

College Avenue Presbyterian Church  
 5951 College Avenue | Oakland | 94618  
 www.capcoakland.org | www.capcoakland.me  
 Office : 510.658.3665 | capc1@sbcglobal.net  
 Pastor Monte: Cell 510.520.0746  
 montemclain@gmail.com



May 30, 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 "Be Thou My Vision"

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

CALL TO WORSHIP

SONG OF PRAISE "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms"

LISTENING TO SCRIPTURE Matthew 3:1-17

DIALOGUE SERMON "Memento Mori" - Carol Dolezal

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

SONG OF RESPONSE "I Was There To Hear Your Borne Cry"

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 "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 & BENEDICTION

PASSING THE PEACE OF GOD "The Peace of Christ"

*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 Matthew 3:1-17

Memento mori (Latin for 'remember that you [have to] die') is an artistic or symbolic reminder of the inevitability of death. The concept has its roots in the philosophers of classical antiquity, and Judeo-Christian scripture. It also appeared in funeral art and architecture of the medieval period.

If you've been to an Ash Wednesday Service you're familiar with the imposition of ashes to the participant's forehead and words spoken reminding us that we will all die. This is "memento mori." Not a fixation or idolization of death, but a recognition that death is an inescapable part of life. Thinking or contemplating our own death can lead us to the realization of how precious life is and to seize the promise of what our life can be.

This Sunday, on Memorial Day when we pause in our national culture to contemplate those who gave their lives in the services of our country, we're pausing to contemplate death in our worship service. After a year and a half of pandemic life we've often had to deal with death on a daily basis, but what does that mean for us. Worship this week is a conversational sermon with CAPC Member Carol Dolezal who also works as a chaplain, specifically with hospice patients.

While it might sound depressing, it isn't. Rather than avoiding this inevitable aspect of life, we'll be tackling it head on, reflecting around how death is part of our baptismal liturgy and process. The traditional funeral liturgy includes the phrase "in our death our baptism is made complete." What does that mean? And what does it mean that scripture says we are the delight of God?

### QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION & EXAMEN:

1. **What engaged, enraged, or surprised you in today's text?**
2. **What questions do you find in these texts for us as we re-open and re-start...as a church?  
As individual people?**
3. **What does it mean for you to envision yourself – like Jesus – as the delight of God?**
4. **How have you thought about death in this past year?  
How have you possibly avoided thinking or talking about it?**
5. **If you could talk with anyone about your thoughts about life and death, who would it be? What's stopping you from doing so?**

## May Birthdays

31 Avery Haynes

## June Birthdays

12 Daniel Trowbridge 13 Lina Foltz Careaga  
14 Patt Schroeder 15 Brian Trowbridge  
24 Beth Beatty 29 Sophie McClain 2002

## June Anniversaries

26 Bill & Beth Beatty 1965

## Weekly Calendar

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

**Community Care Package Team Meeting**  
Monday 5/24 at 1:00pm on Zoom.

**No Race Matters this Week -Monday 5/31**

**Community Care Package Workshop – Friday, June 4<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm** in the sanctuary.  
Please register in advance to come help.

**Friday Night Meal - Friday, June 4<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

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

**We are re-opening for in person worship on Sunday, June 27<sup>th</sup>.** Our Session leadership voted this past week to authorize our restarting of in-person worship with the recommendation that we approach this reopening as a new normal. You're invited to come to worship in person and to wear a mask to protect others. We'll have coffee hour outside for safety. *More info online at capcoakland.org.*

**Vacation** Monte will be on vacation June 7-20<sup>th</sup>

**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, Ben Kramaz  
Preaching: Carol Dolezal  
Video Tech: Thom Faulkner, Albert Hussian

**“Be thou my vision”**

*Translator: Mary E. Byrne; Versifier: Eleanor H. Hull  
The Blue Presbyterian Hymnal #339*

1. Be thou my vision O lord of my heart  
Nought be all else to me save that thou art  
Thou my best thought by day or by night  
Waking or sleeping thy presence my light
2. Be thou my wisdom and thou my true word  
I ever with thee and thou with me lord  
Thou my soul's shelter and thou my high tower  
Still be my vision O ruler of all
3. Riches I heed not nor vain empty praise  
Thou mine inheritance now and always  
Thou and thou only first in my heart  
Great God of heaven my treasure thou art
4. High King of heaven my victory won  
May I reach heaven's joys O bright heaven's sun  
Heart of my own heart whatever befall  
Still be my vision O ruler of all

**Call to Worship Litany – Fear - a poem by Khalil Gibran.**

One: It is said that before entering the sea  
a river trembles with fear.

**People: She looks back at the path she has traveled,  
from the peaks of the mountains,  
the long winding road crossing forests and villages.**

One: And in front of her,  
she sees an ocean so vast,  
that to enter  
there seems nothing more than to disappear forever.

**People: But there is no other way.  
The river can not go back.**

One: Nobody can go back.  
To go back is impossible in existence.

....

**People: The river needs to take the risk  
of entering the ocean  
because only then will fear disappear,  
because that's where the river will know  
it's not about disappearing into the ocean,  
but of becoming the ocean.**

**“Leaning on the Everlasting Arms”**

*E. A. Hoffman (1887)  
Glory to God #837*

1. What a fellowship what a joy divine  
Leaning on the everlasting arms  
What a blessedness, what a peace is mine  
Leaning on the everlasting arms

*Chorus*

Leaning, leaning,  
safe and secure from all alarms  
Leaning, leaning,  
leaning on the everlasting arms

2. Oh how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way  
Leaning on the everlasting arms  
Oh how bright the path grows from day to day  
Leaning on the everlasting arms

*Chorus*

3. What have I to dread what have I to fear  
Leaning on the everlasting arms  
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near  
Leaning on the everlasting arms

*Chorus*

## **“ I Was There To Hear Your Borning Cry”**

© 1985 John Ylvisaker

1. I was there to hear your borning cry  
I'll be there when you are old  
I rejoiced the day you were baptized  
To see your life unfold  
I was there when you were but a child  
With a faith to suit you well  
In a blaze of light, you wandered off  
To find where demons dwell.

2. When you heard the wonder of the word  
I was there to cheer you on  
You were raised to praise the living Lord  
To whom you now belong  
If you find someone to share your time  
And you join your hearts as one  
I'll be there to make your verses rhyme  
From dusk til rising sun

3. In the middle ages of your life  
Not too old, no longer young  
I'll be there to guide you through the night  
Complete what I've begun  
When the evening gently closes in  
And you shut your weary eyes  
I'll be there as I have always been  
With just one more surprise

4. I was there to hear your borning cry  
I'll be there when you are old  
I rejoiced the day you were baptized  
To see your life unfold

## **“I'm gonna live so God can use me”**

*African-American spiritual*

*Public Domain*

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

## **Matthew 3:1-17**

*The Message Translation*

<sup>1-2</sup> While Jesus was living in the Galilean hills, John, called “the Baptizer,” was preaching in the desert country of Judea. His message was simple and austere, like his desert surroundings: “Change your life. God’s kingdom is here.”

<sup>3</sup> John and his message were authorized by Isaiah’s prophecy:

Thunder in the desert!  
Prepare for God’s arrival!  
Make the road smooth and straight!

<sup>4-6</sup> John dressed in a camel-hair habit tied at the waist by a leather strap. He lived on a diet of locusts and wild field honey. People poured out of Jerusalem, Judea, and the Jordanian countryside to hear and see him in action. There at the Jordan River those who came to confess their sins were baptized into a changed life.

<sup>7-10</sup> When John realized that a lot of Pharisees and Sadducees were showing up for a baptismal experience because it was becoming the popular thing to do, he exploded: “Brood of snakes! What do you think you’re doing slithering down here to the river? Do you think a little water on your snakeskins is going to make any difference? It’s your life that must change, not your skin! And don’t think you can pull rank by claiming Abraham as father. Being a descendant of Abraham is neither here nor there. Descendants of Abraham are a dime a dozen. What counts is your life. Is it green and flourishing? Because if it’s deadwood, it goes on the fire.

<sup>11-12</sup> “I’m baptizing you here in the river, turning your old life in for a kingdom life. The real action comes next: The main character in this drama—compared to him I’m a mere stagehand—will ignite the kingdom life within you, a fire within you, the Holy Spirit within you, changing you from the inside out. He’s going to clean house—make a clean sweep of your lives. He’ll place everything true in its proper place before God; everything false he’ll put out with the trash to be burned.”

<sup>13-14</sup> Jesus then appeared, arriving at the Jordan River from Galilee. He wanted John to baptize him. John objected, “I’m the one who needs to be baptized, not you!”

<sup>15</sup> But Jesus insisted. “Do it. God’s work, putting things right all these centuries, is coming together right now in this baptism.” So John did it.

<sup>16-17</sup> The moment Jesus came up out of the baptismal waters, the skies opened up and he saw God’s Spirit—it looked like a dove—descending and landing on him. And along with the Spirit, a voice: “This is my Son, chosen and marked by my love, delight of my life.”