

College Avenue Presbyterian Church
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March 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 "Not on a War Horse"

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

CALL TO WORSHIP

SONG OF PRAISE "Jerusalem, Jerusalem"

LISTENING TO SCRIPTURE John 11:1-37, 12:9-19

SERMON "Faith as Activism"

- Monte McClain

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

SONG OF RESPONSE "Two Processions Entering Jerusalem"

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 "I Want Jesus To Walk With Me"

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 11:1-37, 12:9-19

Our theme this Lent is Flourishing. Lent, Passover, Palm Sunday and Easter coincide with Spring; when we naturally turn towards the future. For the Jewish people, Passover was more than a religious observance. It was the time of year when they celebrated liberation from Egyptian bondage.

During Jesus' time, they also used this opportunity to express their longing for political freedom from Rome. Jews who claimed to be "messiahs" – come to bring political freedom to Israel - had so often caused riots during Passover that the Romans habitually brought extra troops into Jerusalem during the Passover season. The Roman soldiers did not hesitate to shed blood to keep the peace. The Roman powers did not hesitate to use violence to remind the people who was in fact in charge, to whom the people should look.

On the Sunday before Passover, Jesus came out of the wilderness on the eastern side of the Mount of Olives (just as the prophecy said the Messiah would come).

People spread cloaks and branches on the road before him. The crowd began shouting, "Hosanna," a slogan of the ultra-nationalistic Zealots, which meant, "Please save us! Give us freedom!" Those who may have felt invisible to justice, forgotten by their leaders, overlooked in all the troubles of the land, gathered to proclaim that God was their Savior – and that Jesus seemed to be his servant.

The people also waved palm branches, a symbol that had once been placed on Jewish coins when the Jewish nation was free. Thus the palm branches were not only a symbol of peace and love. They were also a symbol of Jewish nationalism, an expression of the people's desire for political freedom.

The tears Jesus shed as the people cried out their political "Hosannas" were tears of grief. Jesus may have foreseen the terrible devastation of Jerusalem that was to come. Maybe those tears reflected his recent encounter with Lazarus whom he raised from the dead. Could his tears have reflected his foresight that the people, when given the choice, would choose death instead of life?

(today's text is adapted from one found at www.christ-community.net)

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION & EXAMEN:

- 1. What engaged, enraged, or surprised you in the text?**
- 2. When you have felt the most invisible, or overlooked in our life? When have you felt most seen, or included?**
- 3. How is the Spirit of God inviting you to *flourishing* faith through this text?**

March Birthdays

28 Lucian Haynes. 30 Amy Price Carney

April Birthdays

12 Chuck Marut 13 Toni Proulx
20 Kelechi Okereke

Weekly Calendar

Deacons Meeting - after worship on Zoom.

Daily Zoom Calls – every day at 12pm.

Community Care Package Team Meeting
Monday 3/29 at 1:00pm on Zoom.

No Small Group meetings this week of Race Matters, The Bible Makes Sense, or weekly Bible Study due to this week's holiday schedule.

Community Care Package Workshop – Thursday, April 1st at 5:30pm in the sanctuary. We've moved the workshop to a different day during Holy Week. Please register in advance to come help.

Friday Night Meal - Friday, April 2nd 6:00pm. Sign up online at <http://www.capcoak-land.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

Indian Meals to Go- Info online at capcoak-land.org

Maundy Thursday Meditation – Thursday at 7:30pm on Zoom

Good Friday Labyrinth Walk – Fri 12-2pm

Good Friday Service – Friday 7:30pm on Zoom

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

Lyrics & Responses for Today's Celebration

"Not on a war horse"

tune "Finlandia" David M. Miller © 2010 The Millery

1. Not on a war horse, but a humble donkey,
the Son of Man came to Jerusalem;
great city full of faithful Hebrew pilgrims
received one more as she had often done.
And yet this time, Christ journeyed into danger;
to be betrayed, to suffer and to die.

2. They paved his way with scattered cloaks and
branches
- a prelude to the coming victory.
Crowds of disciples shouting out their praises;
"Glory to God! Hosanna to the King!
Bless'd is the one, Jesus has come to save us."
The very stones would cry out if they could.

4. So let us pause, as we this day remember
our humble King who gathers up the lost;
how great his trial, how strong the love he shows us;
how weak a faith that does not count the cost.
We walk with him, come through into the city;
one final meal, a symbol for God's grace.

Call to Worship Litany – today's responsive reading is an adaptation of Litany from Psalm 118, Isaiah 43, Romans 8

One: One: Give thanks to the Lord, for God is good;
the steadfast love of the Lord endures forever.

ALL: Hosanna to God, Hosanna in the highest!

One: Let Israel - *those who wrestle with God to understand the Lord's goodness* in their lives - say,
"God's love endures forever!" and all who fear God say, "God's love endures forever!"

ALL: Hosanna to God, Hosanna in the highest!

One: The Lord says: 'you shall be my people, I shall make you into a people, and I will be your God.'

ALL: Hosanna to God, Hosanna in the highest!

One: 'Do not fear,' says the Lord,
'for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name; you are mine.
When you pass through dangerous waters,
I will be with you;
when through the rivers or challenge in your
way, they won't sweep over you.'

ALL: Hosanna to God, Hosanna in the highest!

One: With the Lord on our side, what can we fear?
What can anyone or anything do to us?

ALL: We are convinced that nothing can separate us from God's love in Christ Jesus our Lord:

One: not death or life, not angels or rulers, not present things or future things,

ALL: not powers or height or depth, or any other thing that is created.

One: The Lord is our strength and our might.
Blessed is the one
who comes in the name of the Lord.

ALL: Hosanna to God, Hosanna in the highest!

"Jerusalem, Jerusalem"

Iona Community, John Bell

1. Jerusalem, Jerusalem,
you murder the prophets
and silence those God sends you.
2. How many times
I wanted to embrace you!
But you would never let me.
3. Therefore your homes,
Your city and your temple
Will be, by God, forsaken
4. Never again
Will you know my presence
Until you meet me, saying
5. Blessed is the one
Who comes in the name,
In the name of the Lord

“Two Processions Entering Jerusalem”

Amanda Udis-Kessler

Two opposing kingdoms on display.
Which of these processions are we part of?
Which one will we follow on its way?

Will we shout “Hail Pilate” or “Hosanna”
When we have a choice whose praise to sing?
Will we trust the violent mighty ruler?
Will we trust the peaceful peasant king?

Two processions entering Jerusalem,
Power of love against the love of power.
Will we choose the path of domination?
Will we let compassion have its hour?

God has had a dream of joyful justice.
Rome has spun a nightmare of neglect.
If we join the commonwealth of servants
We may bring God’s joy and justice yet.

Two processions entering Jerusalem:
Realm of hope, dominion built on fear.
As we choose the path that love has opened,
We will see the realm of hope draw near.

“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

HOLY WEEK CELEBRATIONS AT CAPC OAKLAND



A LOT CAN HAPPEN IN 7 DAYS

Daily Video-Devotions online at our FB Page or www.capcoakland.me

MAUNDY THURSDAY

7:30pm
In the Garden
Meditation on Zoom

GOOD FRIDAY

12-2pm Guided Labyrinth
Walks & Prayer Installation
in the garden

EASTER SUNDAY

10:30am
Celebration on Zoom

7:30pm Retelling the Story
Service on Zoom