

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 "Be Still and know that I am God"

CALL TO WORSHIP

SONG OF PRAISE "Amazing Love"

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

LISTENING TO SCRIPTURE 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

NAMING THE HOPE WE HEAR IN SCRIPTURE - Chris Olson

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

SONG OF RESPONSE "Though I May Speak"

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

COLLECTION OF OUR OFFERINGS AND GIFTS

SUNG RESPONSE "We Shall Not be Moved "

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 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

It feels a bit like living these days is trying to survive the onslaughts of challenges, chaos and hard news: natural disasters, political division, societal reckoning, from our own making, social injustice, and economic disruption. Let alone personal tragedy and loss. Who and what can overcome it, let alone bear it? The apostle Paul says love is the only answer. But not just any love.

In the ancient world, in which the people of Corinth lived, there were three primary ways to see the world: The Cynics said that you cannot escape your pre-determined fate. We're doomed to destiny, so don't fight it, just grin and bear it. The Epicureans thought that life is a mess, filled with pain, so make the most of it, *carpe diem!* The Platonists (after Plato) believed that this world is merely a shadow of the real world that we don't see. What happens to us doesn't really matter in the scheme of things. So in the Roman world you either tolerated life without loving it, loved yourself through the suffering, or you loved a future world to which you might escape. How we lived and loved today didn't really change things.

Paul writes to remind the Corinthians church that in Christ we're called not just to a different world view, but a different way of being and living in the world. We are called to see and live into the vision that God is redeeming the world in Jesus the Christ, healing the hurt, making whole the broken, resurrecting the spaces where death seems to reign.

Just like any group of people act when they're together, the Corinthian church was a community in which there was jockeying for preeminence. Some members asserting themselves at the same time putting other down. Each one claiming that what he or she had was better than what the others had. On top of this normal human relational messiness, they also wrestled with the classism, elitism, poverty, slavery and injustice that characterized their Roman society.

The church, Paul argued, is the place where we find ourselves accepted for who we are, free to be what God has created us to be. We're not competitors; we're a community. We're not tolerating what's happening in the world, or avoiding it to look to another future. It's in the church that all the distinctions that we're used to dividing us are dissolved. It's as the church that we live into the world that God is creating and redeeming – first and foundational in how we live in community.

Paul uses the image of the body to explain our relation to one another. We're all parts of the body of Christ (chapter 12). That means there's simply nothing in the body that is trivial or unimportant. In that equality and interdependence, Paul lifts up one way as the ideal, or best way: the way of love – the love that we see, experience in Christ: a love into which we are being transformed by faith

QUESTIONS FOR THE PRACTICE OF EXAMEN & CONTEMPLATION

- **Where and when do you experience such love?**

ANNOUNCEMENTS & COMMUNITY NEWS

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

2 Betty Trowbridge	3 Mercy Beatty
7 Michael Mendonca	8 Monte McClain
9 Diana Geary	11 Linda Davis
19 Sylvan Zappin	28 Lisa Ko

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, 8/31 - 7 -8 pm, text and reflection questions at www.capcoakland.org/race-matters We're discussing the podcast "Nice White Parents" dealing with race and education/school.

Friday Night Meal Next Friday, September 4th | 6-7pm on the sidewalk at church. Bright & Remya Bright are 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

Tamales por Oakland – Order tamales from our Primera Iglesia partners to help them work and you enjoy a great meal! www.capcoakland.org

Godly Play – Sundays from 9:45-10:25 on Zoom. New address! Check the weekly newsletter for the link. Or look online on our website at www.capcoakland.org/zoom-worship-virtual-gatherings

Thank you to this Week's Leadership:

Deacon Liturgist: Myrna Shadley
Chat Master: Karl Shadley
Godly Play: Beth Beatty
Music: Pete Feltman
Sharing: Chris Olson

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.

It might just be a word that someone else needs to here in these pandemic days!

- **How does love empower, transform and remake you?**
- **How are we called to testify to such love?**
- **How might such love be the answer to our problems today?**

LYRICS & WRITTEN RESPONSES FOR TODAY'S CELEBRATION GATHERING

"Be Still and know that I am God"

John L. Bell © 1989 and 1998 Wild Goose Resource Group, Iona Community, Scotland, GIA Publications, Inspired from Psalm 46:10

Be still and know that I am God.
Be still and know that I am God.

Call To Worship Responsive Readings

Psalm 46 in the Message Translation

The PEOPLE read the BOLD print

One: God is a safe place to hide,
ready to help when we need God.

**ALL: We stand fearless
at the cliff-edge of doom,
courageous in seastorm and earthquake,
Before the rush and roar of oceans,
the tremors that shift mountains.**

One: Jacob-wrestling God fights for us,
God-of-Angel-Armies protects us.

**ALL: River fountains splash joy,
cooling God's city,
this sacred haunt of the Most High.
God lives here, the streets are safe,
God at your service from crack of dawn.
Godless nations rant and rave,
kings and kingdoms threaten,
but Earth does anything God says.**

One: Jacob-wrestling God fights for us,
God-of-Angel-Armies protects us.

ALL: Attention, all! See the marvels of God!

One: The LORD plants flowers and trees
all over the earth,
Bans war from pole to pole,
breaks all the weapons across his knee.
"Step out of the traffic! Take a long,
loving look at me, your High God,
above politics, above everything."

**ALL: Jacob-wrestling God fights for us,
God-of-Angel-Armies protects us.**

"Amazing Love"

Chris Tomlin

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken
I'm accepted, You were condemned I am alive
and well, Your spirit is within me
'Cause You died and rose again

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken
I'm accepted, You were condemned
I am alive and well, Your spirit is within
me 'Cause You died and rose again

Amazing love, how can it be?
That You, my King would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true
It's my joy to honor You
In all I do, I honor You

“Though I may speak

Hal H. Hopson (1972)

Tune: O WALY WALY

The Blue Presbyterian Hymnal #335

1. Though I may speak with bravest fire
And have the gift to all inspire
And have not love my words are vain
As sounding brass and hopeless gain

2. Though I may give all I possess
And striving so my love profess
But not be given by love within
The profit soon turns strangely thin

3. Come spirit come our hearts control
Our spirits long to be made whole
Let inward love guide every deed
By this we worship and are freed

4. And as we talk of things in our world
Help us to hear your word unfurled
That we may live beyond compare
Until that day we meet you there.

“We Shall Not Be Moved”

Traditional Spiritual

1. We shall not, we shall not be moved
We shall not, we shall not be moved
Just like a tree that's standing by the water
We shall not be moved

2. Black and white together,
We shall not be moved
Just like a tree that's standing by the water
We shall not be moved

3. We're fighting for our freedom,
We shall not be moved
Just like a tree that's standing by the water
We shall not be moved

4. Enemies forgiven
Just like a tree that's standing by the water
We shall not be moved
We shall not be moved

5. We're fighting for our children,
We shall not be moved
Just like a tree that's standing by the water
We shall not be moved

6. Young and old together,
We shall not be moved
Just like a tree that's standing by the water
We shall not be moved

7. All the genders equal
We shall not be moved
Just like a tree that's standing by the water
We shall not be moved

8. City and country together
Just like a tree that's standing by the water
We shall not be moved
We shall not be moved

1 Corinthians 12:27-13:13 from The Message

²⁷⁻³¹ You are Christ's body—that's who you are! You must never forget this. Only as you accept your part of that body does your "part" mean anything. You're familiar with some of the parts that God has formed in his church, which is his "body":

apostles
prophets
teachers
miracle workers
healers
helpers
organizers
those who pray in tongues.

But it's obvious by now, isn't it, that Christ's church is a complete Body and not a gigantic, unidimensional Part? It's not all Apostle, not all Prophet, not all Miracle Worker, not all Healer, not all Prayer in Tongues, not all Interpreter of Tongues. And yet some of you keep competing for so-called "important" parts.

But now I want to lay out a far better way for you.

¹ If I speak with human eloquence and angelic ecstasy but don't love, I'm nothing but the creaking of a rusty gate.

² If I speak God's Word with power, revealing all his mysteries and making everything plain as day, and if I have faith that says to a mountain, "Jump," and it jumps, but I don't love, I'm nothing.

³⁻⁷ If I give everything I own to the poor and even go to the stake to be burned as a martyr, but I don't love, I've gotten nowhere. So, no matter what I say, what I believe, and what I do, I'm bankrupt without love.

Love never gives up.
Love cares more for others than for self.
Love doesn't want what it doesn't have.
Love doesn't strut,
Doesn't have a swelled head,
Doesn't force itself on others,
Isn't always "me first,"
Doesn't fly off the handle,
Doesn't keep score of the sins of others,
Doesn't revel when others grovel,
Takes pleasure in the flowering of truth,
Puts up with anything,
Trusts God always,
Always looks for the best,
Never looks back,
But keeps going to the end.

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?

⁸⁻¹⁰ Love never dies. Inspired speech will be over some day; praying in tongues will end; understanding will reach its limit. We know only a portion of the truth, and what we say about God is always incomplete. But when the Complete arrives, our incompletes will be canceled.

¹¹ When I was an infant at my mother's breast, I gurgled and cooed like any infant. When I grew up, I left those infant ways for good.

¹² We don't yet see things clearly. We're squinting in a fog, peering through a mist. But it won't be long before the weather clears and the sun shines bright! We'll see it all then, see it all as clearly as God sees us, knowing him directly just as he knows us!

¹³ But for right now, until that completeness, we have three things to do to lead us toward that consummation: Trust steadily in God, hope unswervingly, love extravagantly. And the best of the three is love.

3 What invitation do you hear from the Spirit of God in this scripture to act, speak, be, or in terms of your relationships – today?