

College Avenue Presbyterian Church  
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October 21, 2018

## Welcome to CAPC Oakland!

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.

If you've never celebrated with us, you can follow along using this paper or the projection on the screen. Hymnals and Bibles are in the pews. We invite you to join us for a moment of community connection afterwards with a drink and simple snack.

### CHILDREN

We have a quiet play area for children in the front of the sanctuary with toys and coloring sheets that can be played with during services. We also have a lounge, off the entryway, where the service is broadcast if you need more space.

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

### PRAYER CARDS

You're invited to share your prayers of concern or gratitude by filling out the cards, located in the pews, and placing them in the glass vase on the table. We'll use them during today's service.

### WIFI & SOCIAL MEDIA

2wire927 is our open wifi. The password is 7304088568. If you do social media during the service we invite you to add #capcoakland to include others.

### NESTLÉ PARKING LOT

We're able to park in the lot behind the church. They ask us to enter and exit off of Chabot Road, using the pedestrian door there near Crossroads Trading.

CCL #1137062

GATHERING SONG

"Come Just As You Are"

- Insert

CALL TO WORSHIP

SONG OF PRAISE

"There's A Wideness In Gods Mercy"

- Blue Hymnal #298

*Children from 2 years to 6<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to gather at the front of the sanctuary and depart for our Godly Play time. You can collect your child(ren) after the service upstairs.*

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

READING OF SCRIPTURE

John 8:2-11; Matthew 4:23-5:7

Pew Bible, pp. 1016, 936

SERMON

"Turning Off Our Alarm System"

- Monte McClain

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

SONG OF RESPONSE

"I Surrender All"

- Insert

ACT OF CONFESSION. *OPENING OURSELVES TO BEING UNDONE, THAT WE MIGHT BE REDONE*

SUNG RESPONSE

"Softly And Tenderly"

- Insert

DECLARATION OF GRACE. *THE IN-BREAKING OF GOD'S GRACE DISRUPTS OUR HUMAN CONDITION OF SIN*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

Leader: God, in your mercy.

**People: Hear our prayer.**

*To pray with someone after the service, look for today's liturgist after today's service*

GIVING OF OUR TITHES & OFFERINGS TO EMPOWER THE WORK OF GOD IN THE CHURCH

OFFERTORY SONG

"Blest Are They"

- Insert

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

*We pass the peace weekly using languages native to the cultures of our church community as an audible sign of the Dominion of God at work towards the healing transformation of the world.*

## Thoughts on Today's Scripture

### John 8:2-11; Matthew 4:23-5:7



The Beatitudes (Matthew 5:1-12) are identified as the essential teaching of Jesus. Today's is about Mercy. It's a word that we don't often use these days except when talking about a guilty person pleading for leniency. Ironically, it's maybe most known today as the name of a female video game character. That's the number one Google search result for the word! In daily speak, I hear it most often used as an expression of frustration, when there seems to be no solution to a problem - "Lord, Have mercy!" We're admonished in modern times to be merciful to those who have no other options, avenues or ways forward. Yet in our current climate we look down upon mercy as a weakness, or maybe we don't know what it is. Increasingly, the way in which Michelle Obama conjugated mercy "when they go low, we go high" is being recast as "when they go low we go lower" or even "when they go low we kick them [in the nuts]!" That can't be what Jesus is talking about, is it?... Merely showing mercy when it serves our interests?

The word for mercy in the Bible also means pity, and compassion. It's both the way that we are invited to see, treat and love those who are not as privileged, or who are more needy or miserable, than we are. It's intimately tied to the Biblical affirmation of God's love, expressed in the covenant agreements God makes with Abraham, Noah and all of us. Mercy "*hesed*" (in Hebrew) is the love that God has towards creation (us!) Mercy is also the word used to translate the Hebrew "*rachamim*" meaning mother's womb, a love that is unconditionally aware and attentive of our needs, limits and created potential. No one is talking about that kind of love in our current political climate and societal context of us versus them tribalism!

The hate crime story of John 8 of the woman brought before Jesus by the self-righteous crowd of religious leaders shows us how Jesus envisions and practices mercy (*hesed* love). He's not naïve, nor a push-over; but rather subversive. Notice how he transforms the anti-Jesus tribalism of both the leaders and the life of the un-named woman. What did he write in the sand? What did she do after that day? How does Jesus challenge us to live mercifully in our merciless time?

### Questions for the practice of Examen & Contemplation

- What does the word mercy mean to you?
- We want people to show us mercy, of course, but do you show mercy to others?
- What are the politics of mercy?... in the story of John 8? ... in your life and relationships? ... our world? How does the story of mercy in John 8 intersect your own story and life?
- How can we/you become people of mercy?
- To whom do you not want to show mercy?

## ANNOUNCEMENTS & COMMUNITY NEWS

### OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

26 Chinyere Okereke 30 Josh Beatty

### COMMUNITY CALENDAR

**Uekelele Classes** | after worship | Talk to Karl

**Youth Group today** | @ 12:30pm – seeing "The Hate U Give" at Grand Lake Theatre.

**OUSD School Board Election Form** | Today, 5-7pm @ Imani Community Church (3300 MaCarthur Blvd | 94602) Includes dinner. Our own Gary Yee will be there on the dais.

**ESL Class Ministry** | Monday, 7-9pm at Primera Iglesia (1945 High Street, 94605). Info in entryway.

**Choir Practice** | Tuesday, 5:30-6:30pm (Sanctuary)

**Celtic Prayer Mid Week Small Group** | Wed 7-8:30pm, near CAL | Call Marda @ 540.7173

**Session Meeting** | Thursday, 10/25 at 7:30pm

**Friday Night Meal** | Friday, 6-7pm!  
*Talk to Ellen Brylawski to help.*

**Women's Group – 1,2, 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays, 8:30a**

**Letter Ministry** | Encourage another with a hand-written note. Find cards on the back wall!

**Faith in the Public Square** | Find info and get involved in our efforts to publicly testify to our hope in the cynicism of our hard days. This includes opening the sanctuary on election day.

**The Vocabulary of Faith** Sundays 9:30-10:15am we're working our way through the Beatitudes, focusing on the scripture for each service

**Care Giver Support Group** | Today 10/21 3-5pm Near CAL Campus. For info call Marda 540-1713.

**Annual RDA Halloween Celebration along College Ave** | Next Sunday, 10/28. Want to help decorate the church year for Halloween? Decorations are on the stage and ready to go!. You're also invited to come next week "in costume" to worship.

### Thank you to Today's Leadership

Fellowship: Fredora Darnstadt, Kristy P McClain  
Godly Play: E. Brylawski (ST); F. Darmstadt (DK)

### Leadership for next week, 10/28/18:

Fellowship: Richard & Marge Harvey  
Godly Play: Beth Beatty (ST); Radman Beatty (DK)

## LYRICS & WRITTEN RESPONSES FOR TODAY'S WORSHIP

### "Come Just As You Are"

*Crystal Lewis*

Come just as You are  
Hear the spirit call  
Come just as You are  
Come & see, come receive  
Come and live for----ever

Life everlasting  
Strength for today  
Taste the living water  
And nev-----er thirst again

### GATHERING WORDS | CALL TO WORSHIP

This morning's gathering prayer moment is one in which you are invited to name aloud someone, some thing, some situation for which you are grateful.

*In doing so we'll work to dismantle the emotional walls of self-protection that we often build around and between ourselves in this time of polarization and partisanship, which is always part of our human-ness which is characterized by mistrust of others and fear for ourselves. In sharing our gratitude together we also learn to look together to God's dynamic presence among us: what Jesus calls the Empire or Reign of God throughout the Beatitudes.*

### "There's A Wideness In Gods Mercy"

*Frederick W. Faber (1854);  
Blue Hymnal #298*

1 There's a wideness in God's mercy,  
Like the wideness of the sea;  
There's a kindness in God's justice,  
Which is more than liberty.  
There is no place where earth's sorrows  
Are more felt than up in heaven;  
There is no place where earth's failings  
Have such kindly judgment given.

2 For the love of God is broader  
Than the measures of the mind;  
And the heart of the Eternal  
Is most wonderfully kind.  
If our love were but more faithful,  
We would gladly trust God's word;  
And our lives reflect thanksgiving  
For the goodness of our Lord.

### "I Surrender All"

*Judson W. Van De Venter (1896)*

1 All to Jesus I surrender.  
All to him I freely give  
I will ever love and trust him,  
In his presence daily live

Chorus  
I surrender all, I surrender all  
All to Thee my blessed savior,  
I surrender All

2. All to Jesus I surrender  
Humbly at his feet I bow  
Worldly pleasures all forsaken,  
Take me Jesus take me now

3. All to Jesus I surrender  
Make me Savior wholly thine  
Let me feel the Holy Spirit,  
truly know that Thou art mine

4. All to Jesus I surrender,  
Lord I give myself to Thee  
Fill me with Thy love and power  
Let Thy blessings fall on me

### "Blest Are They"

*Author: David Haas  
Glory to God Hymnal #172*

1. Blest are they, the poor in spirit;  
theirs is the kingdom of God.  
Blest are they, full of sorrow;  
They shall be consoled.

*Refrain:*  
Rejoice and be glad!  
Blessed are you; Holy are you!  
Rejoice and be glad!  
Yours in the kingdom of God!

2. Blest are they, the lowly ones;  
they shall inherit the earth.  
Blest are they who hunger and thirst;  
they shall have their fill.

## "Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling"

Author: Will L. Thompson

Glory to God Hymnal #418

1 Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling,  
calling for you and for me.  
See, on the portals he's waiting and watching,  
watching for you and for me.

Refrain:

"Come home, come home!

You who are weary, come home."

Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling,  
calling, "O sinner, come home!"

2 Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading,  
pleading for you and for me?  
Why should we linger and heed not his mercies,  
mercies for you and for me?

## I SURRENDER ALL 396

...there is no one who has left house or wife or brothers... who will not get back very much more in this age.  
Luke 18:29-30

1. All to Je - sus I sur - ren - der,  
I will ev - er love and trust Him,  
2. All to Je - sus I sur - ren - der,  
World - ly pleas - ures all for - sak - en,  
3. All to Je - sus I sur - ren - der,  
Fill me with Thy Ho - ly Spir - it—  
4. All to Je - sus I sur - ren - der,  
Fill me with Thy love and pow - er,

All to Him I free - ly give;  
In His pres - ence dai - ly live.  
Hum - bly at His feet I bow;  
Take me, Je - sus, take me now.  
Make me, Sav - ior, whol - ly Thine;  
Tru - ly know that Thou art mine.  
Lord, I give my - self to Thee;  
Let Thy bless - ings fall on me.

I sur-ren-der all, I sur-ren-der all.  
I sur-ren-der all, I sur-ren-der all.  
All to Thee, my bless - ed Sav - ior, I sur-ren - der all.



## Blest Are They

172

*Gsus Leader or All*

1 Blest are they, the poor in spir - it; theirs is the  
 2 Blest are they, the low - ly ones; they shall in -  
 3 Blest are they who show mer - cy; mer - cy  
 4 Blest are they who seek peace; they are the  
 5 Blest are you who suf - fer hate, all be -

*Dsus D7 Gsus G*

king - dom of God. Blest are they, who  
 her - it the earth. Blest are they, the  
 shall be theirs. Blest are they, who  
 chil - dren of God. Re - joice, be glad; who  
 cause of me.

*D C Dsus D Gsus G*

full of sor - row; they shall be con - soled.  
 hun - ger and thirst; they shall have their fill.  
 pure of heart; they shall see God.  
 suf - fer in faith; the glo - ry of God is theirs.  
 yours is the king - dom; shine for all to see.

*Refrain All C D7 G D Em G C G*

Re - joice and be glad! Bless - ed are you;  
 Am A D C D7 Em Em7  
 ho - ly are you! Re - joice and be glad!  
 C Dsus D C G  
 Yours is the king - dom of God!

This hymn paraphrases the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:1-12), the opening portion of Christ's Sermon on the Mount. Similar words of blessing also occur in the Sermon on the Plain (Luke 6:20-23). Both sets of sayings reverse worldly values and offer a new understanding of God's ways.

TEXT: David Haas, 1985  
 MUSIC: David Haas, 1985; arr. David Haas and Michael Joncaß, 1985  
 Text and Music © 1985 GIA Publications, Inc.

BLEST ARE THEY  
 Irregular

## CONFESSION

## 418 Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling

1 Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing for  
 2 Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing, plead - ing for  
 3 O for the won - der - ful love he has prom - ised, prom - ised for

you and for me. See, on the por - tals he's wait - ing and watch - ing,  
 you and for me? Why should we lin - ger and heed not his mer - cies,  
 you and for me! Though we have sinned, he has mer - cy and par - don,

*Refrain*

watch - ing for you and for me. "Come home, come home!  
 mer - cies for you and for me? "Come home, come home!  
 par - don for you and for me. "Come home, come home!

You who are wea - ry, come home." Ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly,  
 Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing, "O sin - ner, come home!"

This 19th-century gospel hymn has often been used as a hymn of invitation at evangelistic services. Its imagery is primarily based on Jesus' parable in Luke 15:11-32, commonly called "The Prodigal Son." Each singer thus becomes a wandering child who is urged to return home.

TEXT and MUSIC: Will L. Thompson, 1880

SOFTLY AND TENDERLY  
 11.7.11.7 with refrain