

College Avenue Presbyterian Church  
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March 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>

#### 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 "There's A Wideness In God's Mercy"

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

CALL TO WORSHIP Looking for God's Wide Mercy in this Longest Year

ZOOM PRAYERS OF GRATITUDE

*You're invited to write in a few words max your answer to the question "What unexpected blessing or "good" came out of the messiness of this past year? We'll hold our written answers up to the screen as a communal prayer of gratitude.*

SONG OF PRAISE "Nobody's Fault But Mine"

LISTENING TO SCRIPTURE Jeremiah 7:23-28; John 8:1-11

SERMON "Intent vs Impact: Seeing Reality with Imagination"

- Monte McClain

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

SONG OF RESPONSE "Wondrous Love"

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER - Monte McClain

*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 "Trouble Of This World"

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**  
**Jeremiah 7:23-28; John 8:1-11**

Our theme this Lent is Flourishing. Lent and Easter coincide with Spring; when we naturally turn towards the future, dreaming of summer, warmth of the sun on our skins, possibilities, new things. This week marks the one year anniversary of the COVID-19 pandemic shutting our world down: turning everything upside down. Spring 2021 also coincides with our hope of new rooted in the old. We long for familiar, what-we-used-to-call-boring routines, but now long dreamily for – grocery shopping, going for dinner, riding BART. In our culture we tend to embrace the news as always improved and better. But in the pandemic we're glimpsing perhaps a bit more the tension between the past and the new and the present. It's never just one or the other, but often both-and all at once.

The selection from Jeremiah tells of God's frustration with the disobedience of the people. They have seen the wisdom of walking with God. But somehow they seem to want to trade what was for what they want to be, they want to forget the past, to dissociate themselves from their history in order to embrace the future of their choosing. The prophet challenges them: they have not only lost their way, but also have cut themselves off from the truth.

This week's gospel story is again recorded only in John's telling. We learn in the preceding chapter (7) that the people are enamored with Jesus: his words, actions, integrity, authenticity and authority. They're suspecting that he is the prophet promised in the past to come and lead them into God's desired future. The religious leaders, threatened by his growing popularity, are jealous of Jesus' impact. They're fearful of losing their authority, afraid that societal transformation might be Jesus's intent. They move to have him arrested. But the national guard sent to bring Jesus in are marveled by his words and wisdom and follow him rather than arrest him.

And so in today's story we see a woman caught in adultery and brought by those leaders before Jesus. The religious Law taught that someone caught in adultery should be stoned to death. But the leaders have conveniently forgotten that the Law also says there must be at least 2 witnesses of the crime and also that the man too is guilty (Lev 19, Dt 20). These three men never appear in the climactic encounter.

**QUESTIONS FOR MEDITATION & EXAMEN:**

- 1. What engaged, enraged, or surprised you in the text?**
- 2. The goal of keeping the Law or commandments was to maintain a righteous relationship with God. The opposite of that is "sin." Who is guilty of sin in the story? Why?**
- 3. What do the pharisees and scribe see?; not see? And the woman, what does she see?; not see?**
- 4. How is the Spirit of God inviting you to *flourishing* faith through this text?**

**March Birthdays**

17 Louise Hirschman 22 Ellen Brylawski  
24 Marda Stothers 28 Lucian Haynes

**Weekly Calendar**

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

**Blessing Bag Distribution** today 12-2pm

**Community Care Package Team Meeting**  
Monday 3/15 at 1:00pm on Zoom.

**Race Matters, Monday, 3/15@ 6:00pm** on Zoom – talking with Ruth T West about her story of racial awareness & reckoning.

**The Bible Makes Sense**, Thursdays at 7:00pm & Fridays at 11am on Zoom. A class on how to read and work with the Bible. Be sure to watch/listen to the videos between classes to get the most out of it. [capcoakland.org](http://capcoakland.org)

**Community Care Package Workshop - Friday, March 19<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 19<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.

**Wrestling with Scripture**, Sat 5:30pm on Zoom. Weekly Bible Study on Sunday's text.

**Men's Group – Saturday 3/20 at 10am** on our regular church Zoom channel. Contact Bill Beatty

**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-** Info online at [capcoakland.org](http://capcoakland.org)

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

**Thank you to Today's Worship Leadership:**  
Chat Master: Kristy Parsons McClain  
Prayer Liturgist: Monte McClain  
Godly Play: Beth Beatty  
Music: Pete Feltman, Dave Eagle  
Video Tech: Thom Faulkner

**"There's A Wideness In God's Mercy"**

*Frederick William Faber (1862)*

*The Blue Presbyterian Hymnal #298*

1. here's a wideness in God's mercy  
Like the wideness of the sea  
There's a kindness in God's justice  
Which is more than liberty  
There is no place where earth's sorrows  
Are more felt than up in heaven  
There is no place where earth's failings  
Have such kindly judgment given

2. For the love of God is broader  
Than the measures of the mind  
And the heart of the Eternal  
Is most wonderfully kind  
If our love were but more faithful  
We would gladly trust God's word  
And our lives reflect thanksgiving  
For the goodness of our Lord

**"Nobody's Fault But Mine"**

*Blind Willie Johnson*

1. It's nobody's fault but mine  
Nobody's fault but mine  
If I don't read it, my soul'd be lost  
nobody's fault but mine

I got a bible in my home  
I got a bible in my home  
If I don't read it, my soul'd be lost  
nobody's fault but mine

Oh, mother, she taught me how to read  
Mother, she taught me how to read  
If I don't read it, my soul'd be lost  
nobody's fault but mine

I got a father who would pray  
I got a father who would pray  
He prayed all day and into the night  
I got a father who would pray

And sister she taught me how to read  
Sister she taught me how to read  
If I don't read it, my soul'd be lost  
Nobody's fault but mine

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*Minor Key and A Flip In Perspective during the Season of Lent*

For the remainder of this 2021 Lenten season Pete will be leading us in songs which are exclusively in a "minor key." The absence of major keys is almost like a musical fast in which we deprive ourselves of the stereotypically uplifting sounds inherent in major tonality. Just like in a nutritional fast - the awareness of the absence of the thing we crave is intended to redirect our focus to things more spiritual and hopefully give us a greater understanding of ourselves as well as a deeper connection to God. In Pete's opinion there is something explicitly reflective and introspective about songs in minor keys. In this sense they seem to quite appropriate to the mood of Lent. Then when Easter rolls around the shift into major keys will be as satisfying as the first thing you eat to break your fast.

## **“Wondrous Love”**

*Anonymous*

*The Blue Presbyterian Hymnal #85*

1. What wondrous love is this o my soul, o my soul  
What wondrous love is this o my soul  
What wondrous love is this that cause the lord of bliss  
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul  
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul
2. When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down  
When I was sinking down, sinking down  
When I was sinking down,  
beneath God’s righteous frown  
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul, for my soul  
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul
3. To God and to the lamb I will sing I will sing  
To God and to the lamb I will sing  
To God and to the lamb, who is the great “I Am”  
While millions join the theme I will sing, I will sing  
While millions join the them I will sing
4. And when from death I’m free, I’ll sing on, I’ll sing on  
And when from death I’m free, I’ll sing on  
And when from death I’m free, I’ll sing and joyful be  
And through eternity I’ll sing on, I’ll sing on  
And through eternity I’ll sing on

## **“Trouble Of This World”**

*Traditional*

*African American Heritage Hymnal #587*

- 1 Soon I will be done  
With the troubles of the world  
Troubles of the world, troubles of this world  
Soon I will be done  
With the troubles of the world  
I’m going home to live with God
2. There’ll be No more weepin' and wailin'  
No more weepin' and wailin'  
No more weepin' and wailin'  
I’m going home to live with God my Lord
3. Soon I will be done  
With the troubles of the world  
Troubles of the world, troubles of this world  
Soon I will be done  
With the troubles of the world  
I’m going home to live with God
4. I’m going up to see King Jesus  
I’m gonna shake his loving hand  
I’m gonna tell him all about my troubles  
While traveling through this land
5. I’m going up to see my maker  
I’m gonna shake his loving hand  
I’m gonna tell him all about my troubles  
While traveling through this land