

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



January 24, 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 SONG "God's Great Love Is So Amazing"

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

CALL TO WORSHIP

SONG OF PRAISE "Like A Mother Who Has Borne Us"

LISTENING TO SCRIPTURE Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

SERMON "Forgiveness. Our Best Hope for A Different Way Forward"
 - Monte McClain

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

SONG OF RESPONSE "Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive"

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 "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

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 Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

We continue our series on Ujima – *Swahili for the collective work of the people*. It's a notion used in the annual celebration of Kwanzaa, pointing to the continuing work of the people to be the people and care for the people. While Ujima in the context of Kwanzaa refers specifically to the work of the African-American people to reclaim and maintain their culture, we can also take the notion of Ujima and use it to ask ourselves what our continuing work as the people of God is today – as we move into 2021.

We talked first about truth – and how we have come in our culture to a place in which many of us cannot agree on what is true. Reconciliation, our second theme, has to do with the restoring of broken relationships. Such restoration is always rooted in truth – taking accountability for what we've done or not done, speaking truth, hearing truth, in view of jumpstarting a relationship stalled by pains, hurts, untruths or deceptions. Today we talk about forgiveness. While reconciliation depends upon forgiveness, forgiveness can happen without reconciliation. Some mystics speak of forgiveness as an interior discipline, a spiritual, one which we rely on God's grace to accomplish.

Curiously, the Greek word translated as "forgive" in the New Testament, *aphiēmi*, carried a wide range of meanings, including to remit (a debt), to leave (something or someone) alone, to allow (an action), to leave, to send away, to desert or abandon. It points to a break between the past and a new, different future.

The Story of the Two Sons speaks volumes about forgiveness. While it seems to be mostly about how God forgives us, a closer look, taking in the context of the telling of the parable reveals more. Jesus speaks the parable in response to the judgmental grumbling of the religious leaders about Jesus spending time with know sinners (such as tax collectors, prostitutes and other deplorables). He tells the parable to wonder aloud about forgiveness with them who seem to assume its easy.

In the parable, the youngest son sees that his future is an impasse of death. He hopes for something else. That hope leads him to the interior journey and physical process of forgiveness – of himself, and asking his father to forgive him. It involves him recognizing his mistakes and the harm he's done. Owning them. And asking for forgiveness. The parable also includes the older brother who is not as quick to forgive as the father, and who himself can't see his need for forgiveness, and that he himself is on a way that is hopeless – leading only to isolation, bitterness, and death.

QUESTIONS FOR EXAMEN

1. How do you struggle with forgiveness in your life?
2. How can you forgive someone who never ask for it?
3. How are we (you) called to the forgiveness today?

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

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.

Deacons Meeting, today, Sunday, at 11:50am on Zoom

Race Matters, Monday, 1/25 @ 6:00pm on Zoom

Session Meeting – Thursday, 1/28 at 7:00pm on Zoom.

Community Care Package Worship - Friday, January 29th 530pm Making up the packages in the sanctuary. Please don't come unless you have registered to be there.

Friday Night Meal - Friday, January 29th 6:00pm A team from the Piedmont Community Service Crew, supported by the Piedmont/Montclair Rotary Club, is 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.

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: Myrna Shadley

Godly Play: Beth Beatty

Liturgist:

Music: Pete Feltman, Dave Eagle

Video Tech: Thom Faulkner

LYRICS & RESPONSES FOR TODAY'S CELEBRATION

"God's Great Love Is So Amazing"

Carolyn Winfrey Gillette | New Words to old tunes "What a Friend We Have in Jesus"

1. God's great love is so amazing!
See — a shepherd with his flocks!
Ninety-nine are safely grazing;
one is lost among the rocks.
That good shepherd goes and searches
till he finds the one astray.
So God says to fill our churches
with the ones who've lost their way.

2. God in love is always seeking!
See — a woman with her broom!
For a single coin
she's sweeping every corner of the room.
When it's found she calls each neighbor,
telling friends from all around.
So God says to search and labor
till God's precious ones are found.

3. God keeps waiting,
searching, yearning!
See — a father's heartfelt joy!
Thankful for his son's returning,
he runs out to greet his boy.
To the angry older brother,
hear the father's patient call.
So God says to love each other, for in
Christ, God loves us all.

CALL TO WORSHIP.

*Responsive reading by Rev Bruce Reyes-Chow from Rally:
Communal Prayer for lovers of Jesus and Justice.*

One: We are told tat God wants us to live in hear,
To protect what we have,
To hate the other, to believes lies as truth.

**ALL: God, give us the courage to believe
that your perfect love is not driven by fear.**

One: We are told that God's love is measurable and finite,
That there are borders and boundaries
between those who are and are not loved by God.
When we begin to see your love as a limited commodity
and ourselves as its arbiters,

**ALL: God, give us the humility to trust that your perfect love
is freely given to all.**

One: We are told that to be tolerant and loving
Means that every story must be given equal weight,
taken at face value, and embraced as truth.

**ALL: God, give us the wisdom to know that your perfect love
demands our faithful discernment.**

One: We are told that there is nothing we can do,
That we are powerless, that things have always been this way,
and that the energy is wasted trying to speak words of truth
to a litany of lies.

**ALL: God, give us the fortitude to step inot the fray and speak
your perfect love into an imperfect space.**

One: God is love.
God tells us that we are loved.
God shows us that love is not fearful.

**ALL: God's love is perfect.
With this perfect love, we need not fear.
Because of this perfect love, we love more perfectly.
This we believe. Amen.**

“Like A Mother Who Has Borne Us”

*Daniel Bechtel (1986)
Glory to God Hymnal #44*

Like a mother who has borne us,
held us close in her delight.
Fed us freely from her body,
God has called us into life.

Like a father who has taught us,
grasped our hand and been our guide,
Lifted us and healed our sorrows,
God has walked with us in life.

Though as children we have wandered,
placed our trust in power and might,
Left behind our brothers, sisters,
God still calls us into life.

When we offer food and comfort,
grasp our neighbor’s hand in love,
Tread the path of peace and justice,
God still walks with us in life.

“Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive”

(Land Of Rest tune)

1. Forgive our sins as we forgive
You taught us Lord to pray
But You alone can grant us grace
To live the words we say

2. How can your pardon reach
and bless the unforgiving heart
That broods on wrongs
and will not let old bitterness depart

3 In blazing light Your cross reveals
the truth we dimly knew
What trivial debts are owed to us
how great our debt to you

4 Lord cleanse the depths within our souls
and bid resentment cease
Then bound to all in bonds of love
our lives will spread Your peace

“I’m Gonna Live So God Can Use Me”

Classic Spiritual

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

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

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

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

Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

¹Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus]. ² And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

³ So [Jesus] told them this parable:

¹¹ Then Jesus said, “There was a man who had two sons. ¹² The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.’ So he divided his property between them. ¹³ A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. ¹⁴ When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶ He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷ But when he came to himself he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸ I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.”’ ²⁰ So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹ Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ ²² But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; ²⁴ for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.

²⁵ “Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷ He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.’ ²⁸ Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. ²⁹ But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ ³¹ Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³² But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’”