

College Avenue Presbyterian Church
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January 9, 2022
 at 10:30am 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.

In this time of disruption and new normal we gather hybrid-ly (both in person and via Zoom).

This is our new normal.

It's something that we'll get better at each time we gather, allowing us to gather together and be consistent with our values and commitments. We ask that you wear a mask during worship as some of our community (our children in particular) are not yet vaccinated.

CHILDREN

We've reconfigured out how to do our Godly Play program for children via Zoom. We meet 9:30-10am on Sundays via Zoom. Info in the announcements on the back.

POST-SERVICE GARDEN PARTY

We are serving a light snack and coffee after worship in the garden throughout the summer. You can enjoy that mask-free. We ask you to not touch any of the food or drink, instead let us serve you.

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.'

CCL #1137062.

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

PRELUDE "When The Storms Of Life Are Raging Stand By Me"

GATHERING SONG "In Cana At A Wedding Feast"

CALL TO WORSHIP

SONG OF PRAISE "Christ Has Risen While Earth Slumbers"

HEARING GOD'S WORD

LISTENING TO SCRIPTURE John 2:1-12

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD "Distracted Concentration" - Rev. Monte McClain

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

SONG OF RESPONSE "He Turned The Water Into Wine"

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

"Step By Step"

THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

SENDING SONG "He's Got The Whole World In His Hands"

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 paz de Christo" (Spanish)

In the season of a pandemic new normal, you're invited to pass the peace of God however and to whoever you can this day as we live our lives of disciples of Jesus sheltering-in-place, as a living sign of the Dominion of God at work moving us toward the healing transformation of the world.

POSTLUDE "The 8th of January"

Reflections on Today's Readings

John 2:1-12



We're diving into the Gospel of John as our guiding text for our Sunday gatherings from now through Easter. It's one of the four stories of the good news of Jesus (Gospel means good news) which tells his life, actions, words and mission. It's believed that John's account is the last one written as his retelling of the story reflects considerable theological reflection and uses metaphors and poetic language. One example is the play with light and darkness throughout the story. John's account also contains only seven miracles – or signs as they're called. A symbolic number in Jewish tradition that represents the divine.

In Genesis, the first book of the Bible, God is presented as speaking the creation into existence. John begins his gospel telling of Jesus with a deliberate parallel. The word [*logos in John 1:1-5*] that God speaks creatively in the beginning takes on human form and enters history in the person of Jesus. Jesus speaks the word as it happens: forgiveness and judgment, healing and illumination, mercy and grace, joy and love, freedom and resurrection. Everything broken and fallen, sinful and diseased, calling into salvation by God's spoken word.

For, somewhere along the line things went wrong (*Genesis tells that story too*) and are in desperate need of fixing. The fixing is all accomplished by speaking – God speaking salvation into being in the person of Jesus. Here Jesus not only speaks the word of God: he is the Word of God.

Keeping company with these words, we begin to realize that our words are more important than we ever supposed. Saving "I believe," [John 11:25] for instance, marks the difference between life and death. Our words accrue dignity and gravity in conversations with Jesus. For Jesus doesn't impose salvation as a solution: he narrates salvation into being through leisurely conversation, intimate personal relationships, compassion responses, passionate prayer, and – putting it all together – a sacrificial death. We don't causally walk away from words like that.

The story of the creative conversation in the word and person of Jesus is structured around 7 signs – the word that John uses for miracle. They continue the word of God in Genesis during the seven days of Creation. It would be difficult to tell these stories without conveying some sense of wonder that we're being let in on something extraordinary, a realization that these signs are evidence that God is still at work in creation and isn't just its Maintenance Engineer.

Abd God's still at work in creation today. Still performing sings that point to him. Still revealing not only his glory but also his goodness – and, most particularly, his goodness toward us. God is still changing the water of our lives into wine (the first of the seven signs that we read today!)...and not just any wine, but the finest of wines. [*Isaiah 25:6*].

Taken in large part from Eugene Peterson's introduction to the gospel of John in the Message Translation.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION & EXAMEN:

- What engaged you, enraged you, or surprised you in the text?
- 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?

January Birthdays

8 Bill Bryant
10 Thom Faulkner Jesse Adams
18 Gary Yee Dick Street
20 Daniel Geary 25 Joy Barnes
29 Bill Beatty

January Wedding Anniversaries

9 Dann & Marji Wilkens 1982

Weekly Calendar

COVID-19 and Omicrom. We have paused in-person worship gatherings due to the Omicron surge of COVID-19 cases. This variant is much more contagious, although mild for most who have been vaccinated. We've paused meeting together as tests are scarce and the projection is that our hospitals will be stretched past their limit. We will evaluate at the end of January about re-starting in-person gatherings at that point.

Connection Calls Mondays & Fridays 12-12:30pm a time for holy conversation (Mondays) and the practice of Lectio Divina (Fridays). On our regular Zoom channel.

Race Matters Group Mondays - 6pm on Zoom This week we're talking about what we want to do this next term.

Friday Night Meal – Friday, January 14th 6:00-7:00PM. We're cooking. Want to help? talk to Monte. Sign up online with set-up and serving, and clean-up.

Godly Play for Children Sundays 9:30-10am on Zoom

We have up-to-date information about vaccination sites and testing options (and much more) on our website –search at www.capcoakland.org/covid19-virus.



Thank you to Today's Leadership:
Music: Pete Feltman, Dave Eagle, Ben Kra-marz, Gabe Szilardi-Tierney, Roger Kim
Prayer Liturgist: Myrna Shadley
Preaching: Monte McClain
Video Tech: Thom Faulkner, Albert Hussian,

LYRICS & RESPONSES FOR TODAY'S CELEBRATION

We affirm that God is neither male or 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 using gender inclusive language.

“In Cana At A Wedding Feast”

Text: Copyright © 1999 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette.

Tune: 1784 "I Sing the Mighty Power of God"

1. In Cana at a wedding feast,
Christ worked his first great sign.
There Jesus' mother told her son,
"They don't have any wine!"
He called for six stone water jars;
they filled them to the brim;
Through water changed to wine that day,
his friends believed in him.
2. Far from the town, the crowds pressed in
on Jesus' prayer retreat.
He healed their sick, then told his own,
"You give them food to eat!"
Five loaves of bread and two small fish
were all they found to share,
Yet thousands ate the meal he blessed,
with baskets left to spare.
3. Out on the sea, the winds were strong;
the stormy waves were high;
There Jesus' friends were filled with fear
when he came walking by.
"Take heart, for it is I!" he said,
and helping Peter stand,
He calmed the storm and stirred their hearts;
God's world was in his hand.
4. The blind, the poor, the outcast too,
found Christ to be their friend.
"Have mercy!" Bartimaeus said. "
I want to see again."
With great compassion and with grace,
Christ gave him back his sight.
Through deeds of power, deeds of love,
he filled our world with light.
5. O Lord, we see your wondrous signs
and know through faith-filled eyes:
You are new wine that brings us joy,
true bread that satisfies.

You give clear vision to your church,
you make the wounded whole.
You give us hope, when seas are rough;
for you are in control!

Call to Worship

A riffed prayer from Isaiah 54, 62, Amos 9, and Luke 3.

One: It's a new year, that feels like we're trapped
in a repeating cycle of the past year or two...
**MANY: storming the capitol, a COVID surge,
back to Zoom,...when will it all end?**

One: At Christmas we celebrate Emmanuel –
God with us...in the Christ child...
**MANY: but we wonder if it's all just in the past,
a story, a myth....how & where is God with us?**

One: The prophet Isaiah spoke hope to the
people of God, saying "Do not fear,
you won't be ashamed or disgraced.
**MANY: The LORD who will save you,
is the one who made you—
the Lord of heavenly forces is his name.**

One: You will be a splendid garland –
a crown of glory - in the Lord's hand
You will no longer be called Abandoned
or forsaken,
**MANY: and your land will no longer be called
deserted and desolate....
Instead, you will be called My Delight Is in You...**

One: In those days, you will find food to eat,
and oil a plenty - like God brought into being
through Elijah and Elisha...
**MANY: You will plant vineyards and drink
their wine;
You will hear my word. You will know me,
and I will make covenant with you...
turning the water of our everyday life into the
choicest of wines intended for the best party**

One: We hear these ancients words of promise
And hope – looking for signs to point the Way
we should travel together...
**MANY: You are the Way, the Truth and the Life
Guide our feet in the level way that you've made
through the crooked valleys and unexpected
heights we are encountering today.**

...

“Christ Has Risen While Earth Slumbers”

John L. Bell (1988) | Glory to God #231

1. Christ has risen while earth slumbers,
Christ has risen where hope died,
as he said and as he promised,
as we doubted and denied.
Let the moon embrace the blessing;
let the sun sustain the cheer;
let the world confirm the rumor:
Christ is risen, God is here!

2. Christ has risen for the people
whom he loved and died to save;
Christ has risen for the women
bringing flowers to grace his grave
Christ has risen for disciples
huddled in an upstairs room.
He whose word inspired creation
is not silenced by the tomb.

3. Christ has risen and forever
lives to challenge and to change
all whose lives are messed or mangled,
all who find religion strange.
Christ is risen. Christ is present
making us what he has been –
evidence of transformation
in which God is known and seen.

“He Turned The Water Into Wine”

Johnny Cash

He turned the water into wine (*did my Lord now*)
He turned the water into wine
In the little Cana town, the word went all around that
He turned the water into wine

Well he walked upon the Sea of Galilee
He walked upon the Sea of Galilee
Shouted far and wide He calmed the raging tide and
Walked upon the Sea of Galilee

He healed the leper and the lame
He healed the leper and the lame
He said go and tell no man
But they shouted it through the land that
He healed the leper and the lame

He fed the hungry multitude
He fed the hungry multitude
With a little bit of fish and bread

They said everyone was fed (5000)
He fed the hungry multitude

He turned the water into wine
He turned the water into wine (didn't the carpen-
ter from Nazareth)
In the little Cana town, the word went all around
that
He turned the water into wine
He turned the water into wine

“Step By Step”

*words & music by David Strasser
Glory to God #525*

Oh God, You are my God
And I will ever praise You
Oh God, You are my God
And I will ever praise You

I will seek You in the morning
And I will learn to walk in your ways
And step by step You'll lead me
And I will follow You all of my days

"He's Got The Whole World In His Hands"

Traditional - Anonymous

He's got the whole world in His hand
He's got this whole, in His hand
He's got this whole world in His hand
He's got the whole world in His hand

He's got the whole world in His hand
He's got this whole, in His hand
He's got this whole world in His hand
He's got the whole world in His hand

He's got you and me sister in His hand
He's got you and me sister in His hand
He's got you and me sister in His hand
He's got the whole world in His hand

He's got everybody here right in his hand
He's got everybody here right in his hand
He's got everybody here right in his hand
He's got the whole world in His hand

If religion was a thing, money could buy
The whole wide world in His hand
The rich would live and the poor would die
The whole world in His hand

The spirit can't move
without the world in his hands
The spirit can't move
without the world in his hands
The spirit can't move
without the world in his hands
He's got the whole world in his hands

He's got the whole world in His hand
He's got this whole, in His hand
He's got this whole world in His hand
He's got the whole world in His hand