

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  
 montemcclain@gmail.com



September 6, 2020

**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 "Come and Find the Quiet Center"

CALL TO WORSHIP

SONG OF PRAISE "Hold To God's Unchanging Hand"

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

LISTENING TO SCRIPTURE Exodus 3:1-15

NAMING THE HOPE WE HEAR IN SCRIPTURE - *Albert Hussian*

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

SONG OF RESPONSE "God of Freedom, God of Justice"

COMMUNION: FINDING GOD AROUND OUR DIGITAL TABLE  
 WORDS OF WELCOME

*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" - and then as we share the meal together please reset your screen to "gallery view."*

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 "Go down Moses"

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 Exodus 3:1-15

The story of the burning bush is one of the most well known of the Hebrew Bible. It's easily brought to life in our imagination, no matter how different it is than our every day life. It's a common scene (at least in the time of shepherding as a principal career) and also the unique revelation of the name of the God of the Bible יהוה - YHWH - Yahweh, or Jehovah "I AM who I AM"

Moses miraculously survives the Egyptian genocide of Hebrew males. Raised by the daughter of Pharaoh, he becomes a multi-cultural elite, who bridges two cultures and people. Yet eventually he has to choose between his adopted family which oppresses his family of origin. He flees before he can be arrested and tried for treason. While hiding out and away from his life path, he becomes a shepherd. One day encountering something that's both normal and unexpected. He approaches the bush that is burning yet doesn't burn up, and removes his shoes. A sign of recognition that this place and space is holy: set apart. He has to set aside his pre-existing ideas to see and hear what's there.

It's in that every day - ordinary, yet set apart space, that Moses encounters the living God who has long been pursuing him. How many other times did Moses possibly not turn aside, stop and listen or look at what God was trying to tell him???

In the encounter God reveals the divine name: יהוה pronounced Yahweh (Jehovah in Latin). It is a common word and an utterly unique name. It's the word for "to be" היה [hyh] but written without vowels. It is the word we translate as "God". And many times is clearly used as a personal name. The way it is written makes it unpronounceable, and was intended to be so. It's also hard to pin down exactly. It isn't marked with a time or tense. So the name can be translated as "I AM who I AM" or "I will be who I will be" or even "I was who I will be." It points to the way that God is and acts which is beyond the limits we know and our imagination - even our notion of time.

Observant Jews do not pronounce יהוה nor do they read aloud proposed transcription forms such as Yahweh or Jehovah; the name is too extraordinary to be said ordinarily. Instead they replace it with a different term. Common substitutions in Hebrew are Adonai ("My Lord"), and HaShem ("The Name").

It's this Holy Being who is in our daily quotidian and also in the extraordinary, who walks beside us and before us, that Moses receives his call to do what seems to be beyond him, that which terrifies him, and that which ultimately defines him. Hopeless, hiding in the desert, Moses is transformed and recreated; his fear and doubt replaced with hope and trust.

### QUESTIONS FOR THE PRACTICE OF EXAMEN & CONTEMPLATION

- What grabs you in the story of the burning bush?
- How do you struggle to hear God in every day life?
- What shoes might you need to take off to encounter God?
- How do you hear an invitation to act, speak, or be for God in today's world of disruption, reckoning and division.

## 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** No Meeting this week - we meet next on 9/12 6-7pm, text and reflection questions at [www.capcoakland.org/race-matters](http://www.capcoakland.org/race-matters) We're discussing the podcast "Nice White Parents" dealing with race & school.

**Friday Night Meal** Next Friday, September 11th | 6-7pm on the sidewalk at church. Monte is heading up the cook team. *Talk to him to help with serving or cooking.*

**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! Check the weekly newsletter for the link. Or look online on our website at [www.capcoakland.org/zoom-worship-virtual-gatherings](http://www.capcoakland.org/zoom-worship-virtual-gatherings)

**Monte will be on vacation 9/14-27**

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

Deacon Liturgist: Myrna Shadley  
Chat Master: Karl Shadley  
Godly Play: Beth Beatty  
Music: Pete Feltman & Andre Schoch  
Sharing: Albert Hussian

**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!**

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

### "Come and Find the Quiet Center"

*Shirley Erena Murray*

*Tune: LEWIS FOLK MELODY*

*Arranger: John L. Bell (b. 1949)*

1. Come and find the quiet center  
in the crowded life we lead  
Find the room for hope to enter  
find the frame where we are freed  
Clear the chaos and the clutter,  
clear our eyes that we can see  
All the things that really matter,  
be at peace and simply be
2. Silence is a friend who claims us,  
cools the heat and slows the pace  
God it is who speaks and names us,  
knows our being touches base  
Making space within our thinking,  
lifting shades to show the sun  
Raising courage when we're shrinking,  
finding scope for faith begun
3. In the spirit let us travel,  
open to each other's pain  
Let our loves and fears unravel,  
celebrate the space we gain  
There's a place for deepest dreaming,  
there's a time for hearts to care  
In the spirit's lively scheming  
there is always room to spare,

### Call To Worship Responsive Readings

*A prayer written by Rev. MaryAnn R. Rennie adapted by Monte*

#### The PEOPLE read the BOLD print

One: This place for us is Holy Ground.

**ALL: The place where we sing songs of praise to the Lord,  
and repeat the stories of faith  
that inspire us to respond to Christ's love.**

One: In this time of pandemic, social disruption and political division,  
we gather more in a virtual space than a physical place.

**ALL: And yet, even there, God is as near to us  
as our breath,**

**You have searched me, Lord,  
and you know me.**

**The Lord hems us in behind and before,  
laying holy hands upon us - that we might  
live.**

One: God called us here,  
in whispering winds and in burning flames,  
God's magnanimous presence  
disarms us of the barriers we have placed  
around us.

**ALL: Instead God meets us in our  
vulnerability,  
our humanity.**

**Let us worship the Lord in person, on zoom  
and via phone,**

**May we rediscover the gift and responsibility  
of life in abundance.**

### "Hold To God's Unchanging Hand"

*Jennie Wilson African American Heritage Hymnal #404*

Time is filled with swift transition  
None on earth unmoved can stand  
Build your hopes on things eternal  
Hold to God's unchanging hand

Trust in him that will not leave you  
Whatsoever years may bring  
If by earthly friends forsaken  
Still closely to him cling

#### Refrain

Hold to his hand, God's unchanging hand  
Hold to his hand, God's unchanging hand  
Build your hopes on things eternal  
Hold to God's unchanging hand

Covet not this world's vain riches  
That so rapidly decay  
Seek to gain the Heavenly treasures  
They will never pass away.

When your journey is completed  
When the valley you pass through  
Fair, and bright the Home in glory  
Your enraptured soul will view.

## **"God of Freedom God of Justice"**

*Shirley Erena Murray*

*Words © 1992 Hope Publishing Company*

1. God of freedom, God of justice,  
you whose love is strong as death,  
you who saw the dark of prison,  
you who knew the price of faith --  
    touch our world of sad oppression  
    with your Spirit's healing breath.
2. Rid the earth of torture's terror,  
you whose hands were nailed to wood;  
hear the cries of pain and protest,  
you who shed the tears and blood --  
    move in us the power of pity  
    restless for the common good.
3. Make in us a captive conscience  
quick to hear, to act, to plead;  
make us truly sisters, brothers  
of whatever race or creed --  
    teach us to be fully human,  
    open to each other's needs.

## **"Go down Moses \ When Israel was in Egypt's Land"**

*Traditional Spiritual*

When Israel was in Egypt's land  
Let my people go  
Oppressed so hard they could not stand  
Let my people go

chorus  
Go down Moses way down to Egypt's land  
Tell old Pharaoh let my people go

The Lord told Moses what to do,  
Let my people go,  
to lead the Hebrew children through,  
Let my people go.

chorus

As Israel stood by the waterside,  
Let my people go,  
at God's command it did divide,  
Let my people go.

Chorus

When they had reached the other shore,  
Let my people go,  
they let the song of triumph soar,  
Let my people go.

Lord, help us all from bondage flee,  
Let my people go,  
and let us all in Christ be free,  
Let my people go.

## Exodus 3:1-15 NRSV

<sup>1</sup> Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. <sup>2</sup> There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. <sup>3</sup> Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up." <sup>4</sup> When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." <sup>5</sup> Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." <sup>6</sup> He said further, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

<sup>7</sup> Then the Lord said, "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, <sup>8</sup> and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. <sup>9</sup> The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. <sup>10</sup> So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt." <sup>11</sup> But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" <sup>12</sup> He said, "I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain."

<sup>13</sup> But Moses said to God, "If I come to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" <sup>14</sup> God said to Moses, "I am who I am." He said further, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'I am has sent me to you.'" <sup>15</sup> God also said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'The Lord, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you':

This is my name forever,  
and this my title for all generations.

## 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 scripture to act, speak, be, or in terms of your relationships – today?