

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 seeking to live our faith seriously in word, deed and relationships in the East Bay.

We usually celebrate 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 don't have a quiet play area or Godly Play for kids via ZOOM - but we do have online coloring sheets, activities and even recorded Godly Play Stories that you can access 24/7 online at our website at <http://www.capcoakland.org/worshiponthego>

**PRAYER CARDS**

We can't do prayer cards but we can do live chat on ZOOM while we meet. Rev. Karl Shadley is being our digital Deacon who will responds to any chats during the service. 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 "Let All things Now Living"

CALL TO WORSHIP

SONG OF PRAISE "Aint' that Good News"

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

LISTENING TO SCRIPTURE Job 1 (abbreviated from *The Message*)

NAMING THE HOPE WE HEAR IN SCRIPTURE - *Cristina Ramirez Fonua*

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

SONG OF RESPONSE "God of the Poor (Beauty for Brokenness)"

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER - *Deacon 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

CELEBRATING BACK TO SCHOOL WITH OUR COMMUNITY MEMBERS

COLLECTION OF OUR OFFERINGS AND GIFTS

SUNG RESPONSE "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 "Shalom Elohim" (Hebrew)

*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 an living sign of the Dominion of God at work moving us toward the healing transformation of the world.*

## Thoughts on Job as a Biblical Superhero

The Book of Job is one of the most celebrated pieces of biblical literature, not only because it explores some of the most profound questions humans ask about their lives, but also because it is extremely well written. Probably written in the 6<sup>th</sup> century BCE, its forty chapters of dense poetry are framed by prose at the beginning and the end. Curiously the story doesn't take place in Israel, includes no Israelite characters and reveals no historical setting. Most of the book is a conversation between Job and his three friends about theodicy: why a perfectly good, almighty, and all-knowing God permits evil.

In one day, Job loses everything: (livestock, servants, and ten children) due to marauding invaders or natural catastrophes. Devastated, he tears his clothes and shaves his head in mourning, but he still blesses God in his prayers. Even when afflicted with horrible skin sores, he refuses to curse God and to give up and die.

Struggling with an apparent punishment by God accept his, he is visited by three friends: Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar. After a time of silent mourning they begin a conversation of grand statements.

Bildad and Zophar agree that Job must have committed something really bad evil to offend God's justice. So Job must repent. But Job asserts his innocence. And wonders why God judges people by their actions if God can just as easily alter or forgive them. Plus how can a human ever please God who is unseen, and whose ways are beyond human understanding.

A fourth friend, Elihu, suddenly enters the conversation. He believes that God is just and runs the universe justly. Suffering is given as a warning to avoid sin, or to develop character, or teach a lesson. He says Job is wrong to accuse God of being unjust.

God finally shows up, deconstructs their arguments and responds to Job's accusation that God is unjust and incompetent. God takes Job on a virtual tour of the universe, asking Job a series of rhetorical questions to show how little Job knows about creation and God's power. God is just. God rules the universe in justice, but no explanation is given for the injustice Job suffers. What looks like divine injustice to Job has to be seen in a much wider perspective (God's perspective). Job has no way to understand how complex it is to carry out justice in a world that is never black and white like Job and his friends think. Job repents and apologizes for his naïve arrogance (and that of his friends). God forgives them, affirming that God merely wants humans to come and wrestle with God in prayer about our suffering, trusting in God's goodness, rather than try to understand the reasons for it.

### QUESTIONS FOR THE PRACTICE OF EXAMEN & CONTEMPLATION

- How do you explain that God is loving and all-powerful and yet bad things happen even to those who love God?
- How do you understand the onslaught of bad news we are facing in these days? Is God punishing us?; trying to teach us a lesson?; or is there something else?

## ANNOUNCEMENTS & COMMUNITY NEWS

### AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

24 Bob Brylawski    25 Margaret Smith

**Coffee Hour Today** - Call someone else up, catch-up, check in from wherever you may be.

### WEEKLY CALENDAR DURING THE PANDEMIC

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

**Community Care Package Team Meeting Monday at 1:00pm on Zoom**

**Race Matters Meeting** next on Monday, 8/24 - 7 -8 pm, text and reflection questions at [www.capcoakland.org/race-matters](http://www.capcoakland.org/race-matters)  
Discussing concrete steps for action from “So You Want to Talk About Race” by Ijeoma Oluo

**Session Meeting – Thursday, 8/27 @ 7pm**

**Friday Night Meal** Next Friday, August 28<sup>th</sup> | 6-7pm on the sidewalk at church. A team from Montclair Presbyterian is cooking the meal.  
*Talk to Monte if you can help serve the meal!*

**Women's Group – Saturday Mornings on Zoom.** Contact Anne Marie Adams for info about joining - [amadams44@gmail.com](mailto:amadams44@gmail.com)

**Tamales por Oakland –** Order tamales from our Primera Iglesia partners to help them work and you enjoy a great meal! [www.capcoakland.org](http://www.capcoakland.org)

**Godly Play – Sundays from 9:45-10:25 on Zoom. New address!**

**Presbyterian Week of Action :: August 24-30**  
A national week of action and public witness that facilitates education, visibility, and action that reinforces our PC(USA) statements and policy around the support of eradicating racism and acknowledging that God loves all Black lives.

### Thank you to this Week's Leadership:

Deacon Liturgist: Myrna Shadley  
Chat Master: Karl Shadley  
Godly Play: Beth Beatty  
Music: Pete Feltman  
Sharing: Cristina Ramirez Fonua

*Next week: Anna Lei*

**What Bible story, verse or character gives you hope? Share it with monte that we can use it to structure our worship In the coming weeks!**

## LYRICS & WRITTEN RESPONSES FOR TODAY'S CELEBRATION GATHERING

### "Let all Things Now Living"

*Katherine Davis (1939)*  
© 2001 Integrity's Hosanna! Music

1. Let all things now living  
a song of thanksgiving  
To God the creator triumphantly raise.  
Who fashioned and made us,  
protected and stayed us,  
Who still guides us on to the end of our days.  
His banners are o'er us, His light goes before us,  
A pillar of fire shining forth in the night.  
Till shadows have vanished  
and darkness is banished  
As forward we travel from light into light.
2. His law he enforces, the stars in their courses  
And sun in its orbit obediently shine;  
The hills and the mountains,  
the rivers and fountains,  
The deeps of the ocean proclaim him divine.  
We too should be voicing our love and rejoicing;  
With glad adoration a song let us raise  
Till all things now living unite in thanksgiving:  
"To God in the highest, Hosanna and praise!"  
Amen.

### Call To Worship Responsive Readings

*Adapted by Monte from a prayer by Tim Graves at  
liturgybits.com* **The PEOPLE read the BOLD print**

- One: In his despair,  
we're told that Job envies a tree.
- ALL: For when a tree is cut down, new  
sprouts mean resurrection and hope.**
- One: Worn out, unable to take any more bad  
news, Job yearns to be hidden away in a  
place where devastation cannot touch  
him.
- ALL: Hidden from harshness, Job anticipates  
vindication and deliverance.**
- One: Job trusts that God  
will make all things new.
- ALL: He trusts that God lives  
—the One who gives me back my life—  
and eventually God will  
take a stand on earth.**

One: We gather together in this time of  
pandemics and fires,  
social reckoning and political division,  
in economic devastation  
and great social isolation.

**ALL: We feel like a tree  
that has been fallen by multiple storms.  
What else can happen to us?  
Come Holy Spirit, help us to see the ways in  
which you are already bringing good from  
this devastation, beauty from our  
bewilderment, like roots sprouting anew  
from a fallen tree.**

### "Aint That Good News"

*Sam Cooke 1964*

1. I got a crown up in that kingdom  
Ainta that good news  
I got a crown up in that kingdom  
Ainta that good news  
I'ma gonna lay down this world  
gonna shoulder up a my cross  
Gonna take it home to my Jesus  
Ainta that good news
2. I got a robe up in that kingdom  
Ainta that good news  
I got a robe up in that kingdom  
Ainta that good news  
I'ma gonna lay down this world  
gonna shoulder up a my cross  
Gonna take it home to my Jesus  
Ainta that good news
3. I got a savior up in that kingdom  
Ainta that good news  
I got a savior up in that kingdom  
Ainta that good news  
I'ma gonna lay down this world  
gonna shoulder up a my cross  
Gonna take it home to my Jesus  
Ainta that good news

... continued on back

4 I got a harp up in that kingdom  
Ainta that good news  
I got a harp up in that kingdom  
Ainta that good news  
I'ma gonna lay down this world  
gonna shoulder up a my cross  
Gonna take it home to my Jesus  
Ainta that good news

I'm a gonna lay down this world  
gonna shoulder up a my cross  
Gonna take it home to my Jesus  
Ainta that good news

Ainta a that good news!

### **"God Of The Poor (Beauty for Brokenness)"**

*Graham Kendrick*

*1993 for the Spark to a Flame album*

1. Beauty for brokenness, hope for despair,  
Lord, end the suffering, this is our prayer,  
Bread for the children, justice, joy, peace,  
Sunrise to sunset, Your kingdom increase!

2. Shelter for fragile lives, cures for their ills,  
Work for the craftsmen, trade for their skills,  
Land for the dispossessed, rights for the weak,  
Voices to plead the cause of those who can't speak.

*[Chorus]*

God of the poor, friend of the weak,  
Give us compassion we pray,  
Melt our cold hearts, let tears fall like rain,  
Come, change our love from a spark to a flame.

3. Refuge from cruel wars, havens from fear,  
Cities for sanctuary, freedoms to share,  
Peace to the killing fields,  
scorched earth to green,  
Christ for the bitterness, His cross for the pain

*[Chorus]*

4. Rest for the ravaged earth, oceans and  
streams,  
Plundered and poisoned, our future, our dreams,  
Lord, end our madness, carelessness, greed,  
Make us content with the things that we need.

*[Chorus]*

5. Lighten our darkness, breathe on this flame  
Until Your justice burns brightly a - gain,  
Until the nations learn of Your ways,  
Seek Your salvation and bring You their praise.

*[Chorus]*

### **"I'm Gonna Live So"**

*Traditional Spiritual*

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

## Job 1 (abbreviated) from The Message

<sup>1-3</sup> Job was a man who lived in Uz. He was honest inside and out, a man of his word, who was totally devoted to God and hated evil with a passion.

<sup>6-7</sup> One day when the angels came to report to God, Satan, who was the Designated Accuser, came along with them. God singled out Satan and said, "What have you been up to?"

Satan answered God, "Going here and there, checking things out on earth."

<sup>8</sup> God said to Satan, "Have you noticed my friend Job? There's no one quite like him—honest and true to his word, totally devoted to God and hating evil."

<sup>9-10</sup> Satan retorted, "So do you think Job does all that out of the sheer goodness of his heart? Why, no one ever had it so good! You pamper him like a pet, make sure nothing bad ever happens to him or his family or his possessions, bless everything he does—he can't lose!

<sup>11</sup> "But what do you think would happen if you reached down and took away everything that is his? He'd curse you right to your face, that's what."

<sup>12</sup> God replied, "We'll see. Go ahead—do what you want with all that is his. Just don't hurt him." Then Satan left the presence of God.

<sup>13-15</sup> Sometime later, his children gathered for a party at the home of his oldest son, but Job stayed home. A messenger suddenly appeared telling Job that marauding Sabeans attacked and killed the field hands plowing his fields and stole all his oxen and donkeys were also grazing in the field next to us when Sabeans attacked. Another messenger arrived just then saying that bolts of lightning struck the sheep and the shepherds in other fields and fried them—burned them to a crisp. A third messenger arrived to share that thieving Chaldeans had come from three directions raided the camels and massacred the camel drivers. And while he heard that bad news, another messenger arrived and said, "A tornado appeared and destroyed the house of your oldest son where your children were having a party and they all died.

<sup>20</sup> Job got to his feet, ripped his robe, shaved his head, then fell to the ground and worshiped:

<sup>21</sup> Naked I came from my mother's womb,  
naked I'll return to the womb of the earth.  
God gives, God takes.  
God's name be ever blessed.

<sup>22</sup> Not once through all this did Job sin; not once did he blame God.

## Wrestling with Scripture via Lectio Divina

1. Read through the scriptures a first time. What word, image or phrase jumps out at you?

2. Read through the scriptures a second time. Why do all these things happen to Job? Has he deserved it? Is God punishing him? Is it random?

3. What invitation do you hear from the Spirit of God in this story to wrestle with how we understand the Job-like bad news and problems we face today?