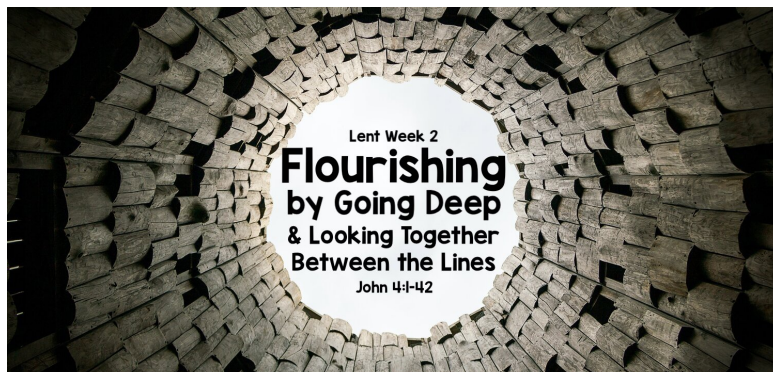


College Avenue Presbyterian Church  
 5951 College Avenue | Oakland | 94618  
 www.capcoakland.org | www.capcoakland.me  
 Office : 510.658.3665 | capc1@sbcglobal.net  
 Pastor Monte: Cell 510.520.0746  
 montemcclain@gmail.com



February 28, 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

"I Love You Lord Today"

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

CALL TO WORSHIP

- Psalm 40

SONG OF PRAISE

"We Shall Overcome"

REMEMBERING THE BIGNESS OF IMAGO DEI THROUGH BLACK HISTORY STORIES

- Sharon Nelson

LISTENING TO SCRIPTURE

John 4:1-42

- Chickwendu Okereke

SERMON

"Flourishing By Going Deep Between the Lines"

- Monte McClain

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

SONG OF RESPONSE

"The Water God Gives Us"

CELEBRATING THE GIFT OF FAITH IN COMMUNITY

RECEIVING NEW MEMBERS

- Dann & Marji Wilkens

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

"Lift Every Voice"

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 Today's Reading John 4:1-42

Our theme this Lent is Flourishing. Lent and Easter coincide with Spring, and the renewal of nature as the winter ebbs. Have you noticed this week the burst of growth, change and color around us? I'm struck by how plants are budding and pushing through cracks and lines in the pavement. They're easy to miss until they're not. They're a organic metaphor for the social changes, racial reckoning and institutional flailing that dominant the moment we're in. The roots of our challenges, injustice, and misunderstandings have long been there (like seeds or seedlings invisible in the sidewalk cracks) and now they're inescapable. How did we not see -or even "notice" them- before?

Something that flourishes grows or develops in a healthy or vigorous way, especially as the result of a particularly favorable environment. We see to be in a time in which such vigorous growth in our perspectives, social cohesion, racial reconciliation and moral justice is potentially more favorable than it has been. That's in part what the rallying cry of "Black Lives Matter" points to – a reality that is evident and yet goes against the grain in the lived-out-practice of our society. Our constitution says that "all men are created equal." Yet when we read between the lines and against the grain we recognize that it doesn't mention women and it also defines anyone who is not white or a land-owner as a 3/5ths person. This technique of reading texts against the grain and between the lines, of cataloging their omissions and laying bare their contradictions, is called the "hermeneutics of suspicion."

As you read today's scripture in John when is said in the silence between the lines? What goes against the grain of the text: both this story and the larger story and teachings of Jesus? In John's telling of the good news story of Jesus, this woman is the first "evangelist" who tells others about her miraculous encounter with Jesus like the hearing of a Word that makes all things new. She also is contrasted with the story of Nicodemus (in chapter 3) – he is man, a leader of the Jewish people and faith. Here this woman is a Samaritan, seemingly despised and unwanted by all – and yet she is the one who responds by following Jesus.

### QUESTIONS FOR MEDITATION & EXAMEN:

1. **What engaged you, enraged you, or surprised you in the text? – a word, image, or phrase?**
2. **What is unique about this interaction between Jesus and the un-named woman? How is she identified?**
3. **Who needs redemption and healing deliverance (*a flourishing that only God can give*) in this story?**
4. **What has to be "let go of" to embrace this vigorous spiritual growth that Jesus talks of as living water?**
5. **How is the Spirit of God inviting you to *flourishing* faith through this text?**

## Weekly Calendar

**Deacons Meeting** *today*, (after worship) on Zoom

**Daily Zoom Calls – every day at 12pm.**

**Community Care Package Team Meeting** Monday -3/1 at 1:00pm on Zoom.

**Race Matters, Monday, 3/1 @ 6:00pm** on Zoom – talking about How do Systems Change? And looking at micro-agressions in our actions and context.

**The Bible Makes Sense**, Thursdays at 7:00pm & Fridays at 11am on Zoom. A class on how to read and work with the Bible.

**Community Care Package Workshop - Friday, March 5<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm** in the sanctuary. Please don't come unless you have registered to be there.

**Friday Night Meal - Friday, March 5<sup>th</sup> 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 5:30pm 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 Sharon Nelson 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

**Blessing Bags –** our new ministry of hospitality for those with inconsistent housing. We distributed almost everything that we had prepped this past Friday to those who came. *Thank you!*

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

**Thank you to Today's Worship Leadership:**

Black History Month: Sharon Nelson  
Chat Master: Kristy Parsons McClain  
Deacon Liturgist: Myrna Shadley  
Godly Play: Beth Beatty  
Music: Pete Feltman, Dave Eagle  
Reader: Chickwendu Okereke  
Video Tech: Sophie Parsons McClain

## Lyrics & Responses For Today's Celebration

### **"I Love You Lord Today"**

*Author: Edwin Hawkins*

1. I love you , I love you  
I love you lord today  
Because you care for me  
in such a special way

2. My heart, my mind,  
my soul belong to you  
You paid the price for me  
way back on Calvary

*Chorus*

And yes I praise you  
I lift you up, I magnify your name  
That's why my heart is filled with praise

### **CALL TO WORSHIP RESPONSIVE WORSHIP**

Isaiah 55 from the Contemporary English Version (CEV)

One: If you are thirsty,  
come and drink water!  
If you don't have any money,  
come, eat what you want!

**ALL: Drink wine and milk  
without paying a cent.  
Why waste your money  
on what really isn't food?  
Why work hard for something  
that doesn't satisfy?**

One: Listen carefully to the Lord,  
and you will enjoy  
the very best foods.  
Pay close attention!  
Come to God and live.

**ALL: Turn to the Lord!  
God can still be found.  
Call out to God! The Lord is near.  
One: Give up your crooked ways  
and your evil thoughts.  
Return to the Lord our God.  
Who will be merciful  
and forgive your sins.**

**ALL: The Lord says:  
"My thoughts and my ways  
are not like yours.  
Just as the heavens  
are higher than the earth,  
my thoughts and my ways  
are higher than yours.**

One: "Rain and snow fall from the sky.  
But they don't return  
without watering the earth  
that produces seeds to plant  
and grain to eat.  
That's how it is with my words.  
They don't return to me  
without doing everything  
I send them to do."

**ALL: And so we gather today,  
As a living community,  
Hungering and thirsting  
For that Word of Life,  
For the Living Water  
That brings the flourishing of  
Redemption, liberation, and transformation.**

### **"We Shall Overcome"**

*American spiritual  
Glory to God Hymnal #379*

1 We shall overcome, we shall overcome  
We shall overcome someday  
Oh deep in my heart I do believe  
We shall overcome someday

2. We'll walk hand in hand

3. We shall live in peace

4. We are not afraid

5. God will see us through

## “The Water God Gives Us”

*Biblical Reference: John 4:5-42*

*Tune: Traditional American melody (“How Firm a Foundation”) Text: Copyright © 2011 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette.*

1. The water God gives us in wondrous supply  
Is water that's living and never runs dry.  
For everyone drinks and is thirsty again,  
But God's living water gives life without end.
2. O God, we confess that we seek empty things;  
We strive after wealth and the comfort it brings.  
We buy things in hopes that our spirits will soar  
Yet still we are thirsty and left wanting more.
3. Then just like that woman who went to the well,  
We hear you, O Christ, and the truth that you tell.  
You know who we are  
and you know what we've been;  
You know us and love us in spite of our sin.
4. The gift that you give is the greatest of wealth;  
You give living water! You give us yourself!  
May we, like that woman, go back where we live  
And tell those we know of the life that you give.

## Jewish Social Structure

in the 1st Century CE



## “Lift Every Voice And Sing”

*James Weldon Johnson (1900)*

*Presbyterian Blue Hymnal #563*

1. Lift every voice and sing  
Till earth and heaven ring  
Ring with the harmonies of liberty  
Let our rejoicing rise  
high as the listening skies  
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea  
Sing a song full of the faith  
that the dark past has taught us  
Sing a song full of the hope  
that the present has brought us  
Facing the rising sun  
of our new day begun  
Let us march on till victory is won
2. Stony the road we trod,  
bitter the chastening rod  
Felt in the days when hope  
unborn had died  
Yet with a steady beat,  
have not our weary feet  
Come to the place  
for which our parents sighed  
We have come over a way  
that with tears has been watered  
We have come treading our path  
through the blood of the slaughtered  
Out of the gloomy past,  
till now we stand at last  
Where the white gleam  
of our bright star is cast
3. God of our weary years,  
God of silent tears  
Thou who has brought us  
thus far on the way  
Thou who hast by thy might  
led us into the light  
Keep us forever in the path we pray  
Lest our feet stray from the places  
our God where we meet thee  
Lest our hearts drunk with the wine  
of the world we forget thee  
Shadowed beneath thy hand  
may we forever stand  
True to our God, true to our native land