

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



LIKING VS LOVING YOUR NEIGHBOR



January 31, 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 "My Shepherd Will Supply My Need"

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

CALL TO WORSHIP

- A Litany for Dark Times

SONG OF PRAISE

"Poor Wayfaring Stranger"

LISTENING TO SCRIPTURE

Luke 6:27-36 & 10:25-37

SERMON

"Learning to Love Who You just Don't Like"

- Monte McClain

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

SONG OF RESPONSE

"Somebody's Knocking At Your Door"

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

MOMENT FOR DEACONS

COLLECTION OF OUR OFFERINGS AND GIFTS

SENDING SONG

"The Truth That Sets Us Free"

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 6:27-36 & 10:25-37

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. We then talked about forgiveness. While reconciliation depends upon forgiveness, forgiveness can happen without reconciliation. Today we're talking about the possibility of loving our neighbor even if we don't like them.

It might sound funny, but it's a worthwhile question. The word "like" isn't in the Bible. We use "like" in English today as a softer way of saying "love". I like ice cream and I love the Heath Bar Crunch at Fenton's. When talking about other people, love can be seen as an unconditional emotion, while like is a more watered-down version of love.

Jesus' principal teaching is love. "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another" (John 13:34). The word for love in Greek [*agape*] is the same word used each time in today's text. *Agape* has self-sacrifice as its primary characteristic. It's not a love of brotherly affection or emotional connection, as is often thought. Rather, *agape* love seeks the best for its object. Sacrificial love is not based on a feeling, but a determined act of the will, a joyful resolve to put the welfare of others above our own. Clearly, this type of love is impossible in our own strength. It is only by the power of the Holy Spirit that we are able to obey God's commands, including the one to love.

QUESTIONS FOR EXAMEN

1. **Who do you struggle to love or like in your life?**
2. **Is it possible for you to love them but not like them?**
3. **How do you come to love others in your own life? What, if any, role does God play in that?**
4. **We live in a time of great division where we don't like some people, but are still called to love them in a Jesus-*agape*-sort-of-love. What does that mean?**

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 3. Tina Faulkner | 4. William Markman ²⁰⁰⁸ |
| 8 Cecelia Jackson | 8 Dixie Lind |
| 9 Angel Carney ²⁰⁰² | |

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Daily Zoom Calls – every day at 12pm.

Community Care Package Team Meeting Monday -2/1 at 1:00pm on Zoom.

Race Matters, Monday, 2/1 @ 6:00pm on Zoom

Nominating Committee Meeting – Wednesday 2/3, on Zoom. Much thanks to the members of our Nominating Committee: Lori Castner, Fredora Darmstadt (D), Marge Harvey (E), Richard Harvey John LaMotte, Chris Olson, Cristina Ramirez Fonua (alt) Patt Schroeder (E)

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

Community Care Package Worship - Friday, Feb 5th 5:30pm in the sanctuary. Please don't come unless you have registered to be there.

Friday Night Meal - Friday, Feb 5th 6:00pm A team from the Piedmont Community Service Crew, 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
Music: Pete Feltman, Dave Eagle
Video Tech: Sophie Parsons McClain

LYRICS & RESPONSES FOR TODAY'S CELEBRATION

"My Shepherd Will Supply My Need"

Isaac Watts (1719)

Glory to God #803; Blue Hymnal #172

1. My Shepherd will supply my need
Jehovah is His name
In pastures fresh He makes me feed
beside the living stream
He brings my wandering spirit back
when I forsake His ways
And leads me, for His mercy's sake,
in paths of truth and grace
2. When I walk through the shades of death
Your presence is my stay
One word of Your supporting breath
drives all my fears away
Your hand in sight of all my foes
does still my table spread
My cup with blessings overflows,
Your oil anoints my head
3. The sure provisions of my God
attend me all my days
O may Your house be my abode
and all my works be praise
There would I find a settled rest
while others go and come
No more a stranger or a guest,
but like a child at home

"Poor Wayfaring Stranger"

*American folk and gospel song likely
originating in the early 19th century*

I am a poor wayfaring stranger
traveling thru this world of woe
Yet there's no sickness toil or danger
in that bright world to which I go

chorus

I'm going there to see my father,
I'm going there no more to roam
I'm only going over Jordan
I'm only going over home

....

CALL TO WORSHIP RESPONSIVE WORSHIP

*A Litany for Dark Times by Jeannie Alexander from Rally:
Communal Prayer for lovers of Jesus and Justice.*

One: We call upon the untamed God of the wild,
whose name is so old it has been forgotten.

ALL: Untame and liberate us.

One: We call upon the God of the desert,
the dangerous God of Jericho, of Sodom and Gomorrah,
The God who demands mercy and sacrifice,
the God who demands hospitality to the stranger.

**ALL: Make us instruments of love to tear down walls,
To set righteous flames on systems of greed and death.**

One: We call upon God in all her forbidden names,
And in all forms that terrify those who proclaim themselves master
And who rule through fear and violence.

**ALL: May our love for life give us courage to die.
May our freedom inspire others to follow God's narrow path.**

One: We call upon the God of common ground,
Beyond all notions of wrongdoing and rightdoing,
Where we meet one another on equal ground,
Where there is always enough,
And where there are no masters.

**ALL: May we have the courage to relinquish control,
To live without fear, and to love without shame.**

One: We call upon the God whom 10,000 years of kingdoms
tried to make us forget.
The God of the edges, the margins, the shadows,
The God whose name can only be remembered through action,
The God whose love was too dangerous to forget.

**ALL: Make us the seeds of wild gardens to cover the earth,
Vines to pull down systems of oppression.**

**May we become the fruit of knowledge
and our blood the waters of life.**

**May we become, may we become, may we become.
Amen.**

“Poor Wayfaring Stranger” *continued...*

I know dark clouds will gather round me,
I know my way is rough and steep
Yet beautiful fields lie just before me,
where God’s redeemed their vigils keep

chorus

I’m going there to see my mother,
she said she’d meet me when I come
I’m only going over Jordan, I’m only going over home

I’ll soon be free from every trial,
my body sleeps in the church yard
I’ll drop the cross of self denial,
and enter on my great reward

chorus

I’m going there to see my savior,
to sing his praises evermore
I’m only going over Jordan,
I’m only going over home

“Somebody's Knocking At Your Door”

(Land Of Rest tune)

Somebody's knockin' at your door;
Somebody's knockin' at your door;
O sinner, why don't you answer?
Somebody's knockin' at your door.

1 Knocks like Jesus,
Somebody's knockin' at your door.
Knocks like Jesus,
Somebody's knockin' at your door.
O sinner, why don't you answer?
Somebody's knockin' at your door.

2 Can't you hear Him?
Somebody's knockin' at your door.
Can't you hear Him?
Somebody's knockin' at your door.
O sinner, why don't you answer?
Somebody's knockin' at your door.

3 Jesus calls you,
Somebody's knockin' at your door.
Jesus calls you,
Somebody's knockin' at your door. ...

....O sinner, why don't you answer?
Somebody's knockin' at your door.

4 Can't you trust Him?
Somebody's knockin' at your door.
Can't you trust Him?
Somebody's knockin' at your door.
O sinner, why don't you answer?
Somebody's knockin' at your door.

“The Truth That Sets Us Free”

John L. Bell | Biblical songs for worship

1. When the wheel of fate is turning
and the mills of God grind slow
When the past seems more attractive
than the future we don't know
When our confidence is waning
and we lack security
Comes the timeless world of Jesus
that the truth will set us free
2. Is it war or economics, is it danger or deceit
Is it unforeseen depression,
fear of failure to complete?
Have the times which once were changing
led where no one wants to be?
Shall we live by lies on offer
or the truth that sets us free?
3. With real faith there will be doubting,
and with loss there will be grief
No one knows the contradictions
which will exercise belief
Against conflicts life might bring us God
provides no guarantee
Just this word of hope and healing:
Know that truth will set you free
4. So dear Jesus make us willing
to unmask convenient lies
To protest wherever power
closes conscience, ears, and eyes
And release your expectations
of your kingdom yet to be
Born in courage joy and justice
and the truth that sets us free

Luke 10:25-37
New Revised Standard Version

²⁵ Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he said, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" ²⁶ He said to him, "What is written in the law? What do you read there?" ²⁷ He answered, "You shall LOVE the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." ²⁸ And he said to him, "You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live."

²⁹ But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" ³⁰ Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. ³¹ Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. ³² So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³ But a Samaritan while traveling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. ³⁴ He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. ³⁵ The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, 'Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.' ³⁶ Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" ³⁷ He said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

Luke 6:27-36
New Revised Standard Version

²⁷ "But I say to you that listen, LOVE your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸ bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. ²⁹ If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. ³⁰ Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. ³¹ Do to others as you would have them do to you.

³² "If you LOVE those who LOVE you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners LOVE those who LOVE them. ³³ If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁴ If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. ³⁵ But LOVE your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. ³⁶ Be MERCIFUL, just as your Father is MERCIFUL.

lawyer: νομικός | nom-ik-os' | relating to law, learned in the law. properly, an expert in Jewish law (theology); an ancient Jewish-attorney ("Scripture-lawyer"), specializing in interpreting the OT and applying the teachings of established rabbis. implies someone even more learned in the Law than a typical scribe.

LOVE: Ἀγαπήσεις

ἀγαπάω | agapaó | to love ||

Usage: I love, wish well to, take pleasure in, long for; denotes the love of reason, esteem.

It preeminently refers to what God prefers as He "is love" (1 Jn 4:8,16).

With the believer, 25 /agapáō ("to love") means actively doing what the Lord prefers, with Him (by His power and direction). agapáō ("loving") is always defined by God – a "discriminating affection which involves choice and selection"

MERCIFUL :: οἰκτίρμων | oyk-tir'-mone | merciful, compassionate,

It comes from oikteírō, "express visceral-compassions") – compassionate, experiencing deep pity (lamentation) as God has for people who look to Him for help in their difficult situations.

kind :: χρηστός | khrase-tos | serviceable, good, useful, gentle, pleasant, kind.