

College Avenue Presbyterian Church  
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February 20, 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 "Hymn To Freedom"

GATHERING SONG "Give Me Jesus"

CALL TO WORSHIP

SONG OF PRAISE "Precious Lord Take My Hand"

HEARING GOD'S WORD

REMEMBERING THE BIGNESS OF IMAGO DEI THROUGH BLACK HISTORY STORIES  
 - Cameron Beatty

LISTENING TO SCRIPTURE John 7:32, 7:37-8:11

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD "Appearances Can Be Deceiving"  
 - Rev. Monte McClain

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

SONG OF RESPONSE "All Who Are Thirsty"

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 2

THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

SENDING SONG "Guide My Feet"

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 "What's Going On"

## Reflections on Today's Readings John 7:32, 7:37-8:11

Our reading today shows the increasing tension between Jesus and the religious leaders threatened by his increasing spiritual authority. Repeatedly we've seen misunderstandings about what Jesus appears to be saying and what he is saying. John is hammering home the depth of the word of Jesus which comes not just to reinforce tradition and history, but to de-colonize our imaginations, to remind folks of the freedom and agency for which God made them. He's doing nothing short of recreating the world – making all things new.

Here Jesus speaks at the end of the Feast of Tabernacles about living water. He's already done so with the woman at the well in chapter 4. But here, during this festival that included a daily libation of water poured out in the Temple during prayers for rain in the coming harvest season, Jesus speaks words from the prophet Isaiah. It's not just about asking God for water in order to live – it's about discerning and accepting the living water that is already here.

Threatened by the way Jesus is well received by the crowds, the religious leaders send their foot soldiers to bring him in. But they too are marveled by the wisdom, powerful presence and radical relationality of Jesus. So the story points to sneaky ways of trying to trap Jesus, here invoking the religious rules and laws around adultery. The situation while seemingly obvious, is deceiving. Where is the man with whom this woman was having sexual intercourse? Who are the three witnesses of the act, required to bring an accusation? And that includes the husband? Where is he?

Jesus shows amazing wisdom and serene agency by slowing things down. Challenging those who want to throw the first stone to first see the sin in their own lives. It's a reminder that part of the human condition is that we're all too often too quick to judge others rather than recognize our own shortfalls. We're too quick to draw lines in the sand, defining the context as us versus them as opposed to recognizing our common humanity as a we.

Appearances can deceive. How do we look deeply and widely at what actually is – not just what we glimpse that reinforces our pre-conceived ideas or expectations. How are we called to see our neighbor and our world in this time when we've recognized on a global scale that appearances can be deceiving, that we can't judge a book by its cover? Isn't that a large part of what we're discovering in this time of pandemic, political polarization, social isolation and racial reckoning?

### QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION & EXAMEN:

- What engaged you, enraged you, or surprised you in the text?
- Jesus talks of living water and the spirit of God, that makes all things new. How and what things are made new in this scripture?
- Why are the religious leaders so set against Jesus?
- 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?

## Weekly Calendar

**Restarting In-person worship next week 2/27.** Our church session voted last Sunday unanimously to endorse the proposal of our COVID discernment team to re-open for hybrid worship on Sunday, February 27th. We'll have worship both in-person and also on Zoom for those who prefer. For those who come in person we will continue the previously practiced protocol including:

- asking all those present to wear masks
- using name tags
- doing contact tracing sign-in sheets
- using the three colored dots for navigating
- social interactions
- coffee hour outside

**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** We're off this week – 2/21 but back on 2/27 talking about how we talk about how race matters to and in how we articulate our faith in Jesus. Find info at [www.cap-coakland.org/race-matters](http://www.cap-coakland.org/race-matters)

**Friday Night Meal – Friday, February 25<sup>th</sup> 6:00-7:00PM.** Bright and Remya are cooking. Want to help with the meal? 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: Cam Beatty  
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.*

### “Give Me Jesus”

*Jeremy Camp*

1. In the morning when I rise,  
in the morning when I rise,  
In the morning when I rise  
Give me Jesus

chorus

Give me Jesus  
Give me Jesus  
You can have all the rest  
But give me Jesus

2. My mother used to say,

3. Dark midnight was my cry,

4. And when I'm about to die,

### Call to Worship

*Psalms 147:1-11*

One: Praise the Lord!

Because it is good to sing praise to our God!  
Because it is a pleasure to make beautiful praise!

**ALL: The Lord rebuilds Jerusalem,  
gathering up Israel's exiles.  
God heals the brokenhearted  
and bandages their wounds.**

One: God counts the stars by number,  
giving each one a name.  
Our Lord is great and so strong!  
God's knowledge can't be grasped!

**ALL: The Lord helps the poor,  
but throws the wicked down on the dirt!**

One: Sing to the Lord with thanks;  
sing praises to our God with a lyre!

**ALL: God covers the skies with clouds;  
God makes rain for the earth;  
God makes the mountains sprout green grass.**

One: God gives food to the animals—  
even to the baby ravens when they cry out.

**ALL: God doesn't prize  
the strength of a horse;  
God doesn't treasure  
the legs of a runner.  
No. The Lord treasures the people  
who honor him, the people  
who wait for his faithful love.**

### “Precious Lord Take My Hand”

*Thomas Andrew Dorsey (1938)  
Glory to God #834*

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

## **“Precious Lord Take My Hand”**

*Thomas Andrew Dorsey (1938)*

*Glory to God #834*

1. Precious Lord, take my hand,  
Lead me on, let me stand,  
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;  
Through the storm, through the night,  
Lead me on to the light

Refrain: Take my hand, precious Lord,  
Lead me home.

2. When my way grows drear,  
Precious Lord, linger near,  
When my life is almost gone,  
Hear my cry, hear my call,  
Hold my hand lest I fall:

Refrain: Take my hand, precious Lord,  
Lead me home.

## **“All Who Are Thirsty”**

*Author: Brenton Brown; Author: Glenn Robertson*

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All who are thirsty,  
all who are weak  
Come to the fountain  
Dip your heart in the stream of life  
Let the pain and the sorrow  
Be washed away  
In the waves of his mercy  
As deep cries out to deep, we sing

*(Chorus)*

Come Lord Jesus come  
Come Lord Jesus come  
Come Lord Jesus come

Holy Spirit come  
Holy Spirit come  
Holy Spirit come

All who are needy  
The world has forgot  
Come to the table  
Be fed and hunger not  
Let your heart that's despairing  
Be lifted up,  
in the waves of his mercy  
as deep cries out to deep, we sing

*chorus*

## **“Lift Every Voice And Sing”**

*James Weldon Johnson (1900)*

*The Blue Presbyterian Hymnal #563*

2. Stony the road we trod, bitter the chastening rod  
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died  
Yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet  
Come to the place for which our parents sighed  
We have come over a way  
that with tears has been watered  
We have come treading our path  
through the blood of the slaughtered  
Out of the gloomy past, till now we stand at last  
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast

## **“Guide My Feet”**

*Traditional Spiritual*

1. Guide my feet while I run this race  
Guide my feet while I run this race  
Guide my feet while I run this race  
For I don't want to run this race in vain

2. Hold my hand while I run this race

3. Stand by me while I run this race

4. I'm your child while I run this race

5. Search my heart while I run this race

6. Help me dodge that old devil man

Guide my feet while I run this race