

College Avenue Presbyterian Church
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**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.

March 21, 2021

GATHERING AROUND GOD'S WORD VIA ZOOM

GATHERING SONG "Sometimes I Feel Like A Motherless Child"

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

CALL TO WORSHIP

SONG OF PRAISE "Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley"

LISTENING TO SCRIPTURE 2 Corinthians 5:16-21 & John 9:1-41
 - Anne Marie Adams, David Kittams

SERMON "New Creation"
 - Monte McClain

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

SONG OF RESPONSE "A Man Who Could Not See"

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER - 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 "Wild And Lone The Prophets 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
2 Corinthians 5:16-21 & John 9:1-41

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. It's just as we mark the one year anniversary of the COVID-19 pandemic shutting our world down that something new, different seems possible. 1 of every 6 adults in our nation is now vaccinated. We can glimpse the new future that awaits us...and we struggle with the burdensome heaviness that we still have a ways to go.

The apostle Paul talks about seeing those who've placed their trust in Christ as new creations. A transformation happens when we no longer seek to be in control of our lives, when we recognize that the plans we had weren't necessarily what we needed, when we recognize that the way forward we saw was actually an impasse chosen in blindness. It's his way of talking about sin – what's broken in and among us – and our need to recognize it, to confess it and to be redeemed of it. It's a like a fresh start, a second chance, a new creation.

The story from John about the man born blind is both long and simple, funny and tragic, a paradox and quite clear. It blows open the notions of bad things happening to bad people as a result of their errors, sin or evil. The story challenges our notion that we shouldn't just follow the rules for the rule's sake. Rules and commandments are intended to preserve and sanctify life. And so human life is more important than faithful obedience. The story also recognizes the power of fear – in particular the fear of losing our community or connections with others.

We all want to live. We all want to live abundantly, to know love, mercy and grace. To see and be seen. And yet that's often not the case in our world and society. You'd think we'd be able to see ourselves and each other clearly, with 20/20 vision. We're all pretty much similar, sharing similar needs, hungers and hopes. But something keeps us from that. Look at the story. The only person – ironically – who sees clearly – is the blind man who recognizes and confesses what he cannot see or do on his own.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION & 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

24 Marda Stothers 28 Lucian Haynes

Weekly Calendar

Care Giver Support Group Today 3-5pm on Zoom.

Daily Zoom Calls – every day at 12pm.

Community Care Package Team Meeting Monday 3/22 at 1:00pm on Zoom.

Race Matters, Monday, 3/22 @ 6:00pm on Zoom – talking with Rev. Ruth T West about spirituality and racial justice.

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

Community Care Package Workshop - Friday, March 26th at 5:30pm in the sanctuary. Please register in advance to come help.

Friday Night Meal - Friday, March 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.

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

Indian Meals to Go- Info online at capcoakland.org

Next Sunday is Palm Sunday!

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

Reader: Anne Marie Adams, David Kittams

Video Tech: Thom Faulkner

“Sometimes I Feel Like A Motherless Child”

Traditional Spiritual

1. Sometimes I feel like a motherless child

Sometimes I feel like a motherless child

Sometimes I feel like a motherless child

A long way from home,

a long way from home

2. Sometimes I feel like I'm almost done

Sometimes I feel like I'm almost done

Sometimes I feel like I'm almost done

A long way from home,

a long way from home

3. True believer

True believer

A long, long way from home

A long, long way from home

Litany of Frustrated Activists – today's responsive reading, written by Tanya Marlow, invites us to read aloud the “implicated” lines that speak directly to who we are and what we may be feeling.

One: Blessed are those who groan and long for healing.

The implicated – Blessed are we who know pain.

All: Blessed are those who grown, for the Spirit of God groans with them.

The implicated: Blessed are we who cry “It's unjust!” and “How long, O Lord?”

All: Blessed are those who grown, for the Spirit of God groans with them.

The implicated: Blessed are we who weep for ourselves and wail prophetically for the pain of the world.

All: Blessed are those who grown, for the Spirit of God groans with them.

The implicated: Blessed are we who work, act and speak for the good of others and the welfare of our city – even when we cannot speak loud enough to be heard, attend the public rally, or make the difference we long to.

All: Blessed are those who grown, for the Spirit of God groans with them.

One: Blessed are those despised and dismissed for their bodies and minds.

The implicated: Blessed are we who are too much – or too little.

All: Blessed are despised and dismissed, for Christ was also too much and too little for the world.

The implicated: Blessed are we who are too blunt, too weird, too emotional, too broken.

All: Blessed are despised and dismissed, for Christ was also too much and too little for the world.

The implicated: Blessed are we who are not strong enough, not beautiful enough, not powerful enough.

All: Blessed are despised and dismissed, for Christ was also too much and too little for the world.

One: Blessed are those who live with limitations

The implicated: Blessed are we ordinary saints, neither heroes nor haloed.

All: Blessed are despised and dismissed, for Christ was also too much and too little for the world.

The implicated: Blessed are we who are neither divine nor demonic, but dearly loved.

All: Blessed are despised and dismissed, for Christ was also too much and too little for the world.

One: Blessed are the invisible and unheard.

The implicated: Blessed are we who see the missed opportunities, who amplify the voice of the silenced

All: Blessed are the invisible and ignored, for they see the invisible God.

One: Blessed is the day of small things.

The implicated: Blessed are we who chip away at big problems; the blanket-knitters and letter-writers, The poets and petition-signers, we who chip away and pray and pray.

All: Blessed is the day of small things, for God is rebuilding a home in our world.

“Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley”

Blind Willie Johnson

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
4. Jesus prayed for his disciples
He prayed alone for you and me
O nobody else could bear such sorrow
He prayed alone for you and me
5. Jesus died on Calvary's mountain
He died alone for you and me
O nobody else could die for sinners
He had to die for you and me

“A Man Who Could Not See ”

Text: Copyright © 2011 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette.

1. What A man who could not see received the gift of sight;
O Lord, you spoke and he believed and saw the light. His joy was greater still than sight that was restored;
He saw, when you had made him well, that you are Lord.
2. Some leaders were distressed and said it was a sin, For it was on the day of rest that you healed him. They could not see the grace or know how much God cares;
The lack of vision in that place was truly theirs.
3. O Christ, you are the light to all who follow you; You give to us the gift of sight — a new world-view. When culture hems us in with values that destroy, Lord, help your church to see again your kingdom's joy.

“Wild And Lone The Prophets Voice”

Carl P. Daw (1989) Glory to God #163

- 1 Wild and lone the prophet's voice
echoes through the desert still,
calling us to make a choice,
bidding us to do God's will:
"Turn from sin and be baptized;
cleanse your heart and mind and soul.
Quitting all the sins you prized,
yield your life to God's control.
- 2 "Bear the fruit repentance sows:
lives of justice, truth, and love.
Trust no other claim than those;
set your heart on things above.
Soon the Lord will come in power,
burning clean the threshing floor:
then will flames the chaff devour;
wheat alone shall fill God's store."
- 3 With such preaching, stark and bold,
John proclaimed salvation near,
and his timeless warnings hold
words of hope to all who hear.
So we dare to journey on,
led by faith through ways untrod,
till we come at last like John
to behold the Lamb of God.

163 Wild and Lone the Prophet's Voice

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While all four gospels identify John the Baptist with the prophecy of Isaiah 40:3, this text (well set to a vigorous Welsh tune) draws on the report of his preaching in Matthew 3:1-12. The final lines recall that he was the first to name Jesus "the Lamb of God" (John 1:29, 36).