

RCollege Avenue Presbyterian Church
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February 11, 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 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

"Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

- insert

CALL TO WORSHIP

- responsive reading

SONG OF PRAISE

"I Saw The Light"

- insert

CELEBRATING THE WIDTH AND DEPTH OF GOD'S GOOD CREATION
 THROUGH BLACK HISTORY MONTH "Rosa Parks"

- Sharon Nelson

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

- responsive reading

Silent Prayer followed by Prayer of Forgiveness and Assurance of Pardon

SONG OF RESPONSE

"Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive"

- 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

GROWING AS THE GATHERED BODY OF CHRIST – Congregational Meeting

RECEIVING A NEW MEMBER : Colin Leary

ELECTING OFFICERS TO LEAD OUR CONGREGATIONAL COLLABORATION & SERVICE

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

OFFERTORY SONG

"Lift Every Voice And Sing"

- insert, verse 2

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

READING OF SCRIPTURE

- Readers' Theatre

John 9:1-41

pp. 1038

SERMON

"Seeing is Believing"

- Rev. Monte McClain

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

SONG OF RESPONSE

"Be Thou My Vision"

- Blue Hymnal #339

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 ["hananim-ui pyeong-gang"] 하나님의 평강 (Korean)

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 9:1-41

Today's scripture relates another radical story of affirmation, empowerment and spiritual transformation. Have you noticed a theme in John's gospel? The story gives us a narrative framework in which to wrestle with deep existential, ethical and spiritual questions.



Cause & Effect: You Are Only As Good As What You Produce ::

The worldview in ancient times was one of cause and effect between sin and suffering. They believed that everything happened for a reason, and that no one gets something for nothing. So, if you were sick, it must be because you – or an ancestor – sinned. This understanding was rooted in part in the ancient understanding of God's common pronouncements about sin, retribution, blessing and family extending for generations, such as Exodus 20:5-6. Today we might less assume that someone who is handicapped, differently abled, or sick with cancer or incurable diseases has earned it, or is suffering the consequences for their past choices, or the choices of their ancestors....and yet.... Jesus affirms that the man blind or not is wholly a child of God, worthy of God's love, communal acceptance, and the right to play an active role in society not because of what he has done, or can do, but simply because he is – created, love in God's image.

Theodicy: Explaining Evil & Bad Things – chaos? Bad luck? Bad Karma? God's providence? ::

The Pharisees – and even the disciples of Jesus – are focused more on looking for an explanation of the man's blindness. Jesus instead talks about how God is inviting the man, his family, and his community, to respond to what is, looking for the good that God alone can bring out of anything, the light that God is in the darkness. Jesus gives no explanation. He reorients what seems disoriented by loss, pain and suffering. How often do we get paralyzed needing, wanting an explanation; when none may come, but we are invited to live with, in and from whatever situation we may be in – loved, called and blessed by God.

Keeping the Sabbath: Is Following God more about Keeping Rules or Choosing Life when It's Presented? ::

The choice we face in life is not always so extreme, or black and white. Jesus is condemned for doing good, giving life, healing and freedom on the sabbath – the day of rest, service, contemplation of God's goodness. Isn't that what Sabbath is about? Where in our lives are we faced with the complex choice between keeping the rules or traditions and intervening and standing for life?

Seeing Isn't Necessary Believing – Trusting God :: Curiously the man believes in Jesus and his power before he can see him. It's based on his voice and invitation. He only sees later. Those who can see in the story are the blind ones. What does it mean to have sight in Christ? To have a vision in the recreation that Jesus gives us, like mud from Eden placed upon our eyes and washed in the pool of Those Sent by God (Siloam in English).

Questions for the practice of Examen & Contemplation

- **What shimmers for you in this story & sermonette?**
- **With whom do you identify in the story? Why?**
- **What good news is God's Spirit speaking to you through this story?**

ANNOUNCEMENTS & COMMUNITY NEWS

February Birthdays

21 Elena Wenzler

UPCOMING EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Youth Group | meets tonight at 7:00pm for Olympic night – come as your own country.

CAPC Choir | Talk to Pete for rehearsals times.

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

Friday Night Meal Fridays 6-7pm

The Vocabulary of Faith | Sundays 9:30-10:20am, in the Library – studying John's gospel

Church Picture Directory | Pick up yours today

Readers Theatre | Sign up to help next week!

Coffee & Conversation | Tuesday, 2/13 10-11am BYO open, safe conversation about faith & ethics on the patio in front of Safeway at Claremont @ College Avenues.

Teaching ESL at Primera Iglesia | starts tomorrow night! Orientation meeting today at 12:30pm in the library!

Tax Deduction Letters for 2017 | We mailed out letters last week. If you don't receive one, or yours is incorrect, contact Mahri in the office.

Meeting of the Congregation Today during worship! to elect new elders and deacons.

Mardi Gras Pancake Dinner & Games, Tuesday, 2/12 6-7pm in the Gym Come to help, to eat & bring your skillet for the games!

Ash Wednesday Prayer Station Service: Wed, 2/14 7-8pm Come mark the beginning of Lent in an interactive contemplative prayer setting.

Thank you to today's Leadership

Ushers: Fredora Darmstadt, Jeff Trowbridge
Reader: Readers' Theatre
Black Hist Month: Sharon Nelson
Fellowship: Bill Beatty, Monte McClain
Godly Play: Linda Davis (ST); Beth Beatty (DK)
Musicians: Dave Eagle, Kevin Goldberg, Pete Feltman

Leadership for next week, 2/18/18:

Ushers: Chickwendu Okereke
Reader: Readers' Theatre
Black Hist Month: Chickwendu Okereke
Fellowship: Sharon Nelson, Anne Marie Adams
Godly Play: Bill Beatty (ST); Maya Patil (DK)

LYRICS & WRITTEN RESPONSES FOR TODAY'S WORSHIP

"Great is Thy Faithfulness"

*Author: Thomas O. Chisholm (1923)
Blue Hymnal, #276*

1. Great is thy faithfulness O God Creator
There is no shadow of turning with thee
Thou changest not thy compassions they fail not
As thou hast been and forever will be

chorus

Great is thy faithfulness Great is thy faithfulness
Morning by morning new mercies I see
All I have needed thy hand has provided
Great is thy faithfulness lord unto me

2. Summer and winter and springtime and harvest
Sun moon and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To thy great faithfulness mercy and love

3. Pardon for sin and peace that endureth
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow
Blessings all mine with ten thousand beside

Call to Worship || Responsive Reading

*The community is invited to respond to each phrase in the bold font.
The reader reads the plain font. ~ (inspired from Ephesians 5, John 9)
taken from <http://www.ministrymatters.com>*

One: When the world is dark and full of hate and fear,
when we cannot see God

People: we will turn on the light.

One: When we cannot find our way back
to love and peace

People: we will turn on the light.

One: When our vision dims due to the darkness within

People: we will turn on the light.

One: Christ opens our eyes with the gift of sight.

People: The light of the world is Jesus Christ.

One: Come and worship the one
who brings sight to the blind,
movement to the paralyzed,
life to the dead.

People: Hallelujah! Praise God, the light of the world!

I Saw the Light"

Hank Williams

1 I wandered so aimless life filled with sin
I wouldn't let my dear Savior in
Then Jesus came like a stranger in the night
Praise the Lord I saw the light

(chorus)

I saw the light I saw the light
No more darkness no more night
Now I'm so happy no sorrow in sight
Praise the Lord I saw the light

2 Just like a blind man I wandered along
Worries and fears I claimed for my own
Then like the blind man that God gave back his sight
Praise the Lord I saw the light

chorus

3 I was a fool to wander and stray
Straight is the gate and narrow the way
Now I have traded the wrong for the right
Praise the Lord I saw the light

chorus

Prayer of Confession

(inspired by John 9: 1-41)

Rabbi Jesus,
we confess that we fail to question our own
sightlessness.
Being so sure that we "see,"
we miss the truths you would teach us.
With the power of your love, cure this blindness.
Open our eyes to our own misunderstandings,
our own failures and our own faults
– the ways in which we seek to make you in our image.
Make our "shadow side" known to us
and help us to diminish it with the light of your grace.
For it is only when we see ourselves clearly
that we can worship you truly.
In the name of Jesus, we pray...

*~ from Sharing the Light: Service Prayers and Holy Communion for the
Fourth Sunday of Lent, written by The Rev. Marilyn Kennedy Levine
Posted on the United Church of Christ's Worship Ways website
<http://www.ucc.org/worship/worship-ways>,*

Blessing/Assurance of Pardon

We are children of God, still students of grace, and we have not graduated from the school of God yet. We still have opportunities to learn and grow. We can still make up the past tests we failed. We can turn our lives around, by turning back to God, and following our teacher Jesus. You are forgiven, given a clean slate. You are loved, and no one can take that from you. You are restored, so continue to learn, love, and live. Amen.

“Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive”

(Land Of Rest Tune)

1 Forgive our sins as we forgive
You taught us Lord to pray
But You alone can grant us grace
To live the words we say

2 How can your pardon reach and bless
the unforgiving heart
That broods on wrongs
and will not let old bitterness depart

3 In blazing light Your cross reveals
the truth we dimly knew
What trivial debts are owed to us
how great our debt to you

4 Lord cleanse the depths within our souls
and bid resentment cease
Then bound to all in bonds of love
our lives will spread Your peace

“Lift Every Voice And Sing”

James Weldon Johnson, 1871 – 1938

2. Stony the road we trod, bitter the chastening rod,
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
Yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet,
Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?
We have come over a way that with tears has been
watered,
We have come, treading our path
through the blood of the slaughtered;
Out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

“Be Thou My Vision”

*Translator: Mary E. Byrne; Versifier: Eleanor H. Hull
Ancient Irish; Irish, ca. 700; Blue Hymnal, #339*

1 Be thou my vision O lord of my heart
Nought be all else to me save that thou art
Thou my best thought by day or by night
Waking or sleeping thy presence my light

2 Be thou my wisdom and thou my true word
I ever with thee and thou with me lord
Thou my soul's shelter and thou my high tower
Still be my vision O ruler of all

3 Riches I heed not nor vain empty praise
Thou mine inheritance now and always
Thou and thou only first in my heart
Great God of heaven my treasure thou art

4 High King of heaven my victory won
May I reach heaven's joys O bright heaven's sun
Heart of my own heart whatever befall
Still be my vision O ruler of all

