

College Avenue Presbyterian Church
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Take Up Your Cross and Follow Me.

December 31, 2017

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

GATHERING SONG

"In The Heavens Shone A Star"

- insert

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

SONG OF PRAISE

"'Twas In The Moon Of Wintertime"

- Blue Hymnal #61

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.

TIME OF CONFESSION

Silent Prayer followed by Prayer of Forgiveness and Assurance of Pardon

SONG OF RESPONSE

"While We Are Waiting Come"

- insert

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

"He Came Down"

- insert

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

READING OF SCRIPTURE

John 1:19-35

- Anne Marie Adams
pp. 1027

SERMON

"Questions, Answers & Testimony"

- Rev. Monte McClain

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

SONG OF RESPONSE

"The Snow Lay On The Ground"

- Blue Hymnal # 57

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 CHRIST

"Shalom Elohim"

(Hebrew)

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 1:19-34

We move into our reading of the gospel of John with an accounting of John the Baptizer. The story is a collection of episodes, each focused around the theme of testimony. Together they flesh out, and actually echo, the *Christology* (theologese for the way in which to see Jesus) present in John's retelling of the good news.

Today's story happens over three days, and there are three encounters. The third day/encounter begins in the next verse. Within these words Jesus – the One to Come – is described as pre-existent (v 27), the Lamb of God (v 29) and the Son of God (v 34). They actually echo the same descriptions of Jesus as in the first chapter of John: the pre-existent Word of God (1:1-4); the Lamb of God through whom comes redemption and sanctification (1:10-13) and the Son of God – incarnate among us – (1:14-18). John writes, developing a strong argument, a comprehensive foundation for why he ends his gospel account saying, "This is the disciple who is testifying to these things and has written them, and we know that his testimony is true." John 21:24

Filled with questions, these encounters between John the Baptizer and the religious leaders of the day revolve around questions of identity: who are you? Who are you talking about? Why are you doing what you're doing? Underneath them all is the deeper question: "Who do you think you are? Who aren't what we expect? You aren't even what we want!"



The title "Lamb of God" reminds us of the lamb that God provides for the sacrifice for Abraham in Genesis 22. It brings to mind the lamb of the passover, whose blood was used to paint the doorways of the Hebrews as a sign of their belonging to God during the Exodus (Exodus 12). In the time of Jesus it's believed that the image of the Lamb of God was also an apocalyptic image of God's anointed one [the meaning of "Messiah"] who would come to overthrow the enemies of God's people – more of a Rambo-style military leader than a sacrificial lamb. Who were they expecting? Who was John expecting? What kind of Messiah are we expecting today?

Questions for the practice of Examen & Contemplation

- What shimmers for you in this passage?
- What word, phrase or image touches your life today?
- How have you experienced Jesus as pre-existent word?; redeeming Lamb of God?; and God-revealing, present-with-us Son of God?
- How have you felt let down by God in this past year?
- How do you long to experience God in Christ – in power, in redeeming love, in transforming presence – in 2018?

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	

UPCOMING EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

There is No Youth Group Tonight

There is No Theology on Tap Meet-up this month because of the Holiday.

CAPC Choir | after worship & Tuesdays 5:30-6:30pm.

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

Friday Night Meal Fridays 6-7pm

The Vocabulary of Faith | Sundays 9:30-10:20am, starts again on Sunday, January 7th at 9:30 in the Library Find the text we study in the entry or online.

We're beginning a community reading of the gospel of John in worship from now until Easter. There are other ways to engage around this reading: We're offering different spiritual practices and journey groups grounded in John's Gospel over the coming months: Sharing, Lectio Divina, & other groups. Look for more info in January about ways to get involved.

Feedback survey on Christmas Season | Look for a digital survey of a few questions in your email next week or in next week's electronic newsletter. Thank you for taking a few moments to help us reflect on the ministry of the past season and prepare for next year!

Portrayal of Julia Morgan | Saturday, January 13 5:00-6:30pm. Save the date for this special event with Betty Marvin. Part of our continuing centennial celebrations!

Next week in worship: | Communion. And bring your donations (canned food and financial) to the Deacons Food Pantry Ministry.

Thank You to Today's Leadership:

Ushers: Sharon Nelson, Anne Marie Adams

Reader: Anne Marie Adams

Fellowship: Linda Davis, Louise Hirschman

Godly Play: David Kittams (ST); Maya Patil (DK)

Musicians: Dave Eagle, Kevin Goldberg, Pete Feltman

Leadership for next week, 1/7/17:

Stay tuned for an updated leadership list.

Look for info in Wednesday's electronic newsletter!

The community is invited to respond to each phrase in the bold font.
The reader reads the plain font. ~ (inspired by John 1: 38-39, John 1:46)
posted on Lutheran Retreats, Camps, and Conferences.
<http://lrcchome.com>

One: Come and see, come and see!

People: We come to see for ourselves who this Jesus person is.

One: Come and see, come and see!

People: We come with open hearts to experience Jesus

One: Come and see, come and see!

People: We come to follow Jesus,

One: Come and see, come and see!

People: We come to deepen our relationship with God.

One: Come and see, come and see!

People: Yes, Lord we come to follow you!

LYRICS TO THIS MORNING'S SONGS:

"In The Heavens Shone A Star"

Author: Jonathan Malicsi (1990); Author: Ellsworth Chandlee (2000)
Tune: KALINGA; Filipino; Glory to God Hymnal #131

1. In the heavens shone a star,
vanquishing the gloom o night,
heralding a wondrous birth;
God's own Son now comes to earth.

Refrain:

Jesus Christ is born today, Christmas Day!

2. From the angels shepherds heard
the good tidings of his birth,
and to Bethlehem they sped
to behold his manger bed.

3. Wise men saw the heavenly, sign,
journeyed far from Orient land,
him their Lord and King to greet,
offering treasures at his feet.

Continued in next column....

4. Filled with wonder and with awe,
at his cradle low we bow
to adore the holy child,
Son of God, and yet so mild.

"'Twas In The Moon Of Wintertime"

Jean de Brébeuf (1641); English Text Jesse Edgar Middleton (1926)
Blue Hymnal #61; Native American

1. 'Twas in the moon of winter time,
When all the birds had fled,
That mighty *Gitchi Manitou**
Sent Angles choirs instead.
Before their light the stars grew dim
And wondering hunters heard the hymn:

Refrain:

Jesus, your King, is born
Jesus is born. In excess gloria.

2. Within a lodge of broken bark
The tender Babe was found;
A ragged robe of rabbit skin
Enwrapped His beauty round.
The chiefs from far before Him knelt
With gifts of fox and beaver pelt:

3. O Children of the forest free,
O you of Manitou,
The Holy Child of earth and heaven
Is born today for you.
Come kneel before the radiant boy
Who brings you beauty, peace, and joy.

* *Gitchi Manitou* (means "Great Spirit" in several Algonquian language spoken by native tribes stretching from the east coast of North America to the Rocky Mountains. Christian missionaries have translated God as *Gitchi Manitou* in scriptures and prayers in the Algonquian languages. *Manitou* is a common Algonquian term for spirit, mystery, or deity.

"He Came Down"

Traditional Cameroon Song, Lyrics by John L. Bell, 1986
Iona Community

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.

"While We Are Waiting, Come"

Author: Claire Cloninger (1986) | Purple Hymnal 92

1. While we are waiting, come;
While we are waiting, come.
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel,
While we are waiting, come.

2. With pow'r and glory, come;
With pow'r and glory, come.
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel,
With pow'r and glory, come.

3. Come, Savior, quickly come;
Come, Savior, quickly come.
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel,
Come, Savior, quickly come.

"The Snow Lay On The Ground"

Traditional Carol; Tune: VENITE ADOREMUS
Blue Hymnal #57

1. The snow lay on the ground,
The stars shone bright,
When Christ our Lord was born
On Christmas night.
Venite adoremus Dominum;
Venite adoremus Dominum.

Continued in next column....

Refrain:

Venite adoremus Dominum;
Venite adoremus Dominum;
Venite adoremus Dominum;
Venite adoremus Dominum;

2 'Twas Mary maid, so young and strong,
Who welcomed here the Christ child with a song
She laid Him in a stall
At Bethlehem;
The ass and oxen shared
The roof with them.

3 Saint Joseph, too, was by
To tend the Child;
To guard him, and protect
His mother mild;
The angels hovered round,
And sung this song,
Venite adoremus Dominum.

4 And thus that manger poor
Became a throne;
For He Whom Mary bore
Was God the Son.
O come, then, let us join
The heavenly host,
To praise the Father, Son,
And Holy Ghost.

Capo 2: (G/B)
A/C#

(D2)
E2



1 In the heav - ens shone a star, van - quish -
2 From the an - gels shep - herds heard the good
3 Wise men saw the heaven - ly sign, jour - neyed
4 Filled with won - der and with awe, at his

(G/B)
A/C#

(D2)
E2

(G/B)
A/C#

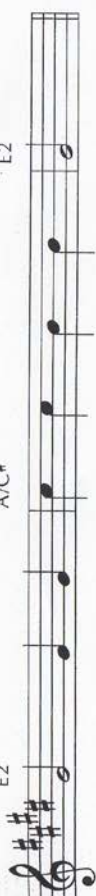


ing the gloom of night, her - ald - ing a won - drous
ti - dings of his birth, and to Beth - le - hem they
far from O - rient land, him their Lord and King to
cra - dle low we bow to a - dore the ho - ly

(D2)
E2

(G/B)
A/C#

(D2)
E2



birth; God's own Son now comes to earth.
sped to be - hold his man - ger bed.
greet, of - fering trea - sures at his feet.
child, Son of God, and yet so mild.

(G/B)
A/C#

(D2)
E2

(G/B)
A/C#

(D2)
E2



Je - sus Christ is born to - day, Christ - mas Day!

Refrain

The collaboration of a Philippine linguist and an American missionary, this text includes the usual harmonized Christmas and Epiphany elements, but they gain a distinctive flavor from the musical setting using the five-note scale of the Kalinga people who live in northern Luzon.

TEXT: Jonathan Maicisi and Ellsworth Chandlee, 20th cent.
MUSIC: Kalinga melody, arr. Joel Navarro, 2010

Text © 1990, 2000 Christian Conference of Asia (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)

KALINGA
7.7.7.7 with refrain

137 He Came Down

1 He came down that we may have love; he
 2 He came down that we may have light; he
 3 He came down that we may have peace; he
 4 He came down that we may have joy; he

came down that we may love; he came down that we may
 came down that we may have light; he came down that we may
 came down that we may have peace; he came down that we may
 came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may

Glory to God 137
 TEXT: Cameron song
 MUSIC (HE CAME DOWN, LMD): Cameron melody; trainer, and arr. John L. Bell, 1986; arr. © 1986 WGRG, Inna Community (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)

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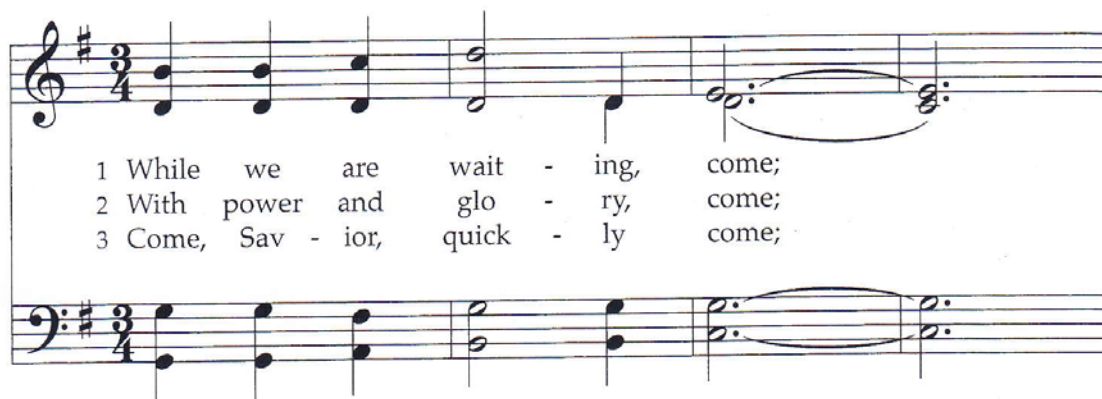
He Came Down

Leader: Why did he come?

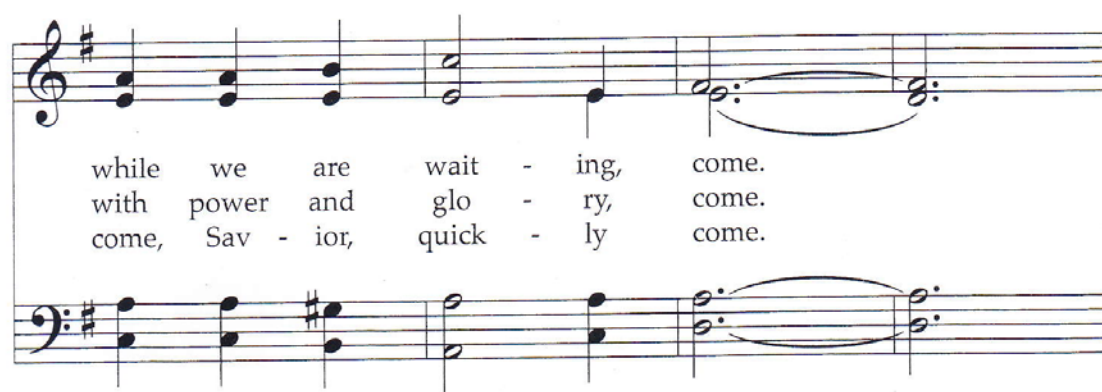
have love; hal-le - lu - jah for-ev - er - more.
 have light; hal-le - lu - jah for-ev - er - more.
 have peace; hal-le - lu - jah for-ev - er - more.
 have joy; hal-le - lu - jah for-ev - er - more.

Glory to God 137
 TEXT: Cameron song
 MUSIC (HE CAME DOWN, LMD): Cameron melody; trainer, and arr. John L. Bell, 1986; arr. © 1986 WGRG, Inna Community (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)


92 While We Are Waiting, Come



1 While we are wait - ing, come;
2 With power and glo - ry, come;
3 Come, Sav - ior, quick - ly come;



while we are wait - ing, come.
with power and glo - ry, come.
come, Sav - ior, quick - ly come.



Je - sus, our Lord, Em - man - u - el,



while we are wait - ing, come.

This simple and meditative Advent hymn is so uncomplicated in both text and tune that it can be learned quickly and sung without reference to a book, which might make it effective as a prayer response. It would also lend itself to improvised stanzas on appropriate occasions.