

College Avenue Presbyterian Church
5951 College Avenue | Oakland | 94618
www.capcoakland.org | www.capcoakland.me
Office : 510.658.3665 | capc1@sbcglobal.net
Pastor Monte: Cell 510.520.0746
montemclairn@gmail.com



Welcome to CAPC Oakland ONLINE!

We are a reformed, multicultural, politically purple, community of followers of Jesus. Together we seek to live our faith vigorously in our words, actions, and relationships in the East Bay.

We usually gather in person, but cannot during this season of COVID-19. So instead we're worshipping together via ZOOM. While imperfect, and something that we'll get better at each time we gather remotely, it will allow us to gather together even in observing social distancing.

We can't do coffee hour but you can call or connect with someone else by phone to share a moment together after worship.

CHILDREN

We have Godly Play for kids via ZOOM at 9:45am on Sunday. Find info and links at <http://www.capcoakland.org/zoom-worship-virtual-gatherings>

PRAYER CARDS

We can't do prayer cards but we can do live chat on ZOOM while we meet. Myrna Shadley is being our digital Deacon. She'll use the prayer requests you may share in the chat during our visual gathering to shape our Prayers of the People time. Look for the chat box in the lower right hand corner of your ZOOM screen.

PAST EVENTS

Find past services & sermons online at capcoakland.org/worshiponthego

CCL #1137062

November 15, 2020

GATHERING AROUND GOD'S WORD VIA ZOOM

GATHERING SONG

"The Reign of God"

CALL TO WORSHIP

SONG OF PRAISE

"Don't Be Afraid"

NAMING THE HOPE WE HEAR IN SCRIPTURE

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

LISTENING TO SCRIPTURE

Matthew 13:1-17; 24-30

SERMON

"Where's God in the Hot Mess of 2020?" - Monte McClain

SONG RESPONSE OF RESPONSE

"We Walk by Faith and Not By Sight"

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

- Deacon Myrna Shadley

You can share your prayer requests for the good and the new using the Chat function on Zoom. Call and response liturgically prayed at the conclusion of sharing a prayer.

Leader: God, in your mercy.

People: Hear our prayer.

THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

COLLECTION OF OUR OFFERINGS AND GIFTS

SENDING SONG

"Trouble of this World"

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

"Ping An"

(Chinese)

In the season of COVID-19 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.

Matthew 13:1-17; 24-30

Today we look at two parables of Jesus as we wrestle with the questions of where is God and is God up to anything in the hot mess of 2020? Rev Eugene Peterson says that the parables are 'Jesus' favorite form of speech. They sound absolutely ordinary: casual stories about soil and seeds, meals and coins and sheep, bandits and victims, farmers and merchants. And they are wholly secular: of his forty or so parables recorded in the Gospels, only one has its setting in church, and only a couple mention the name God.

Parables are subversive. As people heard Jesus tell these stories, they saw at once that they weren't about God, so there was nothing in them threatening their own sovereignty. They relaxed their defenses. They walked away perplexed, wondering what they meant, the stories lodged in their imagination. And then, like a time bomb, they put the listener's imagination to work. Parables aren't illustrations that make things easier; they make things harder by requiring the exercise of our imaginations, which if we aren't careful becomes the exercise of our faith.

Parables subversively slip past our defenses. Once they're inside the walls we put up to protect ourselves, we taste a new freedom. God's truth is not an alien invasion but a loving courtship in which the details of our common lives are treated as seeds in our conception, growth, and maturity in the kingdom.'

I've always been taught that the first parable is about us; me. What type of soil am I? Am I getting better or worse? But when my imagination runs wild I remember that soil can't change itself. It takes another force to add compost to improve it. And so maybe the parable is more about how God interacts with us like a generous and crazy farmer who plants seed potential with abandon in the world; than how you and I can better in our actions and words.

The second parable is about wheat and weeds (tares). A tare is a plant that commonly grows in fields of grain. And although it looks similar to an edible grain, it isn't suitable for food. In fact, many feel the specific tare, or weed, referred to in this parable is the darnel, a poisonous weed that is very similar in appearance to wheat.

While growing next to wheat, tares cannot be distinguished from the real wheat. It is not until near the time of harvest that you can discern which of the two is the real item. As I let the parable inhabit my imagination, and then subvert my judgments I begin to realize that although I try to keep things organic in my garden, in my life I tend to all too quickly to reach for Roundup. I quickly judge who is evil, unworthy of my loving-attention, or forgiveness. I blame it on the divisive partisanship of today, and on systemic racism and injustice.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & COMMUNITY NEWS

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

15 Pete Feltman 16 Ruth Ann Friedland
16 Elodie McClain 19 Radman Beatty

Coffee Hour Today - Call someone else up, catch-up, check in wherever you are.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Daily Zoom Calls – every day at 12pm.

Community Care Package Team Meeting
Monday at 1:00pm on Zoom

Race Matters– Monday 11/16 6-7pm on Zoom.
www.capcoakland.org/race-matters.

Friday Night Meal Next Friday, November 20th. The Team from Montclair Presbyterian Church is cooking. *We also need serving & setting-up. Contact Monte!*

Women's Group – Saturday Mornings on Zoom. Contact Anne Marie Adams for info about joining - amadams44@gmail.com

Indian Meals to Go Order by Wednesday for pick up Friday & Saturday 5-7pm. (510) 717-9291 or brightsinghd@rediffmail.com

Tamales por Oakland – Order tamales from our Primera Iglesia partners to create work and you enjoy a great meal! www.capcoakland.org

Godly Play – Sundays 9:45-10:25 on Zoom.
New address! Check the weekly newsletter for the link. Or look online on our website.

Community Thanksgiving Meal. Thursday, 11/26 11am-12pm - served to go on the sidewalk of our campus! *We need your help!*

We're looking for help with:

- **Cooking turkeys at home**
 - **Cooking vegetables at home**
 - **Cooking deserts at home**
- (We'll give you the recipes & foodstuffs!)*

- **Set-Up & Prep 8:00-10:45am (8-10 people)**
- **Serve 10:45-12:15pm (10 people)**
- **Clean-up 11:30-1:00pm (8-10 people)**

Contact Monte directly today by phone or email to sign-up or do so online at <http://www.capcoakland.org/thanksgiving-meal>

Thank you to this Week's Leadership:

Deacon Liturgist: Myrna Shadley
Chat Master: Karl Shadley
Godly Play: Beth Beatty
Music: Pete Feltman
Reader: Marda Stothers

But how much is due to my own selfish desire to not allow space for reconciliation and forgiveness to take root in me?

I reflect on the parables today in the hot mess of COVID-19 and all of 2020 and I realize that I'm a bit stingy in my gardening and planting, in how I envision others and what I expect of them. If I've given my life to following the Way of the Crazy Farmer. I need to embrace crazy not as a negative or destructive adjective but as more of a proscriptive one inviting me to generous action, fierce love and relational empathy rooted in the commitment to reconciliation and peace.

Questions for Examen

1. What grabs our imagination in these parables?
2. How do you they disarm you in the fatigue that we're all facing in this moment?
3. How do they speak to you about the hot mess we find ourselves in?
4. How is the Spirit of God inviting you to act, speak, be(come), and shape your relationships through this word?

LYRICS & WRITTEN RESPONSES FOR TODAY'S CELEBRATION GATHERING

"The Reign of God"

Delores Dufner

1. The reign of God, like a farmer's field,
Bears weeds a long with wheat;
the good and bad are intertwined
Till harvest is complete.
2. Like mustard tree, the reign of God
From tiny seed will spread,
Till birds of every feather come
To nest, and there be fed.
3. Though hidden now, the reign of God
May yet unnoticed, grow:
From deep within I rises up,
Like yeast in swelling dough.
4. The reign of God income in Christ;
The reign of God is near.
Ablaze among us, kindling hearts,
The reign of God is here!

Responsive Call To Worship Opening Prayer

By Nathaniel Rhoads

Based on Mark 1:15, Luke 4:18-19

<https://naterhoads.wordpress.com>

One: Now is the time! Here comes God's kingdom!
Change your hearts and lives,
and trust this good news!
Jesus comes with good news for the poor.

ALL: Now is the time!
Here comes God's kingdom!

One: Jesus comes to release the prisoners.

ALL: Now is the time!
Here comes God's kingdom!

One: Jesus comes to give sight to the blind.

ALL: Now is the time!
Here comes God's kingdom!

One: Jesus comes to liberate the oppressed.

ALL: Now is the time!
Here comes God's kingdom!

One: Jesus comes to bring the year
of the Lord's favor.

ALL: Now is the time!
Here comes God's kingdom!

ALL TOGETHER:

**We open our hearts and lives to God's kingdom,
trusting the good news of Jesus Christ.
We will worship Christ our King,
who comes to transform us with grace and truth.**

"Don't Be Afraid"

John L. Bell

© 1995 Wild Goose Resource Group

Don't be afraid my love is stronger
My love is stronger than your fear
Don't be afraid my love is stronger
And I have promised, promised to be always near

“We Walk by Faith, and Not by Sight”

Henry Alford (1844) | Blue Hymnal #399

1 We walk by faith, and not by sight;
no gracious words we hear
from Him who spoke as none e'er spoke,
but we believe Him near.

2 We may not touch His hands and side,
nor follow where He trod;
but in His promise we rejoice
and cry, "My Lord and God!"

3 Help then, O Lord, our unbelief;
and may our faith abound
to call on You when You are near
and seek where You are found.

4 That, when our life of faith is done,
in realms of clearer light,
may we behold You as You are
with full and endless sight.

“Trouble Of This World ”

Traditional Spiritual

Soon I will be done With the troubles of the world
Troubles of the world, troubles of this world
Soon I will be done With the troubles of the world
I'm going home to live with God

There'll be No more weepin' and wailin'
No more weepin' and wailin'
No more weepin' and wailin'
I'm going home to live with God my Lord

Soon I will be done With the troubles of the world
Troubles of the world, troubles of this world
Soon I will be done With the troubles of the world
I'm going home to live with God

I'm going up to see King Jesus
I'm gonna shake his loving hand
I'm gonna tell him all about my troubles
While traveling through this land

I'm going up to see my maker
I'm gonna shake his loving hand
I'm gonna tell him all about my troubles
While traveling through this land

Today's Reading: Matthew 13:1-17; 24-30

The Parable of the Sower (the Crazy Farmer)

13 1 That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. 2 Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. 3 And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. 4 And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. 5 Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. 6 But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. 7 Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. 8 Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. 9 Let anyone with ears listen!"

10 Then the disciples came and asked Jesus, "Why do you speak to them in parables?" 11 Jesus answered, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. 12 For to those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. 13 The reason I speak to them in parables is that 'seeing they do not perceive, and hearing they do not listen, nor do they understand.' 14 With them indeed is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah that says:

'You will indeed listen, but never understand,
and you will indeed look, but never perceive.
15 For this people's heart has grown dull,
and their ears are hard of hearing,
and they have shut their eyes;
so that they might not look with their eyes,
and listen with their ears,
and understand with their heart and turn—
and I would heal them.'

16 But blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear. 17 Truly I tell you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see, but did not see it, and to hear what you hear, but did not hear it.

The Parable of Weeds among the Wheat

24 He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; 25 but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. 26 So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. 27 And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?' 28 He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' 29 But he replied, 'No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. 30 Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.'

