

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  
 montemcclain@gmail.com



The wolf will live with the lamb, and a little child will lead them.

December 24, 2021

**Welcome to  
 CAPC Oakland**

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.

In this seasons of COVID-19 we are gathering both in person and online. We ask that you wear a face mask for the entirety of the gathering in you join us in person. This is our way to best care for and love one another in the context of this airborne disease. We also leave windows open to ensure airflow.

Tonight's celebration is built around the ancient practice of lighting the Advent wreath in preparation for Christmas.

Composed of four candles, each lit on a Sunday preceding Christmas Day. The fifth and final candle is lit on Christmas Eve. If you have a wreath at hour home, you can light it with us during our virtual gathering.

Tonight, we gather to retell the Nativity story.

It's not just a story, but *our* story. One we continue in our life today. We've never done this gathering in a hybrid way – so we're all learners tonight! Much thanks to all those who helped make it possible!

CCL #1137062

Words of Welcome & Invitation to Worship

- Rev. Monte McClain

One: An unmarried teenage girl was invited—

**MANY: to carry Christ into this world.**

One: An ordinary carpenter was invited—

**MANY: to be a father to a child unlike any other.**

One: The shepherds were invited—

**MANY: outcast and isolated, included at the manger.**

One: The Magi were invited—

**MANY: foreigners and seekers, included at the manger.**

One: And if she was invited, and he was invited, and they were invited—

**MANY: then we can trust that we too are invited.**

One: This story is for us.

**MANY: This love is for us.**

One: Family of faith, this is our invitation. Welcome home.

**MANY: Amen.**

Lesson 1: Isaiah 2:2-5

- Marge Harvey

Carol "O Come All Ye Faithful"

Blue Hymnal #41, v. 1, 2 & 3

Lesson 2: Isaiah 11:1-10

- Elaine Price

Lighting of the First Candle :: HOPE

Carol: "The First Nowell"

Blue Hymnal #56, v. 1 & 2

Lesson 3: Matthew 1:18-24

- Gloria Lim

Second Advent Candle :: PEACE

Carol: "Away in a Manger"

Blue Hymnal # 25, v. 1, 2 & 3

Lesson 4: Luke 1:26-38

- Linda Davis

Lighting of the Third Advent Candle :: JOY

Carol: "Joy to the World"

Blue Hymnal #40, v. 1 & 2

Lesson 5: Luke 1:39-56

- Margaret Smith

Lighting of the Fourth Advent Candle :: LOVE

Carol: "In the Bleak Midwinter"

Blue Hymnal # 36, 1, 2, 3 & 4

*We do a no-practice instant Christmas Pageant in which all minors present are invited to participate. We even have costumes! If your younger humans would like to join in the fun, they can depart for the dressing room during this carol.*

Lesson 6: Luke 2:1-15

Instant Christmas Pageant:

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Carol: "Angels We Have Heard on High"

Blue Hymnal #23, v. 1, 2 & 3

Offering

*Tonight's collection goes to the work of our Deacons in and outside our church: feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, and loving others, as God first loves us.*

Words of Christmas Contemplation

- Rev. Monte McClain

Celebrating the Promise of Christmas with the Gift of the Light of God

Lesson 7: John 1:1-5, 16

- Chickwendu Okereke

Christmas Circle of Light: - A Light to All Peoples

*We invite you to stand together in the shape of a circle along the perimeter of the sanctuary space as we sing together.*

Singing of "Silent Night"

Blue Hymnal #60, v. 1-4

Benediction

**Thank you to Tonight's Leadership:**

Music: Pete Feltman, Dave Eagle,

Ben Kramarz, Gabe Szilardi-Tierney, Roger Kim

Liturgical words by Rev. Sarah Speed | sanctifiedart.org

Preaching: Monte McClain

Readers: Various Community Members

Song Leader: Sharon Nelson

Video Tech: Albert Hussian, Dann Wilkens

*Want to learn more about our community life and action?*

A great way to see a bit more is to check out our website at [www.capcoakland.org](http://www.capcoakland.org) or see what we've been up to lately on our socials under the handle @capcoakland.



**As a community, we've encountered this tumultuous time of the past two years as a chance for redefinition - of who we are, what we're about, and how we are Church together.**

During the time of pandemic, racial reckoning, and great societal change we've learned that sometimes we all need a little help to find avenues for action. If you need, or want, to get a vaccine, or booster shot, to slow the spread of COVID-19 and reduce your risk of serious illness you can find the information out by phone at 1-800-232-0233 or online at [www.vaccines.gov](http://www.vaccines.gov).

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**Building Spiritual Resiliency : a practice.** Christmas is the celebration of God with us – Emmanuel – (*the name first spoken by the prophet Isaiah nearly 2,500 years ago*). It's an affirmation of the worth of our lives, the importance of our actions, words and relationships. While you celebrate this week, take some time away, alone, in silence, to reflect meditate upon your life to build spiritual resiliency using this prayer practice. Writing it down might be helpful.

- Consider the period of pandemic from the Shelter-in-place, March 2020 until now. Where and when did you struggle? What zapped your energy and focus? Where and when were you encouraged, renewed, finding life-sustaining energy? How have you redefined hopefulness in this time? What would be the testimony you give about your life's experience and God's mercy? You might use your meditation to help redefine the joys & challenges you face in 2022.