

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
montemccclain@gmail.com



March 3, 2019

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 AROUND GOD'S WORD

GATHERING SONG

"His Eye Is On The Sparrow"

- Insert

CALL TO WORSHIP

SONG OF PRAISE

"He Came Down"

- Insert

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

CELEBRATING GOD'S GOOD CREATION IN BLACK HISTORY MONTH - Chickwendu Okereke

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

"Lift Every Voice And Sing"

- Blue Hymnal #563

READING OF SCRIPTURE

1 John 4:19-5:21

Pew Bible, pp. 1184

SERMON

"Water Blood Love Testimony"

- Monte McClain

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

SONG OF RESPONSE

"Great Love"

- Insert

COMMUNION: EATING & DRINKING TO REMEMBER THAT GOD LOVES US FIRST

We celebrate by intinction, coming forward to receive the meal. If you'd prefer an individual cup or to be served at your seat, please raise your hand during our celebration as we'll attend to you.

SONG DURING COMMUNION

"Hungry"

- 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

"Ping An"

(Mandarin, Chinese)

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 1 John 4:19- 5:21

We reach the end of our community reading of the letter of 1 John. Each week we've wrestled with the principal idea of the pastoral advice: "Let us love because God first loved us." While it can seem trite and repetitive, the message while easy to understand is quite difficult to live.



The author writes to the Church of the day which is facing a divisive and destructive dispute over orthodoxy (right-belief) and ortho-praxy (right doing). It's most likely related to docetism: the ancient belief, common in Greco-Roman culture, in the superiority of everything that is "spiritual" over the "physical". It most likely led or contributed to what we now call Adoptionism: the belief that Jesus was human, but that at his baptism he was adopted by God, that the Divine Christ Spirit came down upon him. This spirit remained in him through his life, but left before his crucifixion. While it seems silly, it leads to the conclusion either that the true moment of the revelation and salvation of Christ was in his baptism, when God chose him and he received God's love; or the belief that this true moment of salvation and revelation was in his physical death on the cross: the ultimate act of love as self-giving. Those two Christological beliefs of the nature and purpose of Christ have profound effects upon how we live and love as Christ did.

Modern writer Ann Lamott famously wrote: "You can safely assume you've created God in your own image when it turns out that God hates all the same people you do." The letter of 1 John ends with that same message. Out of nowhere the author rapidly concludes with the phrase: "Little children, keep yourselves from idols." 1 John 5:21. Idolatry hasn't been mentioned at all in the book. Yet here at the end of the written pastoral encouragement to a community in division and dispute the reminder is to not make God in your own image. That one can be aware of one's idolatry – the ultimate sin in the scripture stories, when we put our trust in false gods that we make with our own hands. These idols allow us to justify our actions, legitimize when we don't want to love, characterize our notions of who is and isn't part of God's family.

In our troubled times of today we are tempted all too easily to such idolatry: making God in our image choosing for God to love only as we wish to love, or including in God's family only who we can stand. Rather than loving as the world loves, let us love as God first loves us.

QUESTIONS FOR THE PRACTICE OF EXAMEN & CONTEMPLATION

- What shimmers in your attention in this reading?
- How might you embrace idolatry in terms of love?
- How does the word of 1 John encourage you?; or us as a church today in 2019?

ANNOUNCEMENTS & COMMUNITY NEWS

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

1	Al Barnes	6	Jeff Trowbridge
12	Kristy McClain	17	Louise Hirschman
22	Ellen Brylawski	24	Marda Stothers
28	Lucian Haynes	31	Gordon Laverty

COMMUNITY LIFE CALENDAR

The Vocabulary of Faith | Sundays 9:30-10:20a

The Conversation Project – today – discussion today after worship about end of life issues.

Youth Group tonight 7-8:30p for Middle & High School Students

ESL – Immigrant Ministry | Mondays from 7-9pm at Primera Iglesia of Oakland (High Street)
It's a great way to love our neighbors and join in what God's doing right here in Oakland.

Choir Practice | Tuesdays 5:30pm

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

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

Fat Tuesday Pancake Dinner | Thursday, 6:00-7:00pm | *Bring a skillet for our pancake games!*

Ash Wednesday Taizé Prayer Service | Thursday, 7:00pm (Sanctuary)

Lent Small Groups & Worship – Grounded
In Lent (starting March 6th) we're forming small groups to read and interact around the questions raised in the book *Grounded* by Diana Butler Bass. *Join a group and order a book this morning!*

Congregational Meeting | Thursday, 7:30pm

Give a Relational Tithe | Encourage another with a hand-written note. Cards on the back wall!

Pick up a copy of a letter written by Ross Laverty to the church community | in the entry

Thank you to Today's Leadership
Fellowship: David Kittams & Marda Stothers
Black History Month Sharing: Chickwendu Okereke

Leadership for next week, 3/10/19:
Fellowship: Sharon Nelson, Anne Marie Adams
Godly Play: Linda Davis ST, Elaine Price DK

LYRICS & WRITTEN RESPONSES FOR TODAY'S CELEBRATION

"His Eye Is On The Sparrow"

Civilla D. Martin (1905) | Glory to God #661

1. Why should I feel discouraged,
why should the shadows come?
Why should my heart be lonely
and long for heaven and home
When Jesus is my portion,
my constant friend is he
His eye is on the sparrow
and I know he watches me
His eye is on the sparrow
and I know he watches me

(chorus)

I sing because I'm happy,
I sing because I'm free
His eye is on the sparrow
and I know he watches me

2. Let not your heart be troubled
his tender word I hear
And resting on his goodness
I lose my doubts and fears
though by the path he leadeth
but one step I may see
His eye is on the sparrow
and I know he watches me
His eye is on the sparrow
and I know he watches me

(chorus)

3. Whenever I am tempted
whenever clouds arise
When song gives place to sighing
when hope within me dies
I draw closer to him
from care he sets me free
His eye is on the sparrow
and I know he watches me
His eye is on the sparrow
and I know he watches me

Final chorus

I sing because I'm happy, I sing because I'm free
His eye is on the sparrow
and I know he watches me
I know he watches me

CALL TO WORSHIP RESPONSIVE READING

Today's response is based upon Isaiah 2:3-5

One: A Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
to the house of the God of Jacob;

**All: that God may teach us his ways
And that we may walk in the Lord's paths.**

One: For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,
and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

**All: The Lord shall judge between the nations,
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;**

One: they shall beat their swords into plowshares,
and their spears into pruning hooks;

**All: nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more.**

One: Come, O house of Jacob,

All: Let us walk in the light of the Lord!

He Came Down"

Cameroon traditional | Glory to God #137

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.

"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;
From all of my transgressions
Thou, Lord, Hast set me free,
Thy blood so precious shedding
Upon the cruel tree.

Continued on back of page...

Refrain:

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

2. O holy Lord Almighty,
My need to Thee I bear,
Although undone, unworthy,
I pray Thee, hear my prayer;
O Lamb for sinners wounded,
Redeemer of mankind,
Eternal life and pardon
My soul in Thee doth find.

“Lift Every Voice And Sing”

James Weldon Johnson, 1921

Blue Hymnal #563

Please stand as we sing this hymnal together.

1. Lift every voice and sing
till earth and heaven ring,
ring with the harmonies of liberty;
let our rejoicing rise high as the listening skies,
let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith
that the dark past has taught us,
sing a song full of the hope
that the present has brought us;
facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
let us march on till victory is won.

“Hungry (Falling on My Knees)”

Kathryn Scott, 2011

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1. Hungry I come to you for I know you satisfy
I am empty but I know your love does not run dry
So I wait for you,
So I wait for you

(chorus)

I'm falling on my knees
Offering all of me
Jesus you're all this heart is living for

2. Broken I run to you for your arms are open wide
I am weary but know your touch restores my life
And so I wait for you
So I wait for you

“Great Love”

*(new hymn to old tune) Sung to the Tune NETTLETON
(8.7.8.7.D) American Folk Melody [Come Thou Font of
Every Blessing | Blue Hymnal # 356]*

1. Let us in love share that same love, that Great
Love we have received; without reason or
condition let us love as we are loved. It's the
love that gives away all, it's the friend that
lays life down. Oh how precious to be loved
thus! Spread it 'round, let love abound.
2. Let us love the One who loves us, that Great
Love who loved us first. No excuses, no
evasion, let us love our God like this: Love
with passion and abandon - without pause
and without cause - every last child that is
loved by that great Parent of us all.
3. Let us love all who are loved by that Great
Love who loves us all no exception, nor
omission, let us love them one and all. Love
the stranger, love the outcast, love the beggar
and the thief; Undeserved we have been
loved, let us give as we receive.
4. Let us in love share that same love, that Great
Love we have received; without reason or
condition let us love as we are loved. It's the
love that gives away all, it's the friend that
lays life down. Oh how precious to be loved
thus! Spread it 'round, let love abound.

661 Why Should I Feel Discouraged?

His Eye Is on the Sparrow

C G7 C F C

1 Why should I feel dis-cour-aged? Why should the shad-ows come?
 2 "Let not your heart be trou-bled," his ten-der word I hear,
 3 When-ev-er I am tempt-ed, when-ev-er clouds a-rise,

A7 Dm G7 C

Why should my heart be lone-ly and long for heaven and home,
 and rest-ing on his good-ness, I lose my doubts and fears;
 when song gives place to sigh-ing, when hope with-in me dies,

C G7 C F Dm

when Je-sus is my por-tion? My con-stant friend is he;
 though by the path he lead-eth but one step I may see:
 I draw the clos-er to him; from care he sets me free:

G G7 C C#dim7 G7 C

his eye is on the spar-row, and I know he watch-es me;

C7 F Fm C G7 C

his eye is on the spar-row, and I know he watch-es me.

Refrain G7 C G7 C

I sing be-cause I'm hap-py, (I'm hap-py) I sing be-cause I'm free, (I'm free)

This hymn based on Jesus' saying about God's care for all creatures (Matthew 10:29-30/Luke 12:6-7) began with the refrain's last line, inspired by a woman who had endured much illness. It was first sung in public at the Royal Albert Hall, London, during evangelistic services in 1905.

TEXT: Cvilla Durfee Martin, 1905
 MUSIC: Charles H. Gabriel, 1905

SPARROW
 Irregular

C7 F Fm C G7 C

for his eye is on the spar-row, and I know he watch-es me.

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

The first system of music is in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It features a treble and bass staff. The melody in the treble staff includes a triplet of eighth notes. The bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and single notes.

came down that we may have 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

The second system continues the melody and accompaniment. It includes a measure rest (7) in the treble staff. The lyrics are aligned with the vocal lines.

6 *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.

The third system begins with a measure rest (6) in the treble staff. It includes a 'Leader' part with the question 'Why did he come?'. The lyrics are aligned with the vocal lines.