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# FINDING GOD IN THE WORLD SKY



## 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

March 24, 2019

## GATHERING AROUND GOD'S WORD

### GATHERING SONG

"I Lift My Eyes Up"

- insert

### CALL TO WORSHIP

### SONG OF PRAISE

"This Is My Father's World"

- Blue Hymnal #293

### LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

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

### SUNG RESPONSE

"Take O Take Me"

- 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

"Siyahamba"

- Insert

### READING OF SCRIPTURE

John 3:1-18

*Pew Bible, pp. 1029*

### SERMON

"What's in Your World View?"

- Monte McClain

### RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

### SONG OF RESPONSE

"O God, Our Help in Ages Past"

- Blue Hymnal #210

### 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 "Síocháin Chríost" /she-ukh-awn Crist/ (Gaelic)

*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 3:1-18

Can we truly talk about God? Much of modern philosophy argues that how we see and understand the world is shaped first and foremost by language. Their point is that language is principal in how we talk of, express and question what we see, experience and imagine. Language is a living thing, directly impacted by culture. For example, it is often said that the *Inuit* (spoken by Eskimos) have dozens of words to refer to snow and ice. The language called Guugu Yimithirr (spoken in North Queensland, Australia) doesn't have words like left and right or front and back. Its speakers always describe locations and directions using the Guugu Yimithirr words for north, south, east, and west. Our language directly shapes how we put into words what we experience in the world.

Culture has a part in this too. The notion of *worldview* refers to the framework of ideas and beliefs forming a global description through which an individual, group or culture watches and interprets the world and interacts with it. For example, we have no English word to designate the Japanese value of "*Wabi-sabi*" which means "Finding beauty within the imperfections of life and peacefully accepting the natural cycle of growth and decay." As English Speakers we treat time as being broken up into objects that can be counted; such as five-minutes, three days, two weeks. It thus makes sense that we think of time as 'stuff' that can be saved, wasted, or lost. But the *Hopi* (a Native American language spoken in northeastern Arizona) think of time as a continuous cycle so that neither experience nor talk of time as an object to be measured.

So can we talk about what truly is, if our language shapes what we see? Yes. We can talk of things for which we don't have a specific word, such as *wabi-sabi*. So language doesn't force us to see only what it gives us words for, but it can affect how we put things into groups to understand them. One of the jobs of a child learning language is to figure out which things are called by the same word.

Our scripture today wrestles with these notions of knowledge, experience, language and worldview, Nicodemus seems to glimpse what Jesus is talking about, or that to which he testifies. But when Jesus puts it into words "be born from on high" he can only understand it as "be born again" as in a second time. It's a double entendre, but one which only Jesus seems to understand in full. Nicodemus seems to see the world as divided, sky from surface, the heavens from the earth; whereas Jesus talks of God loving and entering the entire cosmos as a holy whole.

### QUESTIONS FOR THE PRACTICE OF EXAMEN & CONTEMPLATION

- **What shimmers in your attention in this reading?**
- **As you listen to the story and dialogue what do you hear it talking of? How do you struggle to get it?**
- **Nicodemus risks his personal safety and status by coming at night to talk with Jesus to see more. What risk should you have taken that you didn't? When has your sense of self-preservation trumped your sense of courage and wonder?**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS & COMMUNITY NEWS

### MARCH BIRTHDAYS

22 Ellen Brylawski    24 Marda Stothers  
28 Lucian Haynes    31 Gordon Laverty

### COMMUNITY LIFE CALENDAR

**Rituals during Lent** | Each Sunday you can arrive early to begin worship with a self-directed spiritual practice ritual on the round table in the center of the sanctuary.

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

**Deacons Meeting** | Today 12-1pm (*library*)

**Choir Practice** | Sundays 12p & Tuesdays 5:30p

**Celebrating the Life of Jerry Martin** | Today Sunday, March 24<sup>th</sup> 2:00-3:00pm.

**Youth Group**, tonight 7:00pm

**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.*

**Lent Small Groups & Worship – Grounded** (In Lent) we're forming small groups to read and interact around the questions raised in the book *Grounded* by Diana Butler Bass.

*Group 1 meets Tuesdays 12-1pm at the church.*

*Group 2 meets Wednesdays 6:45-8:15 near CAL at the home of Marda Stothers*

*Group 3 meets Thursday 3-4pm at the church.*

**Session Meeting**, Thursday 7:30pm

**Friday Night Meal**, Friday 6:00-7:00pm

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

**Worship Next Week:** Rev. Bill Beatty will be preaching, as Monte is out of town to officiate a wedding.

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

**Thank you to Today's Leadership**

Fellowship: Janet Majors,, Kristy McClain  
Godly Play: Cam Beatty ST, Fredora Darmstadt DK

**Leadership for next week, 3/31/19:**

Fellowship: Marge & Richard Harvey  
Godly Play: David Kittams ST, Mercy Beatty DK

## LYRICS & WRITTEN RESPONSES FOR TODAY'S CELEBRATION

### "I Lift My Eyes Up"

Brian Doerksen | 1990 Mercy / Vineyard Publishing  
Inspired from Psalm 121:1-2;

I lift my eyes up to the mountains  
Where does my help come from  
My help comes from You  
Maker of heaven creator of the earth

Oh how I need You Lord  
You are my only hope  
You're my only prayer  
So I will wait for You  
To come and rescue me  
Come and give me life

### CALL TO WORSHIP RESPONSIVE READING

Today's response is adapted from a prayer published by on  
[www.ministrymatters.com](http://www.ministrymatters.com)

One: We come this day hoping to encounter Christ.

**All: We come with burdens and questions  
that only Christ can answer.**

One: We come this day hoping to glimpse  
the beauty of God.

**All: We come with hungers and thirst  
that only God can satisfy.**

One: We come this morning longing to belong,  
to find community, meaning, and purpose.

**All: We come looking for the powerful  
connectivity of the intimately present  
Spirit of God.**

One: May we open our hearts  
to the Three-in-One God.

**All: May our lives be healed and strengthened  
for abundant life.**

### "This Is My Father's World"

Isaac Watts (1719; alt. 1972) | Blue Hymnal #172

*In ancient times, people believed that as the planets revolved in the universe, they made music or harmony. This is the belief Maltbie Babcock referred to in the line, "and round me rings the music of the spheres." Though this belief has since been disproven, we know that objects in space do in fact emit sounds. Even more amazing, the ocean is also making noises at its very lowest and darkest depths - sounds which scientists are still unable to identify. The whole universe is singing a song of its creation, revealing something to us about He who created it. But, as Albert Bailey writes, "in stanza three, the author realizes that all's not right with the world" (The Gospel in Hymns, 553). Creation is fallen and broken. Yet, it also still belongs to God. We are thus charged to listen attentively to the voice of God in His world - from the heights of space to the depths of the ocean - and witness how He restores it, listening for our own calling to be stewards of Creation.*

1. This is my Father's world,  
And to my listening ears  
All nature sings, and round me rings  
The music of the spheres.  
This is my Father's world:  
I rest me in the thought  
Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas;  
His hand the wonders wrought.

2. This is my Father's world,  
the birds their carols raise  
The morning light, the lily white,  
declare their maker's praise  
This is my Father's world,  
he shines in all that's fair  
In the rustling grass, I hear him pass  
he speaks to me everywhere

3. This is my Father's world.  
Oh, let me ne'er forget  
That though the wrong seems oft so strong,  
God is the ruler yet.  
This is my Father's world:  
The battle is not done:  
Jesus who died shall be satisfied,  
And earth and heaven be one.

## ACT OF CONFESSION

*Adapted from a prayer published by on  
www.ministrymatters.com*

Lord, we are such stubborn people. We want to know all the answers. We find it hard to place our trust even in your Son. When Jesus proclaims that we can have a new life, we want to know how this is possible. How can we get rid of the old burdens and difficulties and start over again? Wouldn't it be just like climbing back into the womb to make a fresh start? How we have misunderstood what Jesus has said. New life is possible. We can place our trust in God's healing care. Forgive us, and help us, gracious Lord. For we ask this in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

New life is given to you. You can place your trust in God and follow God's way. God is with you. AMEN.

## "Take O Take Me"

*John L. Bell  
© 1995 Iona Community*

Take, O take me as I am;  
summon out what I shall be  
Set your seal upon my heart  
and live in me

## "Siyahamba"

*South African Traditional Song  
English; Xhosa | Glory to God Hymnal #853  
© 1984, Utryck, Walton Music Corporation,*

We are marching in the light of God  
We are marching in the light of God  
We are marching, we are marching oh  
We are marching in the light of God  
We are marching, we are marching oh  
We are marching in the light of God

Siyahambay kookay nyen kwen kos

We are living in the love of God

We are moving in the power of God

## "Our God, Our Help in Ages Past"

*Isaac Watts (1719; alt.) | Blue Hymnal #210  
Inspired from Psalm 90:1-5*

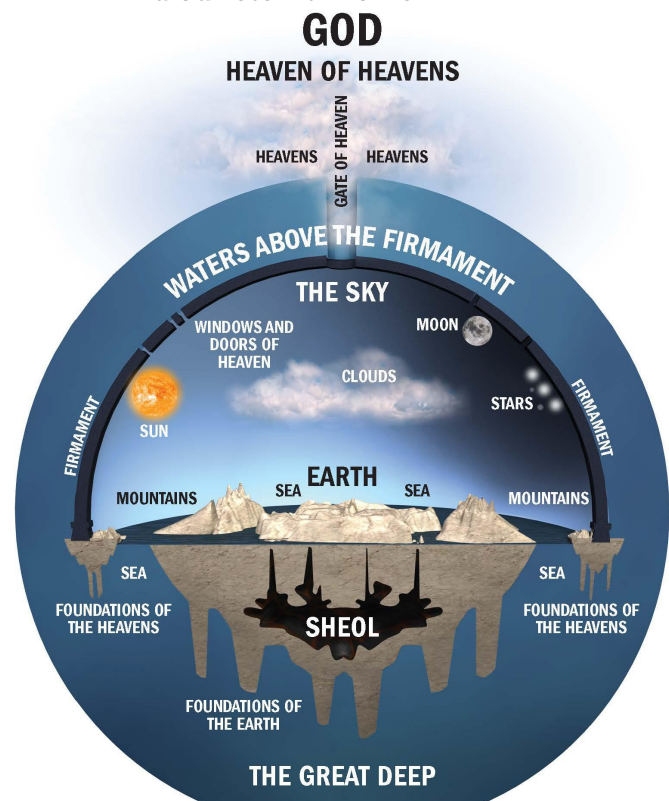
1. Our God, our help in ages past,  
Our hope for years to come,  
Our shelter from the stormy blast,  
And our eternal home:

2. Before the hills in order stood,  
Or earth received its frame,  
From everlasting Thou art God,  
To endless years the same.

3. A thousand ages in Thy sight  
Are like an evening gone;  
Short as the watch that ends the night  
Before the rising sun.

4 Time, like an ever rolling stream,  
Soon bears us all away;  
We fly forgotten, as a dream  
Dies at the opening day.

5. Our God, our help in ages past,  
Our hope for years to come,  
Be Thou our guard while life shall last,  
And our eternal home.



**How do you see the world differently than  
the ancient Israelites did?**