

College Avenue Presbyterian Church
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**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.

CCL #1137062

Epiphany (e-piph-a-ny)

(n) A moment of sudden revelation; a poignant, sudden, profound understanding of something.

January 3, 2021

GATHERING AROUND GOD'S WORD VIA ZOOM

GATHERING SONG "We Three kings"

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

CALL TO WORSHIP & LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

SHARING THE STORY "The Third Gift" - Myrna Shadley

SONG OF PRAISE "Will you come and see the light"

LISTENING TO SCRIPTURE Isaiah 60:1-6 - Sharon Nelson
 Ephesians 3:1-12 & Matthew 2:1-12

SERMON "2020 is Hindsight" - Monte McClain

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

SONG OF RESPONSE "Taste and See"

INVITATION TO THE COMMUNION TABLE - FOOD FOR THE JOURNEY OF FAITH

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.**

COMMUNION: FINDING GOD AROUND OUR DIGITAL TABLE

Today 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."

THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

COLLECTION OF OUR OFFERINGS AND GIFTS

SENDING SONG "O God We Long For Better Days!"

SENDING CALL AND RESPONSE

Leader: God is good! Leader: And all the time!

People: All the time! People: God is good!

EXHORTATION & BLESSING

PASSING THE PEACE OF GOD

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.

Reading for the Third Sunday of Advent
Isaiah 60:1-6; Ephesians 3:1-12 & Matthew 2:1-12

Our readings today are all suggested by the Lectionary. The three-year cycle by which many churches around the world read through the Bible for Sunday gatherings. Matthew 2 tells the story of the coming of the Magi to recognize and pay respect to the Christ Child. We're told that their journey from afar (probably ancient Persia [today's Iran]) began in glimpsing the rare astrological phenomenon in the skies. The Greek word [*magos*] or mage used to describe them is related to our word magician. But they were more likely what we call today scientists. The "magic" they practiced included astronomy, astrology, alchemy and other forms of esoteric knowledge. They studied the world in order to better understand what was and was coming.

The selection from Isaiah is a prophecy about a future revelation. Soaring poetry, it speaks of foreigners who will have the wisdom to recognize the way in which the way of the Most High God is revealed in the story of the Israelites. What's easy to forget is that Isaiah speaks this lyrical word of hope and universal recognition in a time of oppression, when the Israelites were at the mercy of the Babylonian and Persian Empires, when the Israelites most likely didn't see their vocation as one of spiritual counselors or testimonies to foreigners, but rather dreamed of taking revenge on their foreign oppressors.

In the Apostle Paul's letter to the Ephesians, he writes of the mystery of what God is up to – that God, known in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus – is about reconciliation, bringing together diverse and disparate peoples: Jew and Gentile. Historically religion was tied to ethnicity. You had the same faith as your people. Here though Paul argues that Jesus breaks down the barriers that construct everything in terms of black and white, us versus them to reveal the gospel intention of God for all peoples.

QUESTIONS FOR EXAMEN

- 1. What image or word in the scriptures grabs you?**
- 2. The three scriptures speak of knowledge that is revealed or suddenly understood. That's what the word Epiphany means. In your own life what epiphanies have you had?**
- 3. Looking at the events, darkness and clarity of the past year, where have you glimpsed epiphanies?; God at work, revealing, expanding understanding, inviting participation?**
- 4. Talk with God about what you see or don't see.**

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1	Margie Laverty – <i>turning 97 years young!</i>		
8	Bill Bryant	10	Thom Faulkner
18	Gary Yee	20	Daniel Geary
25	Joy Barnes	29	Bill Beatty

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Daily Zoom Calls – every day at 12pm.

Community Care Package Team Meeting Monday -1/4 at 1:00pm on Zoom.

Race Matters, Monday, 1/4 @ 6:00pm on Zoom

Friday Night Meal - Friday, January 8th 6:00pm
We're cooking and serving the meal this week! We need help serving & setting-up. Sign up online at <http://www.capcoakland.org/friday-night-meal> or contact Monte to help.

COVID-19 Safety Protocols - - We are continuing with our safety protocol and policies to ensure that the few people who do come to the church campus to help with highly organized activities, do so in all safety. We are operating with tips to help you remember what to do - think of the word SAFE-D (*pun intended*). If you come to help Fridays with our Free Hot Dinner or to make up the community care packages we ask that you sign up in advance. Take your temperature and sign-in upon arriving, wear two face masks, and use hand sanitizer/gloves while social distancing.

Women's Group – Saturdays at 9:30am 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.

Thank you to Today's Worship Leadership:
Chat Master: Kristy Parsons McClain
Deacon Liturgist & Reader : Myrna Shadley
Godly Play: Beth Beatty
Music: Pete Feltman
Reader: Sharon Nelson
Video Tech: Thom Faulkner

LYRICS & RESPONSES FOR TODAY'S CELEBRATION

"We Three Kings of Orient Are"

John H. Hopkins (1857). Glory to God #151

1 We three kings of Orient are;
bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain,
following yonder star.

Refrain:

O star of wonder, star of night,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light!

2 Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,
gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never
over us all to reign.

Refrain

3 Frankincense to offer have I;
incense owns a deity nigh;
prayer and praising gladly raising,
worshiping God Most High.

Refrain

4 Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume
breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
sealed in the stone-cold tomb.

Refrain

5 Glorious now behold him arise,
King and God and Sacrifice:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
sounds through the earth and skies.

Refrain

CALL TO WORSHIP.

Responsive reading of Ecclesiastes 3:1-13

One: For everything there is a season,
and a time for every matter under heaven:

One: a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;

ALL: a time to kill, and a time to heal;

One: a time to break down, and a time to build up;

ALL: a time to weep, and a time to laugh;

One: a time to mourn, and a time to dance;

ALL: a time to throw away stones,

One: and a time to gather stones together;

ALL: a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;

One: a time to seek, and a time to lose;

ALL: a time to keep, and a time to throw away;

One: a time to tear, and a time to sew;

ALL: a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;

One: a time to love, and a time to hate;

ALL: a time for war, and a time for peace.

One: Today, and every day, is a gift from God.

ALL: Let us worship the One

who makes everything beautiful in its time.

"Will you come and see the light?"

*Brian Wren - Christmas / Epiphany words to the tune KELVINGROVE
(The Summons)*

1 Will you come and see the light from the stable door?
It is shining newly bright, though it shone before.
It will be your guiding star, it will show you who you are.
Will you hide, or decide to meet the light?

2 Will you step into the light that can free the slave?
It will stand for what is right, it will heal and save.
By the pyramids of greed there's a longing to be freed.
Will you hide, or decide to meet the light?

3 Will you tell about the light in the prison cell?
Though it's shackled out of sight, it is shining well.
When the truth is cut and bruised, and the innocent abused,
will you hide, or decide to meet the light?

4 Will you join the hope, alight in a young girl's eyes,
of the mighty put to flight by a baby's cries?
When the lowest and the least are the foremost at the feast,
will you hide, or decide to meet the light?

5 Will you travel by the light of the babe new born?
In the candle lit at night there's a gleam of dawn,
and the darkness all about is too dim to put it out:
will you hide, or decide to meet the light?

ALL: a time to be born, and a time to die;

“Taste and See”

Traditional Spiritual | Glory to God#135

Chorus

Taste and see

Taste and see

The goodness of the Lord

1. I will bless the lord at all times
Praise shall always be on my lips
My soul shall glory in the lord
For God has been so good to me

Chorus

2. Glorify the lord with me
Together let us all praise God’s name
I called the lord who answered me
From all my troubles I was set free

Chorus

3. Worship the lord all you people
You’ll want for nothing if you ask
Taste and see that the lord is good
In God we need put all our trust

Chorus

“O God, We Long for Better Days”

GREENSLEEVES 8.7.8.7 with refrain (“What Child Is This?”)

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1. O God, we long for better days when we can
be together,
to celebrate your love and grace in Jesus Christ
our Savior.
We long for Silent Night in crowded pews, by
candlelight.
May we who stay at home now find your Christ-
mas blessing.

2. We long to come and Deck the Halls this
year — like many others.
Yet all around we hear the calls of countless,
hurting neighbors.
This year, in quiet ways, we’ll pray and serve
and fill our days.
May we who stay at home now find your Christ-
mas blessing.

3. We’ll still, with Christian Friends, Rejoice, by
phone, or by our zooming.
We’ll ponder here: What Child is This? — and
seek A Rose, E’er Blooming.
We’ll love and serve and give; we’ll live as
Christ taught us to live.
May we who stay at home now find your Christ-
mas blessing.

4. We long to feast and celebrate with family,
friends, and neighbors.
Yet this can be our gift — to wait, until the
times are better.
Still, Still, you give us joy — a love that death
cannot destroy.
May we who stay at home now find your Christ-
mas blessing.

O God, We Long for Better Days

Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, 2020

Greensleeves

arr. Christmas Carols New and Old, 1871



1. O God, we long for bet-ter days when we can be to - geth - er,
2. We long to come and *Deck the Halls* this year—like ma - ny oth - ers.
3. We'll still, with *Chris-tian Friends*, *Re - joice*, by phone, or by our Zoom-ing.
4. We long to feast and ce - le-brate with fam-ily, friends, and neigh-bors.



to ce - le-brate your love and grace in Je - sus Christ our Sa - vior.
Yet all a - round we hear the calls of count-less, hurt-ing neigh-bors.
We'll pon-der here: *What Child Is This?*— and seek *A Rose, E'er Bloom-ing*.
Yet this can be our gift— to wait, un - til the times are bet - ter.



We long for *Si - lent Night* in crowd-ed pews, by can-dle-light.
This year, in qui - et ways, we'll pray and serve and fill our days.
We'll love and serve and give; we'll live as Christ taught us to live.
Still, Still, you give us joy— a love that death can - not de-destroy.



May we who stay at home now find your Christ-mas bless - ing.

