

College Avenue Presbyterian Church
5951 College Avenue | Oakland | 94618
www.capcoakland.org | www.capcoakland.me
Office : 510.658.3665 | capc.manager@gmail.com
Pastor Monte: Cell 510.520.0746
montemcclain@gmail.com



Reading the Signs



THE GOSPEL OF JOHN
JOHN 4:46-54; 5:1-18
Hearing Voices

February 6, 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 your requests in the chat on ZOOM labeling it with 'prayer.'

CCL #1137062.

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

PRELUDE

"Accentuate The Positive"

GATHERING SONG

"Lift Every Voice And Sing"

CALL TO WORSHIP

SONG OF PRAISE

"Blessed Be The Name Of The Lord"

HEARING GOD'S WORD

REMEMBERING THE BIGNESS OF IMAGO DEI THROUGH BLACK HISTORY STORIES

LISTENING TO SCRIPTURE

John 4:46-54; 5:1-18

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

"Hearing Voices"

- Rev. Monte McClain

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

SONG OF RESPONSE

"You Are Mine"

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.

COMMUNION - BEING NOURISHED IN OUR JOURNEY OF FAITH

WE'LL CELEBRATE THIS FOUNDATIONAL MEAL BY INTINCTION WHEREVER YOU ARE. MONTE WILL BEGIN WITH A PRAYER - DURING WHICH YOU'RE INVITED TO PUT YOUR SCREEN TO "SPEAKER VIEW" - AS WE SHARE THE MEAL TOGETHER PLEASE RESET YOUR SCREEN TO "GALLERY VIEW."

COLLECTION OF OUR OFFERINGS AND GIFTS "Eat This Bread And Never Hunger"

THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

SENDING SONG

"I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me"

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

願主賜你平安

Yuàn zhǔ cì nǐ píng'ān (Mandarin)

Yuuen 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

"East Tennessee Blues"

Reflections on Today's Readings John 4:46-54; 5:1-18

Today's reading tells the story of two healing encounters with Jesus. The first tells of the second miraculous sign that Jesus performs in the gospel story of John. Remember it's structured by seven signs. It's the word that John uses for miracle our amazing act (like is used in the other gospels). Seven recalls the seven days of creation

Last week, in 4:1-42 we heard of the woman at the well and how the Samaritans – the least likely to get anything – experienced God's presence in Jesus and believed in him. Here among his own people, Jesus is not accepted. He's seen as a wonder-worker who can heal people, almost like a parlor trick. He's criticized for not following the traditional rule of resting on the sabbath – and yet the work he does is awaken a paralyzed man to life sound, whole and physically capable of being part of society.

The beginning story tells of Jesus criticizing those who come to him for miracles. It's as if he was surrounded by a crowd clamoring for miraculous acts but no meaningful word, exchange or relationship. They seem to see him like a circus act. And when he heals the royal official's son, it's not with a dramatic gesture but with his word – "Go home. Your son lives." It sends us back to the opening words of John's telling of Jesus – "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. Everything came into being through the Word,...What came into being through the Word was life, and the life was the light for all people. It shines in the darkness, and the darkness doesn't extinguish the light." (John 1:1-5).

In the story of the paralyzed man who seeks help getting to the supposedly miraculous waters that heal broken bodies, Jesus again by his word. He doesn't do what the man asks. Instead he tells him to "Get up! Pick up your mat and walk." (5:8). This man who is radically alone, who has no one to turn to for help besides the newly arrived stranger, is not given a hand out but empowered to get up, to wake up to a new reality in which he is whole and safe, a full participant in the life of society and community. But those who witness it, while undoubtedly in awe, focus only on the disobedience of the sabbath law. For to carrying one's bedding on the sabbath was forbidden as "work" that distracted from worshipful pondering of God's presence in the world. How could they be so stubborn? So unable to see the beauty of what was happening in their community?

Jesus weirdly tells the man to sin no more. He's not associating sin with any physical limitation or sickness. Rather I think it's John reminding us of the mission of Jesus – who John the baptizer described as "the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29). It's also what he says in other moments of radical healing and transformative encounter, such as with the woman condemned by the crowd in John 8:11. Jesus cares more about the isolated and hurting person, and restoring them to community with God and other humans than tradition.

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?

February Birthdays

3 Tina Faulkner 4 William Markman
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 will evaluate at the end of January about restarting in-person gatherings at that point.

Congregational Meeting Today just after worship. We're meeting to elect new deacons and elders and receive our budget. We'll start after a brief bio break and transition with a video of 2021. The meeting agenda is online and will be shared again via the chat.

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 Trinity Fellowship of Berkeley are cooking. Want to help? Sign up online with set-up and serving, and clean-up.

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:

Godly Play: Beth Beatty
Music: Pete Feltman, Dave Eagle, Ben Karmar, 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.

“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

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

3. God of our weary years, God of silent tears
Thou who has brought us thus far on the way
Thou who hast by thy might led us into the light
Keep us forever in the path we pray
Lest our feet stray from the places our God where we meet thee
Lest our hearts drunk with the wine of the world we forget thee
Shadowed beneath thy hand may we forever stand
True to our God, true to our native land

Call to Worship

Written by Monte

One: In a world which tries to motivate our spending
by telling us that we're not enough

**ALL: We remember that the Word was with God in the Beginning
and all things were made through the Word and called good.
We are enough because we are made in God's image.**

One: Where the world tells us that we need to go faster,
to do more, to accomplish more in order to be good enough

**ALL: We remember that God called a people to be holy – to
stand apart, to live differently than the nations,
More because of who we are made to be than what we can do.**

One: In a world that is struggling
with massive change:
seismic shifts in technology,
trans-national experiences of life,
and expanding understanding
of the ways in which we are human –
We're told to be afraid of being replaced,
forgotten or unimportant.

**ALL: We remember that God
is not the god of the past,
the future, or the present
But the God of the eternal now,
in all, and of all...
the Lord who calls us to live
freely, whole, and holy lives.**

“Blessed Be The Name Of The Lord”

Matt Redman

1. Blessed be Your name
In the land that is plentiful
Where Your streams of abundance flow
Blessed be Your name

2. Blessed be Your name
When I'm found in the desert place
Though I walk through the wilderness
Blessed be Your name

[Pre-Chorus]
Every blessing You pour out
I'll turn back to praise
When the darkness closes in, Lord
Still I will say

[Chorus]
Blessed be the name of the Lord
Blessed be Your name
Blessed be the name of the Lord
Blessed be Your glorious name

3. Blessed be Your name
When the sun's shining down on me
When the world's all as it should be
Blessed be Your name

“You Are Mine”

David Haas | Glory to God #177

1. I will come to you in the silence
I will lift you from all your fear
You will hear my voice I claim you as my choice
Be still and know I am here

2. I am hope for all who are hopeless
I am eyes for all who long to see
In the shadows of the night I will be your light
Come and rest in me

(chorus)

Do not be afraid I am with you
I have called you each by name
Come and follow me I will bring you home
I love you and you are mine

3. I am strength for all the despairing
Healing for the ones who dwell in shame
All the blind will see The lame will all run free
And all will know my name

chorus

4. I am the word that leads all to freedom
I am the peace the world cannot give
I will call your name Embracing all your pain
Stand up now walk and live

chorus

“Eat This Bread And Never Hunger”

Daniel Charles Damon

Refrain

Eat this bread and never hunger,
drink this cup and never thirst;
Christ invites us to the table
where the last become the first.

1 Asking for a cup of water,
Jesus touched forbidden ground;
and the woman, with a question,
told the world what she had found.

[Refrain]

2 Walking down a desert highway,
Jesus healed a man born blind;
soon the man became a witness
to the truth we seek and find.

[Refrain]

3 Weeping for his friend at graveside,
Jesus felt the pain of death;
yet he knew God's power to waken:
living water, living breath.

[Refrain]

“I’m Gonna Live So God Can Use Me”

Traditional Spiritual

1. I’m gonna live so God can use me.
Anywhere lord, any time
I’m gonna live so God can use me.
Anywhere lord, any time
2. I’m gonna work so God can use me.
Anywhere lord, any time
I’m gonna work so God can use me.
Anywhere lord, any time
3. I’m gonna pray so God can use me.
Anywhere lord, any time
I’m gonna pray so God can use me.
Anywhere lord, any time
4. I’m gonna sing so God can use me.
Anywhere lord, any time
I’m gonna sing so God can use me.
Anywhere lord, any time