



College Avenue Presbyterian Church  
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**January 17, 2016**

## Welcome to College Avenue Presbyterian Church!

We're glad you're here with us today and look forward to worshipping together and getting to know each other.

Children's Coloring Sheets & Quiet Toys are located at the table area in the front to the left of the stage. We also have a lounge, off the entryway, where we broadcast the service if you need more space. We share a small snack and coffee after the service to connect, reconnect and make new connections. Please come join us.

### CHILDREN

We invite children 3 years old to 6<sup>th</sup> grade to depart for Godly Play (our Sunday School) during the song of praise. You can gather your child(ren) after worship upstairs in the GP room.

### CAPC WORSHIP 101 PRAYER CARDS

You're invited to share your prayers of concern and gratitude with the community by filling out the cards, located in the pews, and leaving them in the glass jar on the left of the communion table before the end of the call to worship. We'll use them later in the Prayers of The People time using a call and response prompt.

### WIFI

2wire927 is our open wifi access. The password is 7304088568. If you tweet or instagram we invite you to use hashtag #capcoakland

### NESTLÉ PARKING LOT

We are able to park in the lot. They ask us to enter and exit off of Chabot Road, and to access the lot via the pedestrian door on Chabot.

CCLI #1137062

## GATHERING SONG

"Did You Feel The Mountains Tremble"

*insert*

## CALL TO WORSHIP :

## SONG OF PRAISE

"Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty"

*Blue Hymnal #138*

*Children aged 3 years to 6th grade are invited to come to the front of our worship space to depart for Godly Play. You can collect your child(ren) after worship upstairs in the Godly Play Room.*

## TIME OF CONFESSION

**Silent Prayer** followed by **Prayer of Forgiveness and Assurance of Pardon**

## SONG OF RESPONSE

"Jesus Christ Son of God"

*insert*

Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy upon us.

Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy upon us.

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

*Call and response liturgically prayed at the conclusion of sharing a prayer card*

*Liturgist: God, in your mercy.*

**Community: Hear our prayer.**

*To pray with someone after the service, look for today's liturgist in the lounge off the entryway.*

## GIVING OF OUR TITHES & OFFERINGS

## SONG DURING THE OFFERING

"In Christ Alone"

*Blue Hymnal, # 377*

## HEARING GOD'S WORD

## READING OF SCRIPTURE

Mark 4:1-34

*Pew Bible, p. 971*

## SERMON

"The Promise of each Seed"

*Rev. Monte McClain*

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

## SONG OF RESPONSE

"We Walk By Faith And Not By Sight"

*Blue Hymnal #399*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## SENDING CALL AND RESPONSE

**Leader:** *God is good!*

**Leader:** *And all the time!*

**People:** All the time!

**People:** God is good!

## BENEDICTION

## PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

"La Paz de Dios"

*(Spanish)*

*We pass the peace week using languages native to the cultures of our church community as an audible sign of the Empire of God working for the healing transformation of the world.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS & COMMUNITY NEWS

### January Birthdays

1	Margie Laverty	18	Gary Yee
1	Scott Darmstadt	25	Joy Barnes
8	Bill Bryant	29	Bill Beatty
10	Thom Faulkner		

### PRAYERS & PRAISE

*Prayers of praise and gratitude for:* Linda Trowbridge's recovery and continued chemotherapy maintenance; our re-union with March and Rich Harvey – welcome home!

*Prayers for God to intervene for:* Karen who had surgery last week; Cristina Fonua, recovering from surgery last Thursday; Ward's health medication is working less effectively; Our national dialogue: that it reflect your concerns and hope for all God's people; Tyler Conant Martin and his dad to find a new place to live; friend Ronnie who had neck surgery and has finally returned home; healing for Cecilia Jackson who has mild pneumonia, Terry Joseph and Jewel Sierra; freedom from pain and for peace for my sister Alice who is now in hospice care and for comfort and courage for her husband John and for my sisters and extended family; the father of Laura LaMotte, Dan, recovering from a fall and broken leg.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING EVENTS

**Walking through the Bible** | Thursday at 11:30am in the Library, Emma Fleming: 510-653-6536

**CAPC CHOIR** | Sunday 12:00-1:00pm & Wednesday at 6pm

**Mid Week Small Group Gathering** Wednesdays 7:30-9 pm  
Meets near CAL campus | Questions: call Marda 510.540.7173

**Friday Night Meal** | Friday 6-7pm. Talk to Ellen Brylawski to get involved.

**The Vocabulary of Faith** | Sunday 9:30-10:15am (library)

**Women's Group** | Saturday 8:30-10:00 am

**Annual Congregational Meeting: Sunday, January 31<sup>st</sup> after worship.** We're gathering to elect new leaders and receive the budget for 2016.

**Lent is coming! It starts February 10<sup>th</sup>!** Monte needs help planning Ash Wednesday and the season of Lent. Talk to him about helping distribute ashes, with ideas about a Taizé service, open sanctuary time, lectio divina & e-devotions!

**Nestlé Parking Lot** | We are able to park in the lot. You must re-enter the lot from the entrance on Chabot near Crossroads.

**Godly Play for Adults** | Wednesdays in January at 7:00pm at First Pres. Oakland with Di Pagel | 2619 Broadway 94612

**Choir Practice** Starts up again today after worship.

**Deacons' Meeting** Next Sunday after worship – 1/24

#### Thank you to this morning's

Ushers: Emma Fleming, Anne Marie Adams

Liturgist: Monte McClain

Fellowship: Bill and Beth Beatty

Godly Play: Linda Davis, Anne Marie Adams

Today's Musicians: Dave Eagle (Drums), Swen Hendrickson (Bass), Roger Kim (Guitar) & Pete Feltman (a bit of everything)

#### Leadership for next week (January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2016)

Ushers: Sharon Nelson, Bill Beatty

Liturgist: Albert Hussian

Fellowship: Joy Barnes, Andrea Rondini

Godly Play: Beth Beatty, Chris George

### Mark 4:1-34

Is God still speaking in the world? Are the promises of God, which we hear in scripture, in the world? The evidence can seem contrary. Where is it? And when will it come? What do we have to do to be part of God's plan (if there is one)? What does the good life resemble? Those are some of the questions with which today's parable selection wrestle. But before we interpret, we need to focus on the words, for some perspective.

The Greek word *basileia* means "kingdom," "reign," "rule" and "dominion." It's both a geographic space and non visible one. In Mark 1-3 it's been used only twice: first in 1:15 to talk of God's dominion, and 3:24 that which opposes God. What is Jesus saying about it in Mark 4?

The Greek word "parable" literally means "throwing alongside," in ancient Greek it represented a type of speech that was distinguished by its power to convince. It becomes a message that must be deciphered, something that when "got" opens new perspectives. It's like a nut to crack, a pause in the hectic story telling of Mark. It's both a word to hear and a word that provokes, a means and an end.

The average harvest in Palestine in Jesus' day was 5 times the yield planted. So 30, 60, 100 times is a radical, extreme exaggeration. It points to something bigger than big, beyond human capacity and expectation. A fruitful harvest was the image most associated with God's hoped-for new age to come at the end of history.



The Greek word "mysterion" is often translated as "secret" in 4:11. It's not something that cannot be understood, but rather is better grasped as a mystery, a secret, of which initiation is necessary.

Our series of parables then take up a definition of the dominion of God. There has been a division between that of God and that which opposes God. The adversaries of Jesus claim he is against God. Here we see that this division sparked in Mark 1 and 2 by the fast-paced irrefutable teaching and acts of Jesus are causing division. Because of the response of each person there is now a vision of insider and outsider, of good versus bad. It's traced back to God's will, the intent of God in creation.

This is a mystery. Why are some able to hear and others not? Why do some respond and others reject the word? How can God be actively present in the world, when according to all appearances that doesn't seem to be the case then... in the days of those who first read Mark's gospel ... and for us now when we hear it? I've most often heard this teaching to be about what soil I am, a self-aggrandizing insistence on me being good soil. Yet soil is passive. By itself it can neither be or become good or bad. Something, or someone must first act upon it.

#### Questions for Going Deeper:

- What do you think is the message of these scriptures?
- How have you experienced it as truth in your life?
- What invitation do you hear from God in this text to act, say, be or do?

## LYRICS & READINGS FOR TODAY'S SERVICE

### CALL TO WORSHIP

*From the PCUSA 13<sup>th</sup> celebration of MLK Jr. Day.*

The leader reads the normal font, **the people respond with the text in bold.**

We gather to worship God,

**Who creates us and loves us;**

Who gifts us with diversity and makes us for community;

**Who gives Jesus Christ to show us how to live;**

Who inspires children, youth, young adults, and people of all ages,

**To seek justice, share power,  
and live together in love and equality;**

Who invites us to join the struggle for wholeness and wellbeing for all,

**and whose presence, grace, and love  
sustain us in our living.**

We gather to worship God.

**To God be all glory, honor, and praise!**

**“Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!”**

*Author: Reginald Heber (1826)*

*Blue Hymnal #138*

1 Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!

Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee;

holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty,

God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

2 Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,

casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;

cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,

who wert and art and evermore shalt be.

3 Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee,

though the eye made blind by sin thy glory may not see,

only thou art holy; there is none beside thee,

perfect in power, in love, and purity.

4 Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!

All thy works shall praise thy name, in earth and sky and sea;

holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty,

God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

**“Did You Feel The Mountains Tremble”**

*Hillsong*

Did you feel the mountains tremble, Did you hear the oceans roar

When the people rose to sing of Jesus Christ, the risen one

Did you feel the people tremble? Did you hear the singers roar?

When the lost began to sing of Jesus Christ the saving one

And we can see that God, You're moving

A mighty river through the nations

And young and old return to Jesus

Fling wide You heavenly gates Prepare the way of the risen Lord

*chorus*

Open up the doors and let the music play

Let the streets resound with singing

Songs that bring Your hope and songs that bring Your joy

Dancers who dance upon injustice

Do you feel the darkness tremble,  
When all the saints join in one song  
And all the streams flow as one river,  
to wash away our brokenness  
And here we see that God You're moving,  
A time of Jubilee is coming  
When young and old will turn to Jesus  
Fling wide you heavenly gates,  
Prepare the way of the risen Lord

**“He Came Down”**

He came down that we may have love

He came down that we may have love

He came down that we may have love

Hallelujah forevermore.

**“In Christ Alone”**

*Stuart Townend, Keith Getty*

1. In Christ alone my hope is found,  
He is my light, my strength, my song;  
this Cornerstone, this solid Ground,  
firm through the fiercest drought and storm.  
What heights of love, what depths of peace,  
when fears are stilled, when strivings cease!  
My Comforter, my All in All,  
here in the love of Christ I stand.

2. In Christ alone! who took on flesh  
Fulness of God in helpless babe!  
This gift of love and righteousness  
Scorned by the ones he came to save:  
Till on that cross as Jesus died,  
The wrath of God was satisfied -  
For every sin on Him was laid;  
Here in the death of Christ I live.

3. There in the ground His body lay  
Light of the world by darkness slain;  
Then bursting forth in glorious Day  
Up from the grave he rose again!  
And as He stands in victory  
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me,  
For I am His and He is mine -  
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

**“We walk by faith and not by sight”**

*Henry Alford (1844; alt.)*

*Blue Hymnal #399*

1 We walk by faith and not by sight;  
No gracious words we hear  
From Christ Who spoke as none e'er spoke;  
But we believe Him near.

2 We may not touch His hands and side,  
Nor follow where He trod;  
But in His promise we rejoice,  
And cry, “My Lord and God!”

3 Help then, O Lord, our unbelief;  
And may our faith abound  
To call on You when You are near  
And seek where You are found:

4 That, when our life of faith is done,  
In realms of clearer light  
We may behold You as You are,  
With full and endless sight.