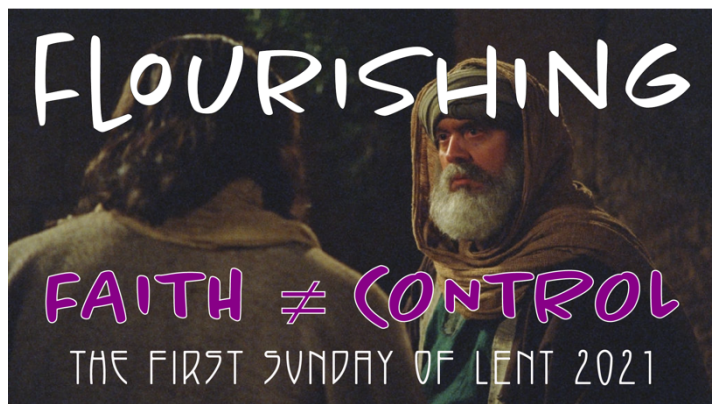


College Avenue Presbyterian Church
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February 21, 2021

**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 "10,000 Reasons"

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

CALL TO WORSHIP - Psalm 40

SONG OF PRAISE "Jesus Walked this Lonesome Valley"

REMEMBERING THE BIGNESS OF IMAGO DEI THROUGH BLACK HISTORY STORIES
 - Lori Castner

LISTENING TO SCRIPTURE John 3:1-21; 19: 38-42

SERMON "Flourishing Faith"
 - Monte McClain

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

SONG OF RESPONSE "Just as I Am"

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 "Take Up Your Cross"

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 Today's Reading
John 3:1-21; 19: 38-42

We've entered the season of Lent through which we'll journey together over the next 40 days towards Easter. It's a sacred season of reflection and spiritual re-centering around the person and passion of Jesus of Nazareth. It's long been lived as a time of preparation and spiritual practice in view of baptism at Easter or a deepening of commitment to living the Way of Jesus.

Our theme during Lent is Flourishing. Lent and Easter coincide with Spring, and the re-newal of nature as the winter ebbs. It's a time where that which seems to have been dead or dormant awakens and begins to flourish. We're in mid-Winter, but also towards the end (hope-fully) of the long-term of dormancy of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Today's scripture tells the story of Nicodemus. He's one of the religious leaders in the day of Jesus. He's intrigued by the words of Jesus and drawn to his charisma. But he comes at night, when no one can see him, to ask Jesus for clarification. Jesus answers him but with a play on words – you have to be born from on high (by the power of God in Heaven) or again. The expression means both. Jesus seems to focus on from on high, while Nicodemus is stuck on how a person can be born a second time. Then the story is interrupted by the narrator of the book who gives a mini-sermon that invokes the story of Moses and the Israelites being delivered from a serpent attack in the desert. (*told in Numbers 21*)

The Israelites have become cocky. They've won a battle, and now thing that they're in control of everything – even God. They can make God do what they want. But they're irritated with Moses who doesn't follow their program (God isn't actually doing so either!)

Nicodemus shows up a second time in the story of Jesus. He who was unsure, couldn't give himself to this faith of which Jesus spoke, he's one of the few who is there at the end after the public execution of Jesus as a terrorist on the cross.

QUESTIONS FOR MEDITATION & EXAMEN:

- 1. What word, image or phrase grabs your attention?**
- 2. How is Nicodemus transformed from the beginning to the end of his story?**
- 3. How is faith described in John 3, 19; and the inter-textual connections of John 1 and Numbers 21?**
- 4. How do you need to let go of seeking to control life? Other people? God?**
- 5. How is the Spirit of God inviting you to *flourishing* faith through this text?**

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Congregational Meeting, *today* February 21st after worship on Zoom. We'll start at 12:45 after a brief video of 2020 in Review!

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

Daily Zoom Calls – every day at 12pm.

Blessing Bags – our new ministry of hospitality for those with inconsistent housing. We're distributing Bags again this Friday, 2/26 from 5:30-7pm

Community Care Package Team Meeting Monday -2/22 at 1:00pm on Zoom.

Race Matters, Monday, 2/22 @ 6:00pm on Zoom – working through the current OUSD motion for reparations for Black students.

Community Care Package Workshop - Friday, Feb 26th 5:30pm in the sanctuary. Please don't come unless you have registered to be there.

Friday Night Meal - Friday, Feb 26th 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.

The Vocabulary of Faith, Saturdays at 5pm on Zoom. Weekly Bible Study on the text for Sunday.

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 Lori Castner sharing.

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: Lori Castner
Chat Master: Kristy Parsons McClain
Deacon Liturgist: Myrna Shadley
Godly Play: Beth Beatty
Music: Pete Feltman, Dave Eagle
Video Tech: Thom Feltman

“10,000 Reasons”

Author: Matt Redman

Chorus

Bless the Lord Oh my soul, Oh my soul
Worship his holy name
Sing like never before, Oh my soul
I worship your holy name

1. The sun comes up, It's a new day dawning.
It's time to sing your song again
Whatever may pass and whatever lies before me,
let me be singing when the evening comes

2. You're rich in love and You're slow to anger.
Your name is great and your heart is kind
For all Your goodness I will keep on singing,
ten thousand reasons for my heart to find

3. And on that day when my strength is failing,
the end draws near and my time has come
Still my soul will sing your unending,
ten thousand reasons and then forevermore

CALL TO WORSHIP RESPONSIVE WORSHIP

Psalm 40 from the Common English Bible (CEB)

One: I put all my hope in the Lord.
He leaned down to me;
he listened to my cry for help.

**ALL: God lifted me out of the pit of death,
out of the mud and filth,
and set my feet on solid rock.
The Lord steadied my legs.**

One: The LORD put a new song in my mouth,
a song of praise for our God.
Many people will learn of this and be amazed;
they will trust the Lord.
Those who put their trust in the Lord,
who pay no attention to the proud
or to those who follow lies,
are truly happy!

**ALL You, Lord our God!
You've done so many things—
your wonderful deeds and your plans for us—**

**no one can compare with you!
If we were to proclaim and talk about all of
them,
they would be too numerous to count!**

One: You don't relish sacrifices or offerings;
you don't require entirely burned offerings or com-
pensation offerings—
but you have given me ears!

**ALL: So I said, “Here I come!
I'm inscribed in the written scroll.
I want to do your will, my God.
Your Instruction is deep within me.”**

One: So now you, Lord—
don't hold back any of your compassion from us.
Let your loyal love and faithfulness always protect us,
You are our help and my rescuer.
Our God, don't wait any longer!
because countless evils surround us.

**ALL: There's more of them than hairs on my
head—
my courage leaves me. I struggle to see the way
ahead.
You are our help and my rescuer.
Our God, don't wait any longer!**

“Jesus Walked this Lonesome Valley”

American spiritual

The Blue Presbyterian Hymnal #80

1 Jesus walked this lonesome valley,
He had to walk it by Himself;
O, nobody else could walk it for Him,
He had to walk it by Himself.

2 We must walk this lonesome valley,
We have to walk it by ourselves;
O, nobody else can walk it for us,
We have to walk it by ourselves.

3 You must go and stand your trial,
You have to stand it by yourself,
O, nobody else can stand it for you,
You have to stand it by yourself.

"Just As I Am"

Charlotte Elliott (1834)

The Blue Presbyterian Hymnal #370

1. Just as I am without one plea
But that Thy blood was shed for me
And that thou biddest me come to Thee
O lamb of God I come I come

2. Just as I am though tossed about
With many a conflict many a doubt
Fightings and fears within without
O lamb of God I come, I come

3. Just as I am Thou wilt receive
Wilt welcome pardon cleanse relieve
Because Thy promise I believe
O lamb of God I come, I come

4. Just as I am Thy love unknown
Has broken every barrier down
Now to be Thine yea Thine alone
O lamb of God I come I come

"Take Up Your Cross"

Ray Boltz

Take up your cross and follow Jesus
Take up your cross every day
Don't be ashamed to say that you know Him
Count up the cost, take up your cross and follow Him

What are you doing for the King
Have you really given everything
To the One who gave His all for you
Don't you be satisfied just to know
That the Lord has saved your soul
Have you forgotten what you need to do

Take up your cross and follow Jesus
Take up your cross every day
Don't be ashamed to say that you know Him
Count up the cost, take up your cross and follow Him

Don't be ashamed to say that you know Him
Count up the cost, take up your cross and follow Him

I know sometimes the road is long and
I know sometimes you feel like you can't go on
But you can make it, you just

Take up your cross and follow Jesus
Take up your cross every day
Don't be ashamed to say that you know Him

Count up the cost, take up your cross and follow Him
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