

College Avenue Presbyterian Church  
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April 4, 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 "Jesus Christ is Risen Today"

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

CALL TO WORSHIP

SONG OF PRAISE "Morning has Broken"

LISTENING TO SCRIPTURE John 20:1-18

SERMON "Back to the Future"

- Monte McClain

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

SONG OF RESPONSE "I Danced in the Morning"

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'm Gonna Live so God Can Use Me"

SENDING CALL AND RESPONSE

Leader: God is good!

Leader: And all the time!

**People: All the time!**

**People: God is good!**

EXHORTATION & BLESSING

PASSING THE PEACE OF GOD "Christ is Risen. He is risen indeed"

*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 20:1-18

Throughout Lent – the season leading from up to Easter, we've been talking about the theme of Flourishing. We get to the end of Lent, the story of the Resurrection of Jesus – the sprouting of new life; the burgeoning of new creation, a new way forward.

But the story is funny. I wouldn't write it this way. Novelist and Presbyterian Frederick Buechner writes that "The [gospel writers] are not trying to describe [the resurrection] as convincingly as they can. They are trying to describe it as truthfully as they can. It was the most extraordinary thing they believed had ever happened, and yet they tell it so quietly that you have to lean close to be sure what they are telling."

If you listen to the story there are tidbits that speak volumes. The linen cloths that enfolded the body are neatly folded and stacked. No rushing tomb raider would be so thoughtful. Mary is alone but speaks in the plural "We don't know where they put him." The angels ask why Mary is crying, when you'd think it'd be obvious. I mean she's in a cemetery! The men run to and fro, but Mary cries, lingers, and mourns some more. She doesn't recognize her dear friend until he says her name.

It seems bizarre, but when you lean in, listen, and reflect...maybe there's a connection between the telling of this story and the larger story of Jesus.... Wasn't it Jesus who spoke in John 10 saying "I am the Good Shepherd. I know my sheep. And they know me. My sheep listen to my voice." (John 10:27).

The story of the empty tomb isn't about absence, but presence. It's about being present for a proclamation that requires action rather than confession. It's a message that is future-oriented rather than backward-looking. The two men don't know what to do with what they've seen. They believe. But what? Mary? They don't understand what's happening, so they go back and shelter in place where it's safe, familiar, known. Mary is too broken to do anything but mourn. She can't begin to heal. She can't fathom the road ahead of her until she leaves behind this impasse of death.

### QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION & EXAMEN:

1. **What engaged, enraged, or surprised you in the text?**
2. **Jesus first appears to Mary. In a world where men continue to try and use the Bible to justify subordination and violence, the fact that Mary is the first to recognize that Jesus had risen is important. She is the first witness to proclaim, "I have seen Jesus." How does this challenge our historic institutions and cultural assumptions?**
3. **Can you remember the first time your name was spoken? What does it mean to have someone call you by name?**
4. **What does resurrection mean for you and how you live?**

## April Birthdays

12 Chuck Marut      13 Toni Proulx  
20 Kelechi Okereke

## Weekly Calendar

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

**Community Care Package Team Meeting**  
Mondays @ 1pm on Zoom. *No meeting 4/5.*

**Race Matters Monday nights at 6pm on Zoom** – we gather to talk, listen and learn from each other through books, articles and personal sharing. *No meeting this week.*

**No Community Care Package Workshop** –  
*This week there is no community care package.*

**The Bible Makes Sense – synchronous discussion groups Thursdays at 7pm, Fridays at 11am on Zoom** – a class to learn how to read the Bible. *No meeting this week.* Learn more about the class and take in past videos at [www.capcoakland.org/the-bible-makes-sense](http://www.capcoakland.org/the-bible-makes-sense)

**Friday Night Meal - Friday, April 9<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. This week's meal is being prepared by our partners of Piedmont Community Service Crew.

**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.**

**Pastor Monte is on vacation this next week.**  
We will have zoom worship next week.

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

Lyrics & Responses for Today's Celebration

“Jesus Christ is risen today”

*Charles Wesley (1739)*

*The Blue Presbyterian Hymnal #113*

1. Jesus Christ is risen today Alleluia  
Our triumphant holy day Alleluia  
Who did once upon the cross Alleluia  
Suffer to redeem our loss Alleluia

2. Hymns of praise then let us sing Alleluia  
Unto Christ our heavenly king Alleluia  
Who endured the cross and grave Alleluia  
Sinners to redeem and save Alleluia

3. But the pains which he endured Alleluia  
Our salvation have procured Alleluia  
Now above the sky he's king Alleluia  
Where the angels ever sing Alleluia

4. Sing we to our God above Alleluia  
Praise eternal as God's love Alleluia  
Praise our God ye heavenly host Alleluia  
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost Alleluia

**Call to Worship Litany** – *written by Ann Siddall, in  
Lent to Easter liturgies: Year C. Posted on the website  
of the Stillpoint Spirituality Centre. [http://still-  
point.unitingchurchsa.org.au/](http://stillpoint.unitingchurchsa.org.au/)*

One: We are not eye-witnesses to an event,  
as were Mary and the disciples;

**ALL: we have not journeyed  
through a dangerous city  
to seek answers or consolation;**

One: we have not seen angels  
gathering at the rim of this day,

**ALL: or wept in the garden this morning  
because we could not find Him.**

One: But we are here to attest to a story  
that has not lost its power  
during twenty centuries  
of change and conflict.

**ALL: We are here because those before us  
carried this story  
as if it were precious gold;  
cherished it as if it were  
the key to a hidden wisdom.**

One: Sisters and brothers in Christ,  
take your places here today  
in celebration and in awe.

**ALL: What we are about to hear again,  
has the capacity to change the world.**

One: Your very presence attests  
to the rising up of life  
from the tomb of despair,  
and to the uncontrollable power of God.

**ALL: It is Easter morning again:  
and we will celebrate.**

**“Morning has Broken”**

*Eleanor Farjeon (1931)*

*The Blue Presbyterian Hymnal #469*

1. Morning has broken, like the first morning  
Blackbird has spoken, like the first bird  
Praise for the singing, praise for the morning  
Praise for them springing fresh from the word

2. Sweet the rain's new fall, sunlit from heaven  
Like the first dewfall on the first grass  
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden  
Sprung in completeness where his feet pass

3. Mine is the sunlight, mine is the morning  
Born of the one light Eden saw play  
Praise with elation, praise every morning  
God's re-creation of the new day

## **"I Danced in the Morning"**

*Sydney Carter (1963)*

*Tune: SIMPLE GIFTS*

*The Blue Presbyterian Hymnal #302*

1. I danced in the morning when the world was begun  
And I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun  
And I came down from heaven and I danced on the  
earth  
At Bethlehem where I had my birth

*chorus*

Dance then wherever you may be  
I am the lord of the dance said he  
And I'll lead you all wherever you may be  
And I'll lead you all in the dance said he

2. I danced for the scribe and the pharisee  
But they would not dance and they would not follow  
me  
I danced for the fishermen for James and John  
They came with me and the dance went on

*chorus*

3. I danced on the sabbath and cured the lame  
The holy people said it was a shame  
They whipped and stripped and they hung me high  
And left me there on a cross to die

*chorus*

4. I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black  
It's hard to dance with the devil on your back  
They buried my body and they thought I'd gone  
But I am the dance and I still go on

*chorus*

5. They cut me down and I leap up high  
I am the life that will never never die  
I'll live in you if you'll live in me  
I am the lord of the dance said he

## **"I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me"**

*Eleanor Farjeon (1931)*

*The Blue Presbyterian Hymnal #469*

1. I'm gonna live so God can use me.  
Anywhere lord, any time  
I'm gonna live so God can use me.  
Anywhere lord, any time
2. I'm gonna work so God can use me.  
Anywhere lord, any time  
I'm gonna work so God can use me.  
Anywhere lord, any time
3. I'm gonna pray so God can use me.  
Anywhere lord, any time  
I'm gonna pray so God can use me.  
Anywhere lord, any time
4. I'm gonna sing so God can use me.  
Anywhere lord, any time  
I'm gonna sing so God can use me.  
Anywhere lord, any time