

College Avenue Presbyterian Church
5951 College Avenue | Oakland | 94618
www.capcoakland.org | www.capcoakland.me
Office : 510.658.3665 | capc1@sbcglobal.net
Pastor Monte: 510.658.3666 | Cell 510.520.0746
montemcclain@gmail.com



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 6th 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



January 13, 2019

GATHERING AROUND GOD'S WORD

GATHERING SONG "Praise The One Who Breaks The Darkness" - Insert

CALL TO WORSHIP

SONG OF PRAISE "This Little Light Of Mine" - Insert

Children from 2 years to 6th 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

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

SUNG RESPONSE "Piedad" - Blue Hymnal #395

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 "My Tribute" - Insert

READING OF SCRIPTURE John 15:5-10; 1 John 1:1-4 *Pew Bible, pp. 1046, 1183*

SERMON "The Meaning in Life" - Rev. Monte McClain

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

SONG OF RESPONSE "Christ, Be Our Light!" - Insert

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SENDING CALL AND RESPONSE

Leader: God is good!

Leader: And all the time!

People: All the time!

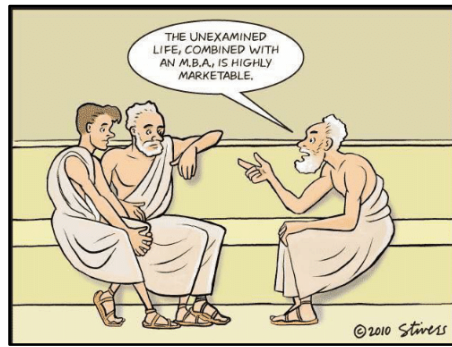
People: God is good!

EXHORTATION & BENEDICTION

PASSING THE PEACE OF GOD "La paz de Cristo" (Spanish)

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 15:5-10; 1 John 1:1-4



Socrates at his trial for impiety and corrupting youth in Ancient Athens, for which he was subsequently sentenced to death, is said to have uttered the dictum that "The unexamined life is not worth living." This final lesson has been long thought of as the foundation for the art of philosophy. He was found guilty of inciting the youth of the city to question the traditions and ideas they inherited from their elders. He was deemed dangerous for his teachings and actions challenged the cultural status quo. To a large extent, this is the same crime for which Jesus too was condemned and executed by his culture.

What does a good life look like? What does a life of meaning resemble and include? Is it more about what you do or who you are? Is a good life principally concerned with the past; the present; or the future? Our continuing and expanding cultural wars of today are increasingly fought around notions of identity and belonging. What does it mean then to be Christian? To live a life rooted in the ethos and commitment to walk as Christ walked, to follow Jesus as guide, teacher-coach and savior?

First John is written as a sermon and lacks the opening, greeting, thanksgiving and closing greeting that mark most New Testament Epistles (or pastoral letters). The author's key purpose is to defend Christian communities against false prophets and to remind them that as children of God they are to live in the light and love one another. The "enemies of Christ" against whom the author warns have apparently left the Church, and have persuaded many members to join them. We don't hear from them directly, nor do we know exactly what they taught and did (as we only hear one side in this letter, as in all letters) but we can deduce that the division they created is related to the incarnation of Christ, recognizing Jesus as fully human and fully divine, and the consequences of such hope in terms of our own humanity: the way in which live apart and together. In order to warn members of the church community, Christians, against the teachings of these false prophets, the author explains that it means to be a child of God. This pastoral letter lifts up a clarifying notion of what the life of a Jesus follower resembles: one of Christ-like-love of God, of others and self.

Questions for the practice of Examen & Contemplation

- What shimmers in your attention to these readings?
- How does God in Christ give you life?; joy?
- How does living in the fellowship of that life bring you life?; joy? How does the admonition to abide in Christ and in the fellowship of the Church shape your life?
- Is this word about life and fellowship a disturbing word for our culture today? How so?; Why not?
- How do you hear the Spirit of God inviting you to act, speak, be, or live relationally today through the word of this scripture?

ANNOUNCEMENTS & COMMUNITY NEWS

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

| | |
|------------------|---------------|
| 1 Margie Laverty | 8 Bill Bryant |
| 10 Thom Faulkner | 18 Gary Yee |
| 20 Daniel Geary | 25 Joy Barnes |
| 29 Bill Beatty | |

COMMUNITY LIFE CALENDAR

The Vocabulary of Faith | Sundays 9:30-10:15a

Youth Group tonight, Sunday 7-8:30p

Choir Practice | No practice this week.

Friday Night Meal this week, Friday 6-7pm.
Contact Ellen Brylwaski if you'd like to help.

Women's Group, Saturday 8:30am | in the church library (meets 1st, 2nd, 3rd Saturdays)

Men's Breakfast, Saturday 1/19 8:30pm
Meets at the home of Bill Beatty contact him for more info and to RSVP for breakfast.

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

Christmas Clean-Up | Thank you to Jeff & Brian Trowbridge, Pete Feltman and Bill Beatty for all their clean-up help this past week.

Deacons Hygiene Bags | We're creating bags we all can distribute to those we encounter on the street. We're aiming for needed daily things such as toothpaste, toothbrushes, hand wipes, dental floss, etc. *Talk to Ben Bencomo for more info.*

Vandalism Updates | We succeeded in completely drying out the floors, walls and ceilings following the flooding caused in the act of vandalism that occurred 12/29. The insurance adjuster will visit this week as part of the next step of our process.

Thank you to Today's Leadership
Fellowship: Richard & Marge Harvey
Godly Play: Beth Beatty (ST); Joy Barnes (DK)

Leadership for next week, 1/20/19:
Fellowship: Beth & Bill Beatty
Godly Play: Cameron Beatty (ST); F. Darmstadt (DK)

LYRICS & WRITTEN RESPONSES FOR TODAY'S ADVENT CELEBRATION

"Praise The One Who Breaks The Darkness"

*John Henry Hopkins Jr. (1857, alt.)
Blue Hymnal #66*

1. Praise the One who breaks the darkness
with a liberating light.
Praise the One who frees the prisoners
turning blindness into sight.
Praise the One who preached the gospel,
curing every dread disease,
calming storms and feeding thousands
with the very bread of peace.
2. Praise the One who blessed the children
with a strong yet gentle word.
Praise the One who drove out demons
with a piercing, two-edged sword.
Praise the One who brings cool water
to the desert's burning sand;
from this well comes living water,
quenching thirst in every land.
3. Praise the one true love incarnate,
Christ, who suffered in our place.
Jesus died and rose for many
that we may know God by grace.
Let us sing for joy and gladness,
seeing what our God has done.
Praise the one redeeming glory.
Praise the One who makes us one.

CALL TO WORSHIP RESPONSIVE READING

*Today's responsive reading is written by Teresa Stewart; Call—
Listening for God's Voice in Everyday Life | 4-Week Worship Series*

One: What if God longs for us?

ALL: For a conversation. A relationship.

One: What if God has been dreaming

ALL: Of a future with us. And for us.

One: What if God called
To hear our voice.

ALL: To say I miss you. And let's make plans.

One: Would we answer?

ALL: Even if answering just might change everything?

"This Little Light Of Mine"

African-American Spiritual

1. This little light of mine,
I'm gonna let it shine
This little light of mine,
I'm gonna let it shine
This little light of mine,
I'm gonna let it shine
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine
2. Hide it under a bushel NO
3. Won't let satan blow it out

"Piedad (Have Mercy, Lord, on Me)"

*Author: Marcelino Montoya
Translator: George Paul Simmonds (1968)
Blue Hymnal #395*

1. Take pity, Lord, I pray Thee,
Thy mercy show to me,
My sins and my wrongdoing
I now confess to thee, hear my prayer;
O Lamb for sinners wounded,
Redeemer of mankind,
Eternal life and pardon
My soul in Thee doth find.

Refrain:

Have mercy, Lord, A sinner cries to Thee,
Have mercy, Lord, Have mercy, Lord, on me.

"My Tribute"

Andraé Crouch (1971)

1. How can I say thanks
For the things You have done for me?
Things so undeserved
Yet You gave to prove Your love for me;
The voices of a million angels
Could not express my gratitude
All that I am and ever hope to be
I owe it all to Thee

[Chorus 1:]

To God be the glory
To God be the glory
To God be the glory
For the things He has done

[Chorus 2:]

With His blood, He has saved me
With His power, He has raised me;
To God be the glory
For the things He has done

[Bridge:]

Just let me live my life
Let it pleasing, Lord to Thee
And if I gain any praise
Let it go to Calvary

What if God calls us . . .

not to a task, but to a conversation?

What if God calls us . . .

not to a destination, but to a relationship?

What if God calls us . . .

not to an achievement, but to a table?

What if we answered: "Here I am,"

and pulled up a chair,

ready for whatever happens next?

"Christ, Be Our Light!"

Bernadette Farrell(1993)

Glory to God #314

1. Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.

Refrain:

Christ, be our light! shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness. Christ be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.

2. Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has power to save us.
Make us your living voice.

3. Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,
shared until all are fed.

4. Longing for shelter, many are homeless.
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others,
walls made of living stone.

5. Many the gifts, many the people,
many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
making your kingdom come.



843 Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness

1 Praise the One who breaks the dark-ness with a
2 Praise the One who blessed the chil-dren with a
3 Praise the one true love in-car-nate: Christ, who

lib-er-at-ing light; praise the One who frees the
strong yet gen-tle word; praise the One who drove out
suf-fered in our place; Je-sus died and rose for

pris-'ners, turn-ing blind-ness in-to sight.
de-mons with a pierc-ing, two-edged sword.
man-y that we may know God by grace.

843

Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness

Praise the One who preached the gos-pel, heal-ing
Praise the One who brings cool wa-ter to the
Let us sing for joy and glad-ness, see-ing

ev-'ry dread dis-ease, calm-ing storms and feed-ing
des-ert's burn-ing sand; from this well comes liv-ing
what our God has done. Praise the one re-deem-ing

thou-sands with the ver-y bread of peace.
wa-ter quench-ing thirst in ev-'ry land.
glo-ry; praise the One who makes us one.

”SARTRE: “ESPOUSED THE VIEW THAT LIFE IS MEANINGLESS BUT URGED US NONETHELESS TO MAKE A FREE CHOICE THAT WOULD GIVE OUR LIVES MEANING AND RESPONSIBILITY.”
ADAM SMITH: “EVERY INDIVIDUAL INTENDS ONLY HIS OWN GAIN, AND HE IS IN THIS, AS IN MANY OTHER CASES, LED BY AN INVISIBLE HAND TO PROMOTE AN END WHICH WAS NO PART OF HIS ORIGINAL INTENTION. BY PURSUING HIS OWN INTEREST HE FREQUENTLY PROMOTES THAT OF SOCIETY MORE EFFECTIVELY THAN WHEN HE REALLY INTENDS TO PROMOTE IT.”
WESTMINSTER SHORTER CATECHISM: “HUMANITY’S CHIEF END IS TO GLORIFY GOD, AND TO ENJOY HIM FOREVER.”

WHAT’S LIFE ABOUT?

WHAT DO YOU THINK A GOOD LIFE LOOK LIKE?

WHAT GIVES YOUR LIFE MEANING?

HOW DO YOU CONCRETELY LIVE SO THAT YOUR LIFE IS MEANINGFUL?

“

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BEYONCÉ: “YOU KNOW, EVERYBODY’S NOT GOOD AT EVERYTHING. YOU KNOW, IT’S OKAY TO DEPEND ON SOMEONE. IT’S ACTUALLY WHAT WE’RE SUPPOSED TO DO. WE’RE SUPPOSED TO DEPEND ON EACH OTHER.” | NIETZSCHE: “THE MEANING OF LIFE IS THE WILL TO POWER” | TOLSTOY: “THE MEANING OF LIFE LIES IN A KIND OF IRRATIONAL KNOWLEDGE CALLED ‘FAITH.’” | JESUS (JOHN 13:34) “A NEW COMMAND I GIVE YOU: LOVE ONE ANOTHER. AS I HAVE LOVED YOU, SO YOU MUST LOVE ONE ANOTHER.”

SOCRATES: “THE UNEXAMINED LIFE IS NOT WORTH LIVING.” | SCHOPENHAUER: “THE MEANING OF LIFE IS TO DENY IT” | KIERKEGAARD: “THE MEANING OF LIFE IS TO OBEY GOD PASSIONATELY” | MOTHER TERESA: “THE MEANING OF LIFE IS NOT TO KEEP YOURSELF IN MISERY. YES, YOU CAN OFFER MANY PEOPLE HAPPINESS”
HEIDEGGER: “THE MEANING OF LIFE IS TO LIVE AUTHENTICALLY OR (ALTERNATIVELY) TO BE A GUARDIAN OF THE EARTH.”
BUDDHISM: “THE PRIMARY PURPOSE OF LIFE IS TO END SUFFERING. HUMANS SUFFER BECAUSE WE CONTINUALLY STRIVE AFTER THINGS THAT DO NOT GIVE LASTING HAPPINESS.”