

College Avenue Presbyterian Church
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February 13, 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.

**VIRTUAL WORSHIP
 THIS MONTH**

Due to the Omicron Surge in Covid transmission we are meeting virtually through mid-February to keep everyone safe and community spread of COVID at bay. You're invited to participate in worship via CHAT function and the open audio channel after service.

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.'

CCL #1137062.

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

PRELUDE "We Shall Overcome"

GATHERING SONG "Gather Us In"

CALL TO WORSHIP

SONG OF PRAISE "How Can I Keep From Singing"

HEARING GOD'S WORD

REMEMBERING THE BIGNESS OF IMAGO DEI THROUGH BLACK HISTORY STORIES

- Lori Castner

LISTENING TO SCRIPTURE John 6:35-59

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD "Our Daily Bread & The Bread of Life"

- Rev. Monte McClain

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

SONG OF RESPONSE "Guide Me Oh Thy Great Jehovah"

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

"Lift Every Voice And Sing" verse 1

THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

SENDING SONG

"God Be With You Till We Meet Again"

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 願主賜你平安

Yuàn zhǔ cì nǐ píng'ān (Mandarin)

Yuen juu chee nay ping on (Cantonese)

May the Lord grant you peace

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 "Sweet Georgia Brown"

Reflections on Today's Readings John 6:35-59

Our reading today is the latter half of a long teaching that Jesus gives to a crowd which follows him across the Sea of Galilee in Capernaum to see and hear more. John 6:24-26 sets the context. The crowd asks for more miraculous signs in order to believe in Jesus and his authority. This is a major theme of the gospel.

The people are looking for a sign, but only one that fits their expectations. Jesus gives them something else. They're looking for miracles, he offers relationship by talking about bread as a word, image and metaphor.

Bread was the basic element of the daily diet. It was a major sign of God's faithfulness in the past: the giving of daily bread (manna) in the desert as they people fled bondage in Egypt towards freedom in the Promised Land (told in Exodus 16). It's also evoked in the Lord's Prayer – the way in which Jesus teaches his followers to pray: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us each day our daily bread. [Or our bread for tomorrow]" - Matthew 6:9-13. Here Jesus opposes the bread of the earth or daily life and the bread of heaven or life. We hear in his words the foundational statements at the heart of the celebration of communion – a sacramental experience in community of the truth about which he is speaking.

The Romans thought (in large part because of the words in today's text) that the Christians were cannibals, who gathered together to eat the flesh and drink the blood of Christ. They seemed to have misunderstood the words of Jesus as much as the religious leaders who opposed Jesus did in today's text.

So what is Jesus talking about? In our modern life we no longer have to work every day in order to have a meal and not go to bed hungry. And yet we still have the same hunger for meaning in life. That's what makes us live alive or live in a stupor. Life is more than just getting older and dying. Jesus is inviting the crowd to consider that hunger in life, that thirst for meaning and community connection.

Our passages rhymes with Jesus's teaching in Matthew 6:25-34: "25 Therefore, I say to you, don't worry about your life, what you'll eat or what you'll drink, or about your body, what you'll wear. Isn't life more than food and the body more than clothes? 26 Look at the birds in the sky. They don't sow seed or harvest grain or gather crops into barns. Yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Aren't you worth much more than they are? ... 33 Instead, seek first and foremost God's kingdom and God's righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. 34 So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own."

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION & EXAMEN:

- What engaged you, enraged you, or surprised you in the text?
- How has faith in Jesus been a bread of life for you? How has it shaped and oriented you in the past? How do you need it to do so today?
- 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?

February Birthdays

8 Cecelia Jackson 9 Angel Carney
16 Myrna Shadley

Weekly Calendar

COVID-19 and Omicron. We have paused in-person worship gatherings due to the Omicron surge of COVID-19 cases. We are looking to restart in person services by the end of this month.

Global Missions Gathering Today 2:45-4:30pm right and Remya David will share about the South Indian church. Meeting at the home of Marda Stothers: 2600 Warring Street Berkeley, 94704.

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 how we talk about how race matters to and in how we articulate our faith in Jesus. Find info at www.capcoakland.org/race-matters

Friday Night Meal – Friday, February 11th 6:00-7:00PM. Our partners of Montclair Presbyterian Church are cooking. Want to help? Sign up online with set-up and serving, and clean-up.

Women's Group Saturday 9:30-10:30am on Zoom. Contact Anne Marie Adams for info.

Godly Play Sundays 9:30-10am on Zoom

Black History Month Throughout February we share about the history and story of Black Americans who have shaped the history of the Church and our nation. Would you like to get involved? Sign-up online at <https://tinyurl.com/2p8d9emd>

Thank you to Today's Leadership:
Black History Month Sharing: Lori Castner
Godly Play: Beth Beatty
Music: Pete Feltman, Dave Eagle, Ben Karmar, Roger Kim
Prayer Liturgist:
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.

“Gather Us In”

Composer: Marty Haugen, 1991 | Glory to God #401

Now is the darkness vanished away,
See in this space our fears and our dreamings,
Brought here to you in the light of this day.
Gather us in - the lost and forsaken,
Gather us in the blind and the lame;
Call to us now, and we shall awaken,
We shall arise at the sound of our name.

2. We are the young our lives are a myst'ry
We are the old who yearn for your face,
We have been sung throughout all of hist'ry,
Called to be light to the whole human race.
Gather us in the rich and the haughty,
Gather us in the proud and the strong;
Give us a heart so meek and so lowly,
Give us the courage to enter the song.

3. Here will will take the wine and the water,
Here we will take the bread of new birth,
Here you shall call your sons and your daughters,
Call us anew to be salt for the earth.
Give us to drink the wine of compassion,
Give us to eat the bread that is you;
Nourish us well, and teach us to fashion
lives that are holy
And hearts that are true.

4. Not in the dark of buildings confining,
Not in some heaven, light-years away,
But here in this place the new light is shining,
Now is the Kingdom, now is the day.
Gather us in and hold us forever,
Gather us in and make us your own;
Gather us in - all peoples together,
Fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

Call to Worship

A portion of the Brief Statement of Faith (1981)

One: In life and in death we belong to God.

ALL: We trust in God,

whom Jesus called Abba, Father.

**In sovereign love God created the world good
and makes everyone equally in God's image
male and female, of every race and people,
to live as one community.**

One: But we rebel against God;
we hide from our Creator.
Ignoring God's commandments,
we violate the image of God in others
and ourselves,
accept lies as truth,
exploit neighbor and nature,
and threaten death to the planet
entrusted to our care.

**ALL: Loving us still,
God makes us heirs with Christ
of the covenant.
Like a mother
who will not forsake her nursing child,
like a father
who runs to welcome the prodigal home,
God is faithful still.**

One: In a broken and fearful world
the Spirit gives us courage

**ALL: to pray without ceasing,
to witness among all peoples to Christ
as Lord and Savior,
to unmask idolatries
in Church and culture,
to hear the voices of peoples
long silenced,
and to work with others
for justice, freedom, and peace.**

One: In gratitude to God,
empowered by the Spirit,

**ALL: we strive to serve Christ
in our daily tasks
and to live holy and joyful lives,
even as we watch for God's
new heaven and new earth,
praying, “Come, Lord Jesus!”
With believers in every time and place,
we rejoice that nothing in life or in death
can separate us from the love of God in
Christ Jesus our Lord.**

In life and in death, we belong to God.

“How Can I Keep From Singing”

Robert Lowry (1869) | Glory to God #821

1. My life flows on in endless song
Above earth's lamentation
I catch the sweet, though far off hymn
That hails a new creation

chorus

No storm can shake my inmost calm
While to that rock I'm clinging
Since love is lord of heaven and earth
How can I keep from singing?

2. Through all the tumult and the strife
I hear that music ringing
It finds an echo in my soul
How can I keep from singing

chorus

3. That though my joys and comforts die
I know my savior liveth
What though the darkness gather round
Songs in the night he giveth

chorus

4. The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart
A fountain ever springing
All things are mine since I am his
How can I keep from singing?

chorus

“Guide Me Oh Thy Great Jehovah”

*Author: William Williams (1745);
Translator: Peter Williams (1771)
The Blue Presbyterian Hymnal #281*

1. Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah,
Pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but Thou art mighty;
Hold me with Thy powerful hand;
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
Feed me till I want no more,
Feed me till I want no more.

2 Open now the crystal fountain,
Whence the healing stream doth flow;
Let the fire and cloudy pillar
Lead me all my journey through;
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer,
Be Thou still my strength and shield,
Be Thou still my strength and shield.

3 When I tread the verge of Jordan,
Bid my anxious fears subside;
Death of death, and hell's destruction,
Land me safe on Canaan's side;
Songs of praises, songs of praises,
I will ever give to Thee,
I will ever give to Thee.
I love you and you are mine

“Lift Every Voice And Sing”

*James Weldon Johnson (1900)
The Blue Presbyterian Hymnal #563*

1. Lift every voice and sing
Till earth and heaven ring
Ring with the harmonies of liberty
Let our rejoicing rise high as the listening skies
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea
Sing a song full of the faith
that the dark past has taught us
Sing a song full of the hope
that the present has brought us
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun
Let us march on till victory is won

“God Be With You Till We Meet Again ”

tune: Randolph | text: Jeremiah Ranki

1. God be with you till we meet again
Loving counsels guide uphold you
With a shepherds care enfold you
God be with you till we meet again

2. God be with you till we meet again
Unseen wings protecting hide you
Daily manna still provide you
God be with you till we meet again

3. God be with you till we meet again
When life's perils thick confound you
Put unfailing arms around you
God be with you till we meet again

4. God be with you till we meet again
Keep love's banner floating o'er you
Smite death's threatening wave before you
God be with you till we meet again