

College Avenue Presbyterian Church  
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GOD, SCATTER YOUR ENNEMIES AROUND  
LIKE DUST IN A WHIRLWIND.  
JUST AS FLAMES DESTROY FORESTS  
ON THE MOUNTAINS,  
PURSUE AND TERRIFY THEM  
WITH STORMS OF YOUR OWN.

PSALM 83:13-15

WRESTLING WITH THE UJIMA WORK OF OUR ANGER

February 7, 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 "Let Us Talents And Tongues Employ"

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

CALL TO WORSHIP

- A Litany of Remembrance

SONG OF PRAISE "Lift Every Voice And Sing"

REMEMBERING THE BIGNESS OF IMAGO DEI THROUGH BLACK HISTORY STORIES

LISTENING TO SCRIPTURE Proverbs 14:29-15:2; Numbers 20:1-13; John 2:13-22

SERMON "When is Having a Cow Just? And when is it just Having a Cow?"

- Monte McClain

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

SONG OF RESPONSE "If The War Goes On"

INVITATION TO THE COMMUNION TABLE - FOOD FOR THE JOURNEY OF FAITH

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.**

COMMUNION: FINDING GOD AROUND OUR DIGITAL TABLE

*Today we'll celebrate this foundational meal by intinction wherever you are. Monte will begin with a prayer - during which you're invited to put your screen to "speaker view" - as we share the meal together please reset your screen to "gallery view."*

THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

COLLECTION OF OUR OFFERINGS AND GIFTS

SENDING SONG "When The Storms Of Life Are Raging"

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**  
**Psalm 86:15; Proverbs 14:29-15:2;**  
**Numbers 20:1-13; John 2:13-22**

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. Today we talk about anger.

The word for anger in biblical Hebrew is *aph*. It's a good example of the curious nature of the Hebrew Language. *Aph* is also the Hebrew word for a "nose," or "nostrils" (*plural*). When one becomes very angry, the nostrils start flaring. Anger (like most emotions) is visceral and felt in our bodies even if we tend to deny it.

A oft used refrain in the Bible testimonies is repeated in Psalm 86:15. "But you, O Lord, are kind and gracious, slow to anger (*to flair your nostrils*) and your love can always be trusted."

And yet often the Bible talks of judgment and justice as the pouring out of God's wrath, like the pouring of wine from a cup. The Hebrew word for wrath is *חמה* pronounced "chemah." It means wrath, fury, indignation, anger. It's related to heat, rage, venom, poison, coming from the ancient Semitic expression that describes your foot when it becomes chafed after walking barefoot in the desert.

And so often in the Bible we hear of anger, the heat that swells up our nostrils with rage and emotion. We also hear of wrath that is like the heat and venomous sores that build up on your barefoot over time as you encounter rough, unplanned for terrain.

In the Bible we hear of God's anger with humanity. With hear in the psalms of Lament of anger with God's seeming absence and inaction. We see in Numbers 20 Moses losing his cool in anger with his fellow citizens and losing control of his actions. Then in John 2 we hear of Jesus who blows his lid when he sees injustice in the temple and without losing controls drives everyone out. Ans do anger seems to be both a positive and destructive force.

**QUESTIONS FOR EXAMEN**

- 1. How do you react to anger – when you're angry, or when someone else is angry with you?**
- 2. How do you react to the idea of God being angry?**
- 3. How do you feel angry in these days of pandemic, racial reckoning and political division?**

**FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS**

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 -2/8 at 1:00pm on Zoom.

**Race Matters, Monday, 2/8 @ 6:00pm** on Zoom

**Black History Month** All month in worship we're reflecting on how we're created in God's image (*imago dei*) through historical testimonies. Want to lead one? Talk to Monte to sign-up.

**Congregational Meeting**, Sunday, February 21<sup>st</sup> after worship on Zoom. Stayed tuned for more info about budgets and nominees for leadership.

**Presbytery Meeting** – This Tuesday, 2/9 online. More info at <https://www.presbyteryofsf.org/current-presbytery-meeting-packet/>

**Blessing Bags** – a new ministry of hospitality. Listen for the announcements about ways to get involved.

**Community Care Package Worship - Friday, Feb 12<sup>th</sup> 5:30pm** in the sanctuary. Please don't come unless you have registered to be there.

**Friday Night Meal - Friday, Feb 12<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.

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

**Indian Meals to Go & Tamales por Oakland** – Info online at [www.capcoakland.org](http://www.capcoakland.org)

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

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

Black History Month: Monte McClain  
Chat Master: Kristy Parsons McClain  
Deacon Liturgist: Myrna Shadley  
Godly Play: Beth Beatty  
Music: Pete Feltman, Dave Eagle  
Video Tech: Thom Feltman

## LYRICS & RESPONSES FOR TODAY'S CELEBRATION

### “Let Us Talents And Tongues Employ”

Fred Kaan (1975)

*The Blue Presbyterian Hymnal #514*

Let us talents and tongues employ  
Reaching out with a shout of joy  
Bread is broken the wine is poured  
Christ is spoken and seen and heard  
Jesus lives again  
Earth can breathe again  
Pass the word around loaves abound

Christ is able to make us one  
At the table he sets the tone  
Teaching people to live to bless  
Love in word and indeed express  
Jesus lives again  
Earth can breathe again  
Pass the word around loaves abound

Jesus calls us in sends us out  
Bearing fruit in a world of doubt  
Gives us love to tell bread to share  
God (Immanuel) everywhere  
Jesus lives again  
Earth can breathe again  
Pass the word around loaves abound

### CALL TO WORSHIP RESPONSIVE WORSHIP

A Litany of Remembrance. The Truth Shall Set us Free by  
Delonte Harrod from *Rally: Communal Prayer for lovers of Jesus and Justice*.

One: You, O Lord God are merciful and gracious,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and  
faithfulness. You reign over all the earth.

(Psalm 86:15)

**ALL: You are the God who remembers.**

One: You are the God who remembered your covenant  
promise to Abraham.

**ALL: You did not forget.**

One: You are the God who remembered to bless Sarah's  
womb. And when Hagar and Ishmael were in the desert  
without food and comfort, you remembered and  
blessed them.

**ALL: You did not forget.**

One: For you are the God who remembered your covenant  
people while they were enslaved in Egypt.  
You heard their cry and rescued them.

**ALL: You did not forget.**

One: Lord, you have made promises to your people.

**ALL: And you are the God who remembers.**

One: Lord, you not only remember your promises  
toward us. You also remember where we have  
fallen short.

**ALL: Remind us now.**

One: You remember when your covenant people  
sinned against you, and some did not make it to the  
Promised Land.

**ALL: Remind us now.**

One: Lord, you remember and know that sin disconnects  
us from you, and you call us to remember  
your work of redemption, so that we will not be  
turned away from you.

**ALL: Remind us now.**

One: You are the God who remembers, and you call us  
to remember. You call us to the holy act of remembering.  
Lord, as your covenant people, we have  
failed to remember you.

**ALL: Have mercy on us.**

One: Lord, you we have failed to remember that our  
identity is in you and you alone.

**ALL: Forgive us.**

One: Lord, we have failed to remember the presence  
of your kingdom on earth.

**ALL: Make us new, Lord.**

One: We drink daily from the rocks of affliction –  
Racism,  
Sexism,  
Patriarchy,  
And misogyny –  
Instead of remembering the rock that nourishes us in  
the wilderness.

**ALL: Lord, be gracious and empower us to forsake  
all that is not of you.**

One: Lord, the nation in which we lives hates to remember.

**ALL: Lord, help us to be a people who encourage others to remember you.**

One: Lord, as we remember you and your ways, lead us,  
And make us more gracious, humbler, lighter.

**ALL: Then we shall be the people who will remember and shall live.  
Amen.**

### **“Lift Every Voice And Sing”**

*James Weldon Johnson (1900)*

*The Blue Presbyterian Hymnal #563*

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

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

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

### **“If The War Goes On”**

*John Bell*

1. If the war goes on  
and the children die of hunger  
And the old men weep  
for the young men are no more  
And women learn how to dance  
without a partner  
Who will keep the score

2. If the war goes on  
and the truth is taken hostage  
And new horrors lead  
to the need to euphemize  
When the calls for peace  
are declared unpatriotic  
Who'll expose the lies

3. If the war goes on  
and the daily bread is terror  
And the voiceless poor  
take the road as refugees  
When a nation's pride  
destines millions to be homeless  
Who will heed their pleas

4. If the war goes on  
and the rich increase their fortunes  
And the arms sales soar  
as new weapons are displayed  
When a fertile field  
turns to no-mans-land tomorrow  
Who'll approve such trade

5. If the war goes on  
will we close the door to heaven  
If the war goes on  
will we breach the gates of hell  
If the war goes on will we ever be forgiven  
If the war goes on ...and on... and on

## **“When The Storms Of Life Are Raging”**

*African Methodist Episcopal Church Hymnal #420  
Charles Albert Tindley (1905)*

1 When the storms of life are raging,  
stand by me; (stand by me)  
when the storms of life are raging,  
stand by me. (stand by me)  
When the world is tossing me  
like a ship upon the sea,  
thou who rulest wind and water,  
stand by me. (stand by me)

2 In the midst of tribulation,  
stand by me; (stand by me)  
in the midst of tribulation,  
stand by me. (stand by me)  
When the hosts of hell assail,  
and my strength begins to fail,  
thou who never lost a battle,  
stand by me. (stand by me)

3 In the midst of faults and failures,  
stand by me; (stand by me)  
in the midst of faults and failures,  
stand by me. (stand by me)  
When I've done the best I can,  
and my friends misunderstand,  
thou who knowest all about me,  
stand by me. (stand by me)

4 In the midst of persecution,  
stand by me; (stand by me)  
in the midst of persecution,  
stand by me. (stand by me)  
When my foes in war array  
undertake to stop my way,  
thou who rescued Paul and Silas,  
stand by me. (stand by me)

5 When I'm growing old and feeble,  
stand by me; (stand by me)  
when I'm growing old and feeble,  
stand by me. (stand by me)  
When my life becomes a burden,  
and I'm nearing chilly Jordan,  
O thou Lily of the Valley,  
stand by me. (stand by me)

A word from John Bell on the song he wrote “If the War Goes On”

“Somewhere in the middle of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Western Christians lost the ability to lament. It may be attributed to a false sense of security and self-righteousness during the Cold War; it may have been the corrosive acid of easy theology which proclaimed that God could only deal with the positives and that if bad things happened it was the result of undischarged guilt. What happened to the just anger and cries of protest that inhabited Dylan and Baez in the sixties and that fueled the fervor of the civil rights movement? How sad that the late 20<sup>th</sup> and early 21<sup>st</sup> century Anglo-American incursions into the Gulf and hyper-cautiousness regarding the Israel-Palestine conflict should find no response in the Church’s song.”

## Scriptures for Worship Today

### **Psalm 86:15**

15 But you, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.

### **Proverbs 14:29-15:2**

29 Whoever is slow to anger has great understanding,  
but one who has a hasty temper exalts folly.  
30 A tranquil mind gives life to the flesh,  
but passion makes the bones rot.  
31 Those who oppress the poor insult their Maker,  
but those who are kind to the needy honor him.  
32 The wicked are overthrown by their evildoing,  
but the righteous find a refuge in their integrity.  
33 Wisdom is at home in the mind of one who has understanding,  
but it is not known in the heart of fools.  
34 Righteousness exalts a nation,  
but sin is a reproach to any people.  
35 A servant who deals wisely has the king's favor,  
but his wrath falls on one who acts shamefully.  
15 A soft answer turns away wrath,  
but a harsh word stirs up anger.  
2 The tongue of the wise dispenses knowledge,  
but the mouths of fools pour out folly.

### **Numbers 20:1-13**

1 The Israelites, the whole congregation, came into the wilderness of Zin in the first month, and the people stayed in Kadesh. Miriam died there, and was buried there.

2 Now there was no water for the congregation; so they gathered together against Moses and against Aaron. 3 The people quarreled with Moses and said, "Would that we had died when our kindred died before the Lord! 4 Why have you brought the assembly of the Lord into this wilderness for us and our livestock to die here? 5 Why have you brought us up out of Egypt, to bring us to this wretched place? It is no place for grain, or figs, or vines, or pomegranates; and there is no water to drink." 6 Then Moses and Aaron went away from the assembly to the entrance of the tent of meeting; they fell on their faces, and the glory of the Lord appeared to them. 7 The Lord spoke to Moses, saying: 8 Take the staff, and assemble the congregation, you and your brother Aaron, and command the rock before their eyes to yield its water. Thus you shall bring water out of the rock for them; thus you shall provide drink for the congregation and their livestock.

9 So Moses took the staff from before the Lord, as he had commanded him. 10 Moses and Aaron gathered the assembly together before the rock, and he said to them, "Listen, you rebels, shall we bring water for you out of this rock?" 11 Then Moses lifted up his hand and struck the rock twice with his staff; water came out abundantly, and the congregation and their livestock drank. 12 But the Lord said to Moses and Aaron, "Because you did not trust in me, to show my holiness before the eyes of the Israelites, therefore you shall not bring this assembly into the land that I have given them." 13 These are the waters of Meribah, where the people of Israel quarreled with the Lord, and by which he showed his holiness.

### **John 2:13-22**

13 The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. 14 In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. 15 Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. 16 He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" 17 His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." 18 The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" 19 Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." 20 The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" 21 But he was speaking of the temple of his body. 22 After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.