

College Avenue Presbyterian Church
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February 14, 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>

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 "Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness"

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

CALL TO WORSHIP - A Litany of Biblical Justice

SONG OF PRAISE "Aint'a That Good News"

REMEMBERING THE BIGNESS OF IMAGO DEI THROUGH BLACK HISTORY STORIES
 - Cameron Beatty

LISTENING TO SCRIPTURE Psalm 113 & Luke 4:14-20 - Anne Marie Adams

SERMON "Get to Work!"
 - Monte McClain

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

SONG OF RESPONSE "Okay"

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 "Thuma Mina"

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.

Reflections on the Today's Readings Psalm 113 & Luke 4:14-20

We continue our series on Ujima – *Swahili for the collective work of 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've talked about truth, and how it's connected to reconciliation, which isn't possible without forgiveness. We've also talked about the curious call of God to love our neighbor, not necessarily like them. And we've talked about anger as both a prophetically positive and destructive force. Today we're putting it all together in talking about justice – as the way we're called to be and act.

Justice is one of the main themes of the Bible. Curiously, in both Hebrew (תְּדָקָה pronounced *zedakah*) and in the Greek of the Second Testament (δικαιοσύνη pronounced *dikaioσύνη*) mean simultaneously justice and righteousness. Its source is in who God is and God's actions. So someone who is just, or acts justly seeking justice for the people, is by definition rooted in God's Law, purpose and passion – and so righteous. Someone who is seeking to live in the Way of God's teaching, or walking the Way of Jesus is thus someone who seeks to advance the common good.

In our culture we tend to equate justice with the national Law, rooted in our constitution laid out (or written down) by those we call "our Founding Fathers." We also live in a nation that is secular, asserting the separation from Church and State. Across time there has been movements of intense social action and also private piety as the driving practice of Christianity. They seem to often be opposed to each other: traditionally (in our country) we've associated personal or private piety with righteousness (and the more conservative or traditional approach to Christian Faith. And we've associated social justice or the public practice of God's priorities with more progressive or liberal approaches to Christianity. And yet, it's a false dichotomy. You can't have one without the other – which is what we see in the poetry of Psalm 113.

In Luke 4, we hear Luke's account of the first preaching done by Jesus. He proclaims that he is filled with God's Spirit, send to proclaim the good news (gospel) of freedom for the poor, liberation for the oppressed, and new sight for those whose struggle to see. Jesus himself associates both righteousness and social justice, piety and public service with his gospel movement.

QUESTIONS FOR EXAMEN

1. **What strikes you in today's readings?**
2. **Which do you prioritize in your life: piety or social justice? Why?**
3. **How might you need more balance in your life of faith?**

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Daily Zoom Calls – every day at 12pm.

Blessing Bags – our new ministry of hospitality for those with inconsistent housing. Today Linda & Sharon are distributing bags from 12-2pm

Black History Month All month in worship we're reflecting on how we're created in God's image (*imago dei*) through historical testimonies. Today we're blessed to have Cameron Beatty sharing.

Community Care Package Team Meeting Monday -2/15 at 1:00pm on Zoom.

Race Matters, Monday, 2/15 @ 6:00pm on Zoom – working through the current OUSD motion for reparations for Black students.

Congregational Meeting, Next Sunday, February 21st after worship on Zoom. Stayed tuned for more info about budgets and nominees for leadership.

Ash Wed Service –Wed 2/17 at 7:00pm on Zoom.

Community Care Package Workshop - Friday, Feb 19th 5:30pm in the sanctuary. Please don't come unless you have registered to be there.

Friday Night Meal - Friday, Feb 19th 6:00pm. Sign up online at <http://www.capcoakland.org/friday-night-meal> or contact Monte to help with set-up and serving, and clean-up.

Care Giver Support next Sunday, 2/21 (and every third Sunday) from 3-5 p.m. on Zoom. Questions? Contact Marda at mqstothers@gmail.com

Women's Group – *Saturdays at 9:30am on Zoom.* Contact Anne Marie Adams for info about joining - amadams44@gmail.com

Indian Meals to Go– Info online at capcoakland.org

Godly Play – Sundays 9:45-10:25 on Zoom.

Thank you to Today's Worship Leadership:

Black History Month: Cameron Beatty

Chat Master: Kristy Parsons McClain

Deacon Liturgist: Myrna Shadley

Godly Play: Beth Beatty

Music: Pete Feltman, Dave Eagle

Reader: Anne Marie Adams

Video Tech: Thom Feltman

“Praise the One who breaks the darkness”

Author: Rusty Edwards

Tune: NETTLETON

1 Praise the One who breaks the darkness
With a liberating light.
Praise the One who frees the pris'ners,
Turning blindness into sight.
Praise the One who preached the gospel,
Healing ev'ry dread disease,
Calming storms and feeding thousands
With the very bread of peace.

2 Praise the One who blessed the children
With a strong yet gentle word.
Praise the One who drove out demons
With a piercing, two-edged sword.
Praise the one who brings cool water
To the desert's burning sand.
From this well comes living water,
Quenching thirst in ev'ry land.

3 Praise the One true love incarnate:
Christ, who suffered in our place.
Jesus died and rose for many
That we may know God by grace.
Let us sing for joy and gladness,
Seeing what our God has done.
Praise the one redeeming glory;
Praise the One who makes us one.

CALL TO WORSHIP RESPONSIVE WORSHIP

A Litany of God's priority for Justice, assembled by Monte

One: The Lord had said to Abram,
“Go from your country, your people and your father's
household to the land I will show you.

“I will make you into a great nation,
and I will bless you;
I will make your name great,
and you will be a blessing.
I will bless those who bless you,
and whoever curses you I will curse;
and all peoples on earth
will be blessed through you.” (Genesis 12:1-3)

**ALL: Like Sarah and Abram we too are called
and blessed to be a blessing to others.**

One: The psalmist sings that “God's love
can always be trusted,
and his faithfulness lasts
as long as the heavens.”
You are Lord God All-Powerful!
None who live in the heavens
can compare with you.
The heavens and the earth belong to you,
because you created them and everything else.
Your kingdom is ruled by justice and fairness
with love and faithfulness leading the way.
(Psalm 89)

**ALL: We need your justice in our world where
babies die of hunger,
the poor are left in the dust,
the old are often forgotten in homes.**

One: The prophet Micah tells us that what we can give
to God to recognize the Lord's goodness and love is
to advance the good:
Doing justice,
Love others with kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God. (Micah 6:4-8)

**ALL: God invite us to recognize that your good
embraces all people – those we like and those
we don't.**

One: Jesus warns us to beware of practicing our piety
before others in order to be seen by them;

**ALL: Help us Holy One to strive
first for your kingdom and your righteousness,
trusting that you will provide for all people.**
(Matthew 6)

One: In Christ you have made all things new – even
us! The old has passed away; all has become new!
For our sake Jesus takes on human sin, so that in
him we might become the righteousness of God.
(2 Corinthians 5)

**ALL: As disciples of Christ, seeking to live the life
of Jesus – we long to live as you did, disman-
tling hierarchies based on gender,
Disparities determined by race,
Oppression in all its forms –
That we might know the good news of the gospel
Not just as an idea but as a way of life,
Not just as a promise but as our reality.**

"Aint That Good News"

James Weldon Johnson (1900)

The Blue Presbyterian Hymnal #563

I got a crown up in that kingdom
Ainta that good news
I got a crown up in that kingdom
Ainta that good news
I'm gonna lay down this world
gonna shoulder up a my cross
Gonna take it home to my Jesus
Ainta that good news

I got a robe up in that kingdom
Ainta that good news
I got a robe up in that kingdom
Ainta that good news
I'm gonna lay down this world
gonna shoulder up a my cross
Gonna take it home to my Jesus
Ainta that good news

"Okay"

Kirk Franklin

Woke up to a world that is changing
Looking out the window, got me wondering lately
Will we be okay? Will we be okay?
One day I can feel the sun shining
Next day a bullet can leave a momma cryin'
Will she be okay? Tell me will we be okay?
Life is taking everything that I have

Just to survive

I got twenty-five dollars in my pocket

And I think another ten in my glove compartment
I'm trying so bad not to cry, but it's hard to stop it
But you say all of my needs, you promised, you got it
So I'm gon' be okay
I'm gon' be okay (Okay, okay)

See I gotta remember, that my God is bigger
Than any battle I'll ever face So I'm gon' be okay
(I know its dark right now but still see the light)

Why do we hate one another
When love is the most beautiful color?
It takes away the grey And makes every-
thing okay
Where is the American dream
If only one percent knows what it means
To really be okay? Tell me, is that okay?

Prechorus

Chorus

Refrain

[Bridge]

See our god is great This season of pain, it
won't last always
Life is taking everything that I have Just to
survive

I got twenty-five dollars in my pocket
And I think another ten in my glove com-
partment
But that family with no food would trade
places with you
Give thanks and don't forget how you got it

So I'm gon' be okay
I'm gon' be okay (Okay, okay)
See I gotta remember, that my God is bigger
Than any battle I'll ever face
So I'm gon' be okay
So I'm gon' be okay
I'm gon' be okay (Okay, okay)
See I gotta remember, that my God is bigger
Than any battle I'll ever face So I'm gon' be
okay

"Thuma Mina"

Traditional, South Africa

Glory to God #746

1 Thuma mina, thuma mina,
thuma mina somandla

2 Send me Jesus, send me Jesus,
send me Jesus into the world

3 Lead me Jesus, lead me Jesus,
lead me Jesus into the world

4 Thuma mina, thuma mina,
thuma mina somandla

5. Fill me Jesus, fill me Jesus,
fill me Jesus Fill me Lord

6. Teach me Jesus, teach me Jesus,
teach me Jesus teach me Lord

7. Thuma mina, thuma mina,
thuma mina somandla

8. Save me Jesus, save me Jesus,
save me Jesus save me Lord

9. Send me Jesus, send me Jesus,
Send me Jesus into the world.

10. Thuma mina, thuma mina,
thuma mina somandla

SCRIPTURES FOR WORSHIP TODAY

Psalm 113

The Voice Translation

¹ *Praise the Eternal! [Hallelujah!]*

All of you who call yourselves the children of the Eternal,
come and praise the LORD's name.

Lift God high to the high place in your hearts.

² At this moment, and for all the moments yet to come,
may the Eternal's name

ascend in the hearts of the people.

³ At every time and in every place—

from the moment the sun rises

to the moment the sun sets—

may the name of the Eternal be high in the hearts of the people.

⁴ The Eternal is seated high above every nation.

The glory of the LORD fills the skies.

⁵ To whom should we compare the Eternal, our God?

No one.

Seated, high above,

⁶ God deigns to observe the earth and her thin skies,
stooping even to see her goings on, far beneath His feet.

⁷ The LORD gathers up the poor from their dirt floors,

pulls the needy from the trash heaps,

⁸ And places them among heads of state,

seated next to the rulers of God's people where they cannot be ignored.

⁹ Into the home of the childless bride,

Yahweh – the Eternal - sends children who are, for her, a cause of happiness beyond measure.

Praise the Eternal! [Hallelujah!]

Luke 4:14-20

The New Revised Standard Version Translation

¹⁴ Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. ¹⁵ He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

¹⁶ When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷ and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

¹⁸ "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because God has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.
The Lord has sent me to proclaim release
to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,
¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

²⁰ And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹ Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."