

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
 montemclain@gmail.com



January 10, 2021

**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

GATHERING AROUND GOD'S WORD VIA ZOOM

GATHERING MASHUP SONG

"Open my eyes that I may see" & "Open the eyes of my heart"

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

CALL TO WORSHIP

SONG OF PRAISE

"In an Age of Twisted Values"

LISTENING TO SCRIPTURE

Genesis 1:1-5, 26-28, 31
 John 8:31-27 & 1 John 1:5-9

SERMON

"Truly we're in Trouble with the Truth" - Monte McClain

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

SONG OF RESPONSE

"Hidden Christ Alive Forever"

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

"What a Fellowship, what a Joy Divine"

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

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.

Reflections on the Today's Readings
Genesis 1:1-5, 26-28, 31; John 8:31-27 & 1 John 1:5-9

How do you understand truth? How do you decide what is true and what is false? Jesus says that we can know the truth, and that the truth can set us free. But how do we know what's true?

1. Correspondence Theory of Truth

A belief is true if and only if, it corresponds with something that exists in the world. We can have a common understanding of the truth (or that there is an absolute truth that we can know).

But as German Philosopher Emmanuel Kant (1724–1804) says, We can't know how things really are, we can only know how we experience them to be. All knowledge is experienced through our subjective senses (our eyes, ears, smell, touch and taste). So all knowledge is dependent upon our senses and our context. So truth can't be absolute, we can only know truth subjectively – for us.

So maybe.... British philosopher FH Bradley (1846–1924) is right.

2. Coherence Theory of Truth:

A belief is true if it coheres with a body of other statements that we take to be true. If it fits within our webs of beliefs.

If it makes sense, it's true.

We believe it because it fits with everything else we believe.

But what about people with jacked up beliefs? Or crazy worldviews...like racists, destructive biases against people that are different, or people who are delusional, extreme narcissists or mentally ill. If something is false (not true), but it fits in with their web of beliefs...then they'll believe *falsely* that it must be true.... So that doesn't work

Then maybe we have to first ask: What's the point of truth? Why do we even talk about it? Isn't it because knowing truths is useful in knowing how to live our life, and, to live our life better?

3. Pragmatic Theory of Truth:

Then maybe the American Philosopher William James (1842-1910) is right. "True ideas are those that we can assimilate, validate, corroborate and verify. False ideas are those we cannot." Truth is what is useful to believe and has practical values in our lives. It's true because you can use it, it works, and is corroborated by others.

QUESTIONS FOR EXAMEN

- 1. What image or word in the scriptures grabs you?**
- 2. How do you decide what is true and false? How does you faith in Jesus as the way, the truth and the life involved in that?**

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

8	Bill Bryant	10	Thom Faulkner
18	Gary Yee	18	Richard Street
20	Daniel Geary	25	Joy Barnes
29	Bill Beatty		

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Daily Zoom Calls – every day at 12pm.

Community Care Package Team Meeting Monday -1/11 at 1:00pm on Zoom.

Race Matters, Monday, 1/11 @ 6:00pm on Zoom

Friday Night Meal - Friday, January 15th 6:00pm We're cooking and serving the meal this week! Would you be interested in helping by making up some Mashed Potatoes, at home and delivering them to church hot by 5:30pm? We also 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 do so in all safety. 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

Men's Group – Saturday 1/16 at 10:00am on Zoom.

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: Myrna Shadley
Godly Play: Beth Beatty
Music: Pete Feltman, Swen Hendrickson, Dave Eagle
Video Tech: Thom Faulkner

LYRICS & RESPONSES FOR TODAY'S CELEBRATION

"Open my Eyes that I May See"

Author: Clara H. Scott (1895)

The Blue Hymnal #324

1 Open my eyes, that I may see
Glimpses of truth Thou hast for me;
Place in my hands the wonderful key
That shall unclasp and set me free.

Refrain:

Silently now I wait for Thee,
Ready, my God, Thy will to see;
Open my eyes (ears, heart), illumine me,
Spirit divine!

2 Open my ears, that I may hear
Voices of truth Thou sendest clear;
And while the wave notes fall on my ear,
Everything false will disappear.

Refrain

3 Open my mouth, and let me bear,
Gladly the warm truth everywhere;
Open my heart and let me prepare
Love with Thy children thus to share.

Refrain

"Open the Eyes of My Heart"

Paul Baloche | © 1997, Integrity's Hosanna!

Open the eyes of my heart lord
Open the eyes of my heart
I want to see you,
I want to see you

To see you high and lifted up
Shining in the light of your glory
Pour out your power and love
As we sing holy holy holy

Holy holy holy
Holy holy holy

Holy holy holy
I want to see you

CALL TO WORSHIP.

Responsive reading of the seven I Am statements of Jesus in the gospel of John.

One: Jesus says, "I am the bread of life.
Whoever comes to me shall never hunger, and whoever
believes in me shall never thirst" (John 6:35).

**ALL: Jesus says, "I am the light of the world.
Whoever follows me shall not walk in darkness,
but have the light of life"** (John 8:12).

One: Jesus says, "I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be
saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture." (John 10:9).

**ALL: "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down
his life for the sheep."** (John 10:11).

One: Jesus says, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who be-
lieve in me, even though they die, will live," (John 11:25).

**ALL: Jesus says, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one
comes to the Father except through Me"** (John 14:6).

One: Jesus says, "I am the true vine, and My Father is
the vinedresser" (John 15:1).

**ALL: Jesus, we come to you, looking for the words of life, for
the truth that shows us how to live with each other and in
creation.**

One: We hear of truth, fake news, lies, and misrepresentations. It is
hard for us to discern, to see, to know, in the storms that rage to-
day, how and where you call us as we follow your Way.

**ALL: Jesus, we need your strong arm, your steadfast love,
and your gift of sight to see your hand at work
in the midst of raging waters.**

"In an Age of Twisted Values

Martin E Leckebusch | © 1995, Kevin Mayhew Ltd. | Glory to God #345

1 In an age of twisted values,
we have lost the truth we need.
In sophisticated language,
we have justified our greed.
By our struggle for possessions,
we have robbed the poor and weak.
Hear our cry and heal our nation;
your forgiveness, Lord, we seek.

2. We have built discrimination
on our prejudice and fear.
Hatred swiftly turns to cruelty,
if we hold resentments dear.
For communities divided
by the walls of class and race,
hear our cry and heal our nation;
show us, Lord, your love and grace.

3. When our families are broken,
when our homes are full of strife,
when our children are bewildered,
when they lose their way in life,
when we fail to give the aged
all the care we know they need,
hear our cry and heal our nation;
help us show more love, we plead.

4 We who hear your word
so often choose so rarely to obey.
Turn us from our willful blindness;
give us truth to light our way.
In the power of your Spirit
come to cleanse us, make us new;
hear our cry and heal our nation
till our nation honors you.

“Hidden Christ Alive for Ever”

Brian Wren

New words sung to an old melody

1 Hidden Christ, alive for ever,
Savior, Servant, Friend and Lord,
year by year, unseen, you offer
life undying, love outpoured.
Day by day, you walk among us,
known and honored, yet concealed,
freeing, chiding, leading, guiding,
till your glory is revealed.

2 Endless orbits by our planet
spinning round its speeding star
cannot trace creation's secret:
why we live and whose we are.
Jesus, you alone uncover
nature's rhythm, reason, rhyme,
so your birthday is our center:
hinge of history and time.

3 Still your life and way of living,
God-revealing, Spirit-blown,
teaching, healing, sins forgiving,
measure and inspire our own,
loving earth's despised, rejected,
till with them you hang in pain,
broken, buried, resurrected,
life laid down, our life to gain.

4 Who can tell, through earthly eons,
all your loving power has done,
changing hearts and shaping nations,
seeking all, rejecting none?
Speeches fail, but songs soar higher,
tracing how, in every place,
twice ten hundred years have numbered
countless works of boundless grace!

5 Christ our hope, alive among us,
take our love, our work, our prayer.
We will trust and tell your purpose,
braving evil and despair,
in your name befriending, mending,
making peace and setting free,
showing, giving and acclaiming
signs of joy and jubilee.

“What a fellowship, what a joy divine”

E. A. Hoffman (1887); Glory to God #837

1. What a fellowship, what a joy divine,
leaning on the everlasting arms;
what a blessedness, what a peace is mine,
leaning on the everlasting arms.

Refrain:

Leaning, leaning,
safe and secure from all alarms;
leaning, leaning,
leaning on the everlasting arms.

2 O how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way,
leaning on the everlasting arms;
O how bright the path grows from day to day,
leaning on the everlasting arms.

Refrain:

3 What have I to dread, what have I to fear,
leaning on the everlasting arms?
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near,
leaning on the everlasting arms.

Refrain:

Genesis 1:1-5, 26-28, 31

¹In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, ² the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³ Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. ⁴ And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵ God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

[On the Fifth day] ²⁶ God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth."

²⁷ So God created humankind in his image,
in the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.

²⁸ God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth." ³¹ God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

John 8:31-27

³¹ Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." ³³ They answered him, "We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, 'You will be made free'?"

³⁴ Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵ The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. ³⁶ So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed. ³⁷ I know that you are descendants of Abraham; yet you look for an opportunity to kill me, because there is no place in you for my word. ³⁸ I declare what I have seen in the Father's presence; as for you, you should do what you have heard from the Father."

1 John 1:5-9

⁵ This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. ⁶ If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; ⁷ but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. ⁸ If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine 837

Leaning on the Everlasting Arms

1 What a fel-low-ship, what a joy di-vine, lean-ing on the ev-er-
 2 O how sweet to walk in this pil-grim way, lean-ing on the ev-er-
 3 What have I to dread, what have I to fear, lean-ing on the ev-er-

last-ing arms; what a bless-ed-ness, what a peace is mine,
 last-ing arms; O how bright the path grows from day to day,
 last-ing arms? I have bless-ed peace with my Lord so near,

Refrain

lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms. Lean-ing, Lean-ing on Je-sus,
 lean-ing, safe and se-cure from all a-larms; lean-ing on
 ing, lean-ing, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms.
 Je-sus, lean-ing on Je-sus,

The composer of the tune (and creator of the refrain) asked the author of the stanzas to write a hymn based on the latter part of Deuteronomy 33:27 (as worded in the King James Version): "Underneath are the everlasting arms." Their joint effort has proved very popular.