

Presbyterian Church
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DOES JESUS MATTER?



THE SIX GREAT ENDS OF THE CHURCH

Don't Just go to Church, BE the Church

July 4, 2021

Welcome to CAPC Oakland!

We are a reformed, multicultural, politically purple, community of followers of Jesus. Together we seek to vigorously live our faith in our words, actions, and relationships in the East Bay.

In this time of disruption and new normal we gather hybrid-ly (both in person and via Zoom).

This is our new normal.

It's something that we'll get better at each time we gather, allowing us to gather together and be consistent with our values and commitments. We ask that you wear a mask during worship as some of our community (our children in particular) are not yet vaccinated.

CHILDREN

We're figuring out how to do our Godly Play program with our new normal. We'll restart that program after July 11th.

POST-SERVICE GARDEN PARTY

We are serving a light snack and coffee after worship in the garden throughout the summer. You can enjoy that mask-free. We ask you to not touch any of the food or drink, instead let us serve you.

PRAYER CARDS

To operationalize participation in our Prayers of the People we invite you to fill out a prayer cards and share it with the liturgist or to share you requests in the chat on ZOOM labeling it with 'prayer.'

CCL #1137062.

PRELUDE:

"Bear Necessities"

GATHERING AROUND GOD'S WORD IN PERSON & VIA ZOOM

GATHERING SONG

"The Summons"

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

CALL TO WORSHIP

SONG OF PRAISE

"Down By the Riverside"

LISTENING TO SCRIPTURE

Mark 1:14-20; 1 Corinthians 1:17-2:10

- Chickwendu Okereke

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

"Does Jesus Matter?"

- Rev. Monte McClain

SONG OF RESPONSE

"Jesus Is The Answer"

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

COMMUNION: FINDING GOD AROUND OUR HYBRID TABLE

TODAY WE'LL CELEBRATE THIS FOUNDATIONAL MEAL BY INTINCTION WHEREVER YOU ARE.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

WE USE A CALL AND RESPONSE LITURGICALLY PRAYED AT THE CONCLUSION OF SHARING A PRAYER.

Leader: God, in your mercy.

People: **Hear our prayer.**

COLLECTION OF OUR OFFERINGS AND GIFTS - "If Not For Your Grace"

THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

SENDING SONG

"I Have Decided To Follow Jesus"

SENDING CALL AND RESPONSE

Leader: God is good!

People: **All the time!**

Leader: And all the time!

People: **God is good!**

EXHORTATION & BENEDICTION

PASSING THE PEACE OF GOD

"The Peace of Christ"

In the season of a pandemic new normal, 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.

POSTLUDE

"St Anne's Reel"

Reflections on Today's Readings
Mark 1:14-20; 1 Corinthians 1:17-2:10

For generations, Presbyterians have summed up our reason for existence in what we call the Six Great Ends of the Church. As stated in our Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Book of Order (F-1.0304), they begin with: *The proclamation of the gospel for the salvation of humankind.*

In our culture and time we need to unpack some of the language and words used in this statement as well as in the gospel stories. They've either become tired and worn-out, no longer meaning anything; or they mean something that is quite possibly different than their original meaning in the ancient texts.

The word *proclaim* in Greek was the sharing of news or a tidings in the public square by a known herald or crier. It's become synonymous with "to preach." What we forget is that it has a strong connotation of something that is publicly shared with all citizens of a polis (town) in the public square.

The word *gospel* means good news, tidings or message. It was used to describe the word that a messenger would deliver to the other troops and citizens after a victory in battle. It has come to mean the Gospel, that is the the good news of God's victory in Jesus of Nazareth. But what is the victory that it's about? Over whom? and what?

The words *salvation* comes from the Greek word for saving which means to be save from something, to be delivered, to be healed, redeemed or made whole. It's much bigger than just the forgiveness of sins, it's about the liberating transformation of the whole world.

Jesus starts off his ministry exploding into the work of proclaiming the victory of God's saving power in the world. Theologians often understand Jesus as prophet, pastor, priest and poet. In 1 Corinthians Paul offers pastoral advice to the ancient church in Corinth, reminding them about the importance of wisdom – which was paramount in their culture rooted in philosophy and the teaching of Socrates that "the unexamined life is not worth living." Paul talks about how the wisdom of the world sees the wisdom of God as foolish and vice-versa. God's wisdom is both clear and beyond our understanding, it both makes sense and is completely opposed to what we know and do in our daily life.

- **QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION & EXAMEN:**
- **What engaged you, enraged you, or surprised you in the text?**
- **How do you understand Jesus? What does it mean to be "Christian" – one who follows Jesus?**
- **Why are you a "Christian"?**
- **So what is it that we are to do and be as the Church, the community of those called to proclaim the gospel for the salvation of humankind?**

July Birthdays

11 Dave Eagle Gloria Lim
13 Alana D'Attilio 15 Chris Olson
17 Rachel Brylawski 21 Chickwendu Okereke

Weekly Calendar

Today is our second hybrid service – both in person and online. As we meet, we're embracing a new normal, which means undoubtedly we'll have snafus. Each week we'll get better at what we're learning together. We all are adjusting in diverse and different ways to our new normal. This includes doing communion in a different way with individual servings. May grace abound!

Daily Zoom Calls – every day at 12pm.

Race Matters Zoom Meeting We are taking a break in July, meeting next on July 26th.

Friday Night Meal - Friday, July 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. Our high school partners of the Piedmont Community Service Crew are preparing the meal.

Women's Group – Saturdays at 9:30am on Zoom. Contact Anne Marie Adams for info about joining - amadams44@gmail.com

Godly Play is on a vacation hiatus through mid-July. Come to the Visioning Focus Group on Sunday, July 11th at 12:15pm on Zoom or in person.

Thank you to Today's Worship Leadership:
Chat Master: Kristy & Sophie Parsons McClain
Greeters: Fredora Darmstadt & David Kittams
Music: Pete Feltman, Dave Eagle, Ben Kramarz
Preaching: Monte McClain
Reader: Chickwendu Okereke
Video Tech: Thom Faulkner

Scan this QR Code to share with us how today was for you via our online feedback survey



"The Summons"

John L. Bell

The Iona Community, 1995

1. Will you come and follow me
if I but call your name
Will you go where you don't know
and never be the same
Will you let my love be shown
Will you let my name be known
Will you let my life be grown
in you and you in me

2. Will you leave yourself behind
if I but call your name
Will you care for cruel and kind
and never be the same
Will you risk the hostile stare
Should your life attract or scare
Will you let me answer prayer
in you and you in me

3. Will you let the blinded see
if I but call your name
Will you set the prisoners free
and never be the same
Will you kiss the leper clean
And do such as this unseen
And admit to what I mean
in you and you in me

4. Will you love the "you" you hide
if I but call your name
Will you quell the fear inside
and never be the same
Will you use the faith you've found
To reshape the world around
Through my sight and touch
and sound in you and you in me

5. Lord, your summons echoes true
when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you
and never be the same.
In your company I'll go
where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live
and grow in you and you in me.

Call to Worship Litany – *adapted from Luke 1:46-55*

One: We worship the One named Yeshua,
Jesus in our language.

**PEOPLE: A name that means Yahweh
– the All-Powerful-God saves.**

One: When his mother learned of his destiny,
She sang of God's faithfulness with all her heart I

**PEOPLE: She was glad because of God
her Savior saw her, cared for her
and called her to be an instrumental part
of his plan for the cosmos.**

One: She said, "God All-Powerful has done
great things for me, and his God's name is holy.

**PEOPLE: The LORD always shows mercy
to everyone who worships him.**

One: The Lord has used her powerful arm
to scatter those who are proud and self-content.

**PEOPLE: He drags strongly self-satisfied rulers
from their thrones
and puts humble people
in places of power.**

One: God gives the famished hungry
good things to eat,
and sends the self-obsessed rich away
with nothing.

**PEOPLE: He helps those who wrestle
with his will and intent – seeking the good -
and is always merciful to Her children.**

One: The Lord made this promise to our ancestors,
those who have preceded us in faith,

**PEOPLE: We are part of that family,
that holy nation
which God is saving every day.**

“Down By The Riverside”

Traditional Spiritual

1. Gonna lay down my burden
Down by the riverside, down by the riverside
Gonna lay down my burden
Study war no more

chorus

I ain't gonna study war no more,
ain't gonna study war no more
Study war no more
I ain't gonna study war no more,
study war no more

2. Gonna put on my long white robe
down by the riverside

3. Gonna put on my sword and shield
down by the riverside

4. Gonna feed people instead of fight
down by the riverside

“Jesus Is The Answer”

Andre Crouch

Chorus

Jesus is the answer, for the world today
Above him there's no other, Jesus is the way
Jesus is the answer, for the world today
Above him there's no other, Jesus is the way
Jesus is the way, Jesus is the way

1. If you have some questions
in the corners of your mind
Traces of discouragement,
the peace you cannot find
Reflections of your past,
seem to face you everyday
But this one thing I do know,
that Jesus is the way

2. I know you've got mountains,
that you think you cannot climb
I know your skies have been dark,
you think that sun won't shine
But in case you don't know
that the word of God is true
Everything he's promised
God will do it all for you

“If Not For Your Grace”

Israel Houghton & New Breed

Verse

Where would I be if not for your grace
Carrying me in every season
Where would I be if not for your grace
You came to my rescue
and I want to thank you for your grace

Chorus

Grace that restores, grace that redeems,
grace that releases me to worship
Grace that repairs, visions and dreams,
grace that releases miracles
Your grace, Your grace

Bridge

Grace that restores, grace that redeems,
grace that releases miracles
Grace that restores, grace that redeems,
grace that releases miracles

“I Have Decided To Follow Jesus”

1. I have decided to follow Jesus;
I have decided to follow Jesus;
I have decided to follow Jesus;
No turning back, no turning back.

2. The world behind me, the cross before me;
The world behind me, the cross before me;
The world behind me, the cross before me;
No turning back, no turning back.

3. Though none go with me, still I will follow;
Though none go with me, still I will follow;
Though none go with me, still I will follow;
No turning back, no turning back

4. My cross I'll carry, til I see Jesus
My cross I'll carry, til I see Jesus
My cross I'll carry, til I see Jesus
No turning back, no turning back

5. Will you decide now to follow Jesus?
Will you decide now to follow Jesus?
Will you decide now to follow Jesus?
No turning back, no turning back