighty as thou art,  
and make me love thee as I ought to love.

2 I ask no dream, no prophet ecstasies,  
no sudden rending of the veil of clay,  
no angel visitant, no opening skies;  
but take the dimness of my soul away.

3 Hast thou not bid us love thee, God and King;  
all, all thine own, soul, heart, and strength, and mind?  
I see thy cross; there teach my heart to cling.  
O let me seek thee, and O let me find!

4 Teach me to feel that thou art always nigh.  
Teach me the struggles of the soul to bear,  
to check the rising doubt, the rebel sigh.  
Teach me the patience of unanswered prayer.

5 Teach me to love thee as thine angels love,  
one holy passion filling all my frame;  
the baptism of the heaven-descended Dove,  
my heart an altar, and thy love the flame.

### Call to Worship Opening litany

*(<https://www.stephenmfearing.com/liturgy> written for Baptism of the Lord Heard C*

One: One: We have been claimed  
by the God who calls us children.

**Many: We, the redeemed,  
have been called by name.**

One: As with the Israelites,  
God promises to pass with us through the water.

**Many: We will not fear, for God is with us!**

One: The rivers shall not overwhelm us  
for God is our guide and our protector.

**Many: Through God's saving grace,  
the waters that tested us  
are now the waters that wash us  
and nourish us.**

One: Great is the Fount of Every Blessing,

**Many: ever flowing, ever redeeming,  
ever claiming us as God's children.**

One: Come, let us worship the God  
who washes us in grace.

**Many: Come Holy Spirit,  
renew your whole creation!**

### “There's A Sweet Sweet Spirit”

*Doris Akers (1962) | Glory to God #408  
© 1962. Renewed 1990 by Manna Music, Inc.*

1 There's a sweet, sweet spirit in this place,  
And I know that it's the spirit of the Lord;  
There are sweet expressions on each face,  
And I know they feel the presence of the Lord.

#### Refrain

Sweet Holy Spirit,  
Sweet Heavenly Dove,  
Stay right here with us,  
Filling us with Your love,  
And for these blessings  
We lift our hearts in praise,  
Without a doubt we'll know  
That we have been revived  
When we shall leave this place.

2. There are blessings you cannot receive  
till you know him in his fullness and believe;  
You're the one to profit when you say  
"I am going to walk with Jesus all the way."

## **"The Summons"**

*Author: John L. Bell | Glory to God #726*

*© Words: 1987 WGRG, Iona Community, Glasgow, Scotland*

1. Will you come and follow me  
If I but call your name?  
Will you go where you don't know  
And never be the same?  
Will you let my love be shown,  
Will you let my name be known,  
Will you let my life be grown  
In you and you in me?

2. Will you leave yourself behind  
If I but call your name?  
Will you care for cruel and kind  
And never be the same?  
Will you risk the hostile stare  
Should your life attract or scare?  
Will you let me answer prayer  
In you and you in me?

3. Will you let the blinded see  
If I but call your name?  
Will you set the prisoners free  
And never be the same?  
Will you kiss the leper clean,  
And do such as this unseen,  
And admit to what I mean  
In you and you in me?

4. Will you love the 'you' you hide  
If I but call your name?  
Will you quell the fear inside  
And never be the same?  
Will you use the faith you've found  
To reshape the world around,  
Through my sight and touch and sound  
In you and you in me?

5. Lord, your summons echoes true  
When you but call my name.  
Let me turn and follow you  
And never be the same.  
In your company I'll go  
Where your love and footsteps show.  
Thus I'll move and live and grow  
In you and you in me.

## **Come Holy Spirit Heavenly Dove**

*Isaac Watts (1707, alt.) | Glory to God#279*

1 Come, Holy Spirit, heavenly Dove,  
with all thy quickening powers;  
kindle a flame of sacred love  
in these cold hearts of ours.

2 In vain we tune our formal songs;  
in vain we strive to rise;  
hosannas languish on our tongues,  
and our devotion dies.

3 Dear Lord, and shall we ever live  
at this poor dying rate?  
Our love so faint, so cold to thee,  
and thine to us so great!

4 Come, Holy Spirit, heavenly Dove,  
with all thy quickening powers;  
come, shed abroad a Savior's love,  
and that shall kindle ours.

## **I've Got Peace Like A River**

*African-American spiritual | Glory to God #623*

*The first three items of the "fruit of the Spirit"  
(Galatians 5:22) are love, joy, and peace.*

1 I've got peace like a river,  
I've got peace like a river,  
I've got peace like a river in my soul.  
I've got peace like a river,  
I've got peace like a river,  
I've got peace like a river in my soul.

2 I've got love like a river,  
I've got love like a river,  
I've got love like a river in my soul.  
I've got love like a river,  
I've got love like a river,  
I've got love like a river in my soul

3 I've got joy like a river,  
I've got joy like a river,  
I've got joy like a river in my soul.  
I've got joy like a river,  
I've got joy like a river,  
I've got joy like a river in my soul.