

**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**



April 30, 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 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

GATHERING SONG

"For All the Saints"

- Blue Hymnal # 526

CALL TO WORSHIP

SONG OF PRAISE

"In the Garden"

- insert

*Children are invited to gather at the front of the sanctuary and depart for the Godly Play program at the conclusion of this song.*

TIME OF CONFESSION

*Silent Prayer followed by Prayer of Forgiveness and Assurance of Pardon*

SONG OF RESPONSE

"Cares Chorus"

- 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 in the lounge off the entryway.*

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

OFFERTORY SONG

"Goodness Is Stronger Than Evil"

- insert

ONE BODY MANY PART: CELEBRATING THE GIFT OF FAITH IN CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

Welcoming Daniel Geary as a new member of our church community

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

READING OF SCRIPTURE

Acts 6:1-7:2; 7:44-60

- Michael Mendonca

- Pew Bible, p. 1061

SERMON

"Make the Church Great Again"

- Monte McClain

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

SONG OF RESPONSE

"O God, the Things That Make for Peace"

- insert

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MOMENT FOR DEACONS

- Deacon Ben Bencomo

SENDING CALL AND RESPONSE

Leader: God is good!

**People: All the time!**

Leader: And all the time!

**People: God is good!**

EXHORTATION & BENEDICTION

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

"La Paix de Dieu"

(French)

*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 Acts 6:1-7:2; 7:44-60

Luke tells the resurrection of Jesus not as the end of the story, but as the climactic middle, which creates a new beginning, relaunching the story. Acts is like Luke part 2 “A New Beginning” or “The First Christians.” It’s not just about God coming into our neighborhood as a human being. They divine dynamic continues with people like us – and us – dispersed into the world to disrupt the status quo with Christ’s radical message of suffering love, transformative grace, radical equality as children of God, and evangelistic empowerment. This morning we jump ahead into the Acts of the Apostles where we see that the early church was messy and beautiful and tragic and hopeful...and God was there and God was faithful. Our lives are messy and beautiful and tragic and hopeful...and God is here and God is faithful.

The text was assumed to be a largely straightforward, historical accounting of the earliest days of the church. It recorded the who, what, when, where, and why of the early church. How then does this text about antiquity and its events influence us today? I heard growing up that the Acts of the Apostles was the record of the church as it should be. There was an impulse to go back to the church as it was in its earliest days. A sort of theological nostalgia guided our reading of this text: if only we could do church the way it used to be done, we would be in a much better place.

This text seems to shatter this reading practice. First, we read about a church divided along linguistic and cultural lines, a church that cannot live into the promise of a community where “there was not a needy person among them” (Acts 4:34). Second, we see church leaders too busy to deal with the distribution of food to the widows, and even some latent tribalism. Notice that they don’t proclaim “All Widows Matter!” Third, we read about the demise of Stephen, a martyrdom that seems to precipitate anew the church’s journey to be witness even “to the ends of the earth” (1:8). In short, this is a church that is contentious, overwhelmed, and confronting great loss. Perhaps what we learn in Acts is not to look for a blueprint for an ideal church but instead to develop an imagination for what God does when God draws our lives together into communities characterized by unity and division, focus and uncertainty, joy and loss.

What might it look like to be a community that cares for the widows in our midst, whomever they might be? What might it look like for the church to call some among us to important, indispensable tasks? What might it look like for us to be amazed at the ways God’s call often exceeds and overrides our expectations? What might it look like for us to bear testimony to Christ in ways that evoke Stephen’s courage and clarity? What might it look like for us to be the church that must grieve the loss of someone like Stephen and fear that we might be next?

### Questions for the practice of Examen & Contemplation

- What strikes or shimmers for you in this passage ?
- How does it intersect your life, our communal life, today?
- How might the Spirit of God be calling you to act, become or relate to others in this text?

## ANNOUNCEMENTS & COMMUNITY NEWS

### May Birthdays

1 Biruta Vinerts	15 Richard Harvey
18 Marge Harvey	23 Rebecca LaMotte
27 Paulette Leston	31 Avery Haynes (2008)

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Today |** We’re celebrating Louisa Angleton who has been our interim office administrator, and also Roger Kim (our world famous guitarist) who are both leaving the roles that they have held in our community.

**Worship & Music Committee Meeting** after worship in the library

**CAPC Choir |** Talk to Pete for more information!

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

**Friday Night Meal |** Friday 6-7pm. Talk to Ellen Brylawski to help: ellenbry@comcast.net

**The Bible as an Open Book (Bible Study) |** Sunday 9:30 Find the text we study together copied in the entry on online @ [www.capcoakland.org/the-vocabulary-of-faith](http://www.capcoakland.org/the-vocabulary-of-faith)

**Our Building is Turning 100 this year!** | Let Monte know if you want to help with community celebrations! Come to our initial organizing meeting: Sunday, May 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Women’s Group |** 1st, 2nd & 3rd Saturdays of the month 8:30-10am in the library.

**Men’s Breakfast Gathering |** 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays @ 8:30am Contact Bill Beatty for info billbeatty55@gmail.com

**Doubts & Stouts aka “Theology on Tap” |** Tuesday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> 7:30pm at the Golden Squirrel (pub across the street) Safe, Open, Real BYO Conversation about concrete questions of faith, philosophy, & ethics.

**Potluck Movie Night |** Thursday, May 11<sup>th</sup> @ 7 pm “Rhapsody in August” by Akira Kurosawa. Food theme Japanese.

**Thinking Theologically |** Tuesday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, 7:30pm. Text driven discussion about a theological conundrum around the work of Kierkegaard who created the “leap of faith” expression. Find the readings online at [www.capcoakland.org/thinking-theologically](http://www.capcoakland.org/thinking-theologically)

### Thank You to Today’s Leadership:

Ushers: Louise Hirschman, Albert Hussian  
Liturgist: Michael Mendonca  
Fellowship: Bob & Ellen Brylawski  
Godly Play: Bill Beatty (ST); Fredora Darmstadt (DK)  
Moment for Deacons: Ben Bencomo  
Musicians: Dave Eagle, Swen Hendrickson, Roger Kim,

### Leadership for next week, 5/7/17 :

Our leadership list is nearly done for the next quarter. We’ll directly contact those leading next week in the new few days. Next week’s Liturgist is Patt Schroeder

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 113 (New Revised Standard Version):

*Reader reads plain font, **the people the bold.***

<sup>1</sup> Praise the Lord!

Praise, O servants of the Lord;  
praise the name of the Lord.

<sup>2</sup> **Blessed be the name of the Lord  
from this time on and forevermore.**

<sup>3</sup> From the rising of the sun to its setting  
the name of the Lord is to be praised.

<sup>4</sup> The Lord is high above all nations,  
and his glory above the heavens.

<sup>5</sup> **Who is like the Lord our God,  
who is seated on high,**

<sup>6</sup> **who looks far down  
on the heavens and the earth?**

<sup>7</sup> God raises the poor from the dust,  
and lifts the needy from the ash heap,

<sup>8</sup> to make them sit with princes,  
with the princes of his people.

<sup>9</sup> **The Lord gives the barren woman a home,  
making her the joyous mother of children.**  
**Praise the Lord!**

## “For All the Saints”

*Daniel Iverson (1935; adapted)*

*- Blue Hymnal #322*

1 For all the saints, who from their labors rest,  
Who Thee by faith before the world confessed,  
Thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!

2 Thou wast their rock, their fortress, and their might;  
Thou, Lord, their captain in the well-fought fight;  
Thou, in the darkness drear, their one true light.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!

3 O blest communion, fellowship divine!  
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;  
Yet all are one in Thee, for all are Thine.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!

4 From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,  
Through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,  
Singing to Father, Son and Holy Ghost,  
Alleluia! Alleluia!

## “I Come to the Garden Alone”

*C. Austin Miles (1913)*

1 I come to the garden alone,  
While the dew is still on the roses;  
And the voice I hear, falling on my ear,  
The Son of God discloses.

Refrain:

And He walks with me, and He talks with me,  
And He tells me I am His own,  
And the joy we share as we tarry there,  
None other has ever known.

2 He speaks, and the sound of His voice  
Is so sweet the birds hush their singing;  
And the melody that He gave to me  
Within my heart is ringing. [Refrain]

3 I'd stay in the garden with Him  
Tho' the night around me be falling;  
But He bids me go; thro' the voice of woe,  
His voice to me is calling. [Refrain]

## Cares Chorus

I cast all my cares upon You  
I lay all of my burdens down at your feet  
And anytime that I don't know what to do  
I will cast all my cares upon you

## “Goodness Is Stronger Than Evil”

*Author: Desmond Tutu*

Goodness is stronger than evil;  
love is stronger than hate;  
light is stronger than darkness;  
life is stronger than death.  
Victory is ours, victory is ours  
through him who loved us.  
Victory is ours, victory is ours  
through him who loved us.

## "O God, the Things That Make for Peace"

New lyrics written by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette (2012),  
sung to the hymn "On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"  
(music is to the right).

1. O God, the things that make for peace  
Seem hidden, distant, out of reach.  
Our world is violent, bent on war;  
Lord, show us peace worth struggling for.

2. Your peace begins when we embrace  
Your Son — your wondrous gift of grace.  
For peace with others surely starts  
When we find peace within our hearts.

3. Yet peace is not a quiet thing,  
An inward gift to which we cling.  
For Jesus blessed the ones who share  
Your peace and justice everywhere.

4. We thank you that your love extends  
Beyond the circle of our friends.  
You teach us: Give the stranger bread  
And see that enemies are fed.

5. We long to live your way, O Lord,  
To see relationships restored;  
May we, in all we say and do,  
Seek peace and therefore honor you.

JESUS CHRIST: ADVENT

## 96 On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an -  
2 Then cleansed be ev - ery life from sin; make  
3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our  
4 Stretch forth your hand; our health re - store, and

nounc - es that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and hear - en,  
straight the way for God with - in, and let us all our  
ref - uge and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we  
make us rise to fall no more. O let your face up -

for he brings glad ti - dings of the King of kings!  
hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.  
waste a - way like flowers that with - er and de - cay.  
on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.

FELLOWSHIP, GUIDANCE, WALKING WITH GOD

## In the Garden

476

*I will listen to what God will say, Psalm 85:8*

1. I come to the gar - den a - lone,  
2. He speaks, and the sound of His voice  
3. I'd stay in the gar - den with Him

While the dew is  
Is so sweet the  
Though the night a -

still on the ros - es; And the voice I hear, fall - ing on my ear,  
birds hush their sing - ing; And the mel - o - dy that He gave to me  
round me be fall - ing; But He bids me go; through the voice of woe,

*Chorus*

The Son of God dis - clos - es.  
With - in my heart is ring - ing.  
His voice to me is call - ing.

And He walks with me, and He

talks with me, And He tells me I am His own, And the joy we

share as we tar - ry there None oth - er has ev - er known.

WORDS: C. Austin Miles  
MUSIC: C. Austin Miles

GARDEN  
Irregular meter