

College Avenue Presbyterian Church
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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

May 14, 2017

GATHERING SONG "All Creatures of Our God and King" - insert

LITURGICAL ACTION: EXPRESSING THAT WE ARE PART OF A LARGER FAMILY CONNECTION IN THE CREATION OF A FLORAL ICON BOUQUET WHILE WE SING

You are invited to come forward, select a flower and add it to our emerging bouquet as a sign and symbol of the women who have mothered you in life, whether biological or chosen.

CALL TO WORSHIP

RESPONSIVE READING

SONG OF PRAISE "10,000 Reasons" - insert

TIME OF CONFESSION - Marda Stothers

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 Pastor Monte 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

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

READING OF SCRIPTURE - Marda Stothers

Acts 15:1-18 - Pew Bible, p. 1072

SERMON "Forest for the Trees" - Monte McClain

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

SONG OF RESPONSE "The Church's One Foundation" - insert

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 Paz de Dios" (Spanish)

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 15:1-18



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. In this unfolding story, 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.

We jump ahead to chapter 15, which some scholars consider to be the most important in the book. It's about the first Church Council, an assembly of believers, apostles and teachers gathered together to solve a problem threatening division of the church. In reading this ancient text we can miss out on the narrative indications of antiquity. It sounds like a discussion of disagreement, but it's most likely a loud, contested debate about the future direction of the church.

Paul and Barnabas have come from the church in Antioch (Syria). It's the third most important city in the Roman Empire, after Rome and Alexandria (Egypt). In this burgeoning church community in a major metropolitan center, there is a new teaching being advanced by itinerant, traveling teachers: to follow Jesus you have to first convert to Judaism by being circumcised and following the Law taught by Moses. The conclusion of the debate is far from certain, after much talking and the personal intervention of the main leaders of the early Church: Peter and James (Head of the mother church in Jerusalem), the assembly reaches a decision based upon scripture and personal experience. There should be no additional requirements put upon those who want to base their lives on the teachings of Jesus and entrust themselves to him. Nothing else (circumcision, keeping kosher, etc) is required. Although the leaders of the Church emphasize that everyone should be aware of each other, not living in such a way as to cause others to stumble or be burdened. An example of this is the exhortation to not eat any meat offered in sacrifice to any idol, not because the idol has any power, but rather that the example may confuse other followers of Jesus still growing in faith.

It seems distant from us today, and yet the underlying tension about unity and division isn't that foreign. Think of what we say about political persuasion, sexual identity, marital status, religious language. Do we in fact ask others to do more than follow Jesus in order to be counted among his people?

Questions for the practice of Examen & Contemplation

- What strikes or shimmers for you in this passage ?
- This is the first divisive disagreement in the life of the Church. How did they solve it? How do we solve ours?
- This story is innovation and adaptation. How do we interpret the teaching of Jesus in terms of contemporary life?

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 the idea of Mother's Day with some liturgical action and a festive coffee hour feast hosted by the Men of the Church.

CAPC Choir | Today after worship, & Wednesday @ 6pm

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

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

Men's Breakfast Gathering | 3rd Saturdays @ 8:30am - next Sunday May 20th! Contact Bill Beatty for info billbeatty55@gmail.com

Mission Sharing about Genocide in Rwanda and the Global Church | Monday, May 16th, 7:00pm.

Thinking Theologically | Tuesday, May 16th, 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

Regional Presbytery Meeting | Tuesday, May 23rd 4:30-8:00pm at First Presbyterian Church of San Leandro. Pick up a flyer in the entryway this morning.

Nacho Bar Camp Fundraiser – Next Sunday | May 21 after worship Elaine Price and others are organizing a Nacho Bar Fundraiser in memory of Austin Price.

We'll have a nacho bar lunch for the "coffee hour" with all the fixin's. You can give a financial gift to contribute to our camper scholarship fund for those attending summer camp at Westminster Woods this summer.

Thank You to Today's Leadership:

Ushers: Anne Marie Adams, Emma Fleming
Liturgist: Marda Stothers
Fellowship: The Men's Group
Godly Play: Beth Beatty (ST); Cam Beatty (DK)
Musicians: Dave Eagle, Swen Hendrickson, Pete Feltman

Leadership for next week, 5/21/17 :

Ushers: Bill Beatty, Sharon Nelson
Liturgist:
Fellowship: Elaine Price
Godly Play: Bill Beatty (ST); Maya Patil (DK)

CALL TO WORSHIP

A responsively read opening prayer to be pronounced after we assemble our liturgical floral icon. Source: Today We Celebrate Our Mothers: A 21st Century Worship Resource Written by: The Rev. Dr. LaGretta Bjorn, www.gbod.org

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

Loving God, we know your love because we have mothers.

We thank you for the mothers who carried us in their wombs, nourishing, protecting, and bringing us into the world.

We thank you for the mothers who did not give birth to us, yet loved us just the same.

With gratitude, we remember their words of encouragement when we have felt unsure or afraid;

We thank you for their kindness when the world has treated us unkindly;

We thank you for their soft, comforting arms and the gentle way they kissed away our tears;

We thank you that they protected us with the fierceness of a lioness protecting her cubs;

We thank you for the times when they corrected us rather than letting us continue down wrong paths.

Help us to live so that their investment in us might not be in vain.

**We honor our mothers, biological or relational, living or now dead, with lives of service to you in the name of the Risen Christ, for it is in Christ's Name we pray.
Amen.**

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.



"All Creatures of our God and King"

Paraphraser: William H. Draper;

Author: St. Francis of Assisi (1225), Glory to God Hymnal

1 All creatures of our God and King,
lift up your voice and with us sing,
Alleluia! Alleluia!
O brother sun with golden beam,
O sister moon with silver gleam,
sing praises! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

2 O brother wind with clouds and rain,
you nurture gifts of fruit and grain.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
O sister water, flowing clear,
make music for your Lord to hear.
Sing praises! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

3 O brother fire, so warm and bright,
chase off the shadows of the night.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Dear mother earth, who day by day
unfolds such blessings on our way,
sing praises! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

4 All who for love of God forgive,
all who in pain or sorrow grieve,
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Christ bears your burdens and your fears;
so, even in the midst of tears,
sing praises! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

5 And you, most gentle sister death,
waiting to hush our final breath:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Since Christ our light has pierced your gloom,
fair is the night that leads us home.
Sing praises! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

6 O sisters, brothers, take your part,
and worship God with humble heart.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
All creatures, bless the Father, Son,
and Holy Spirit, Three in One!
Sing praises! Alleluia!

"10,000 Reasons"

Matt Redman, 2013

Chorus

Bless the Lord Oh my soul, Oh my soul
Worship his holy name
Sing like never before, Oh my soul
I worship your holy name

1. The sun comes up, It's a new day dawning.
It's time to sing your song again
Whatever may pass and whatever lies before me,
let me be singing when the evening comes

2. You're rich in love and You're slow to anger.
Your name is great and your heart is kind
For all Your goodness I will keep on singing,
ten thousand reasons for my heart to find

3. And on that day when my strength is failing,
the end draws near and my time has come
Still my soul will sing your unending,
ten thousand reasons and then forevermore

THE CHURCH

The Church's One Foundation 321

1 The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord.
2 Elect from every nation, yet one o'er all the earth,
3 Though with a scornful wonder this world sees her oppressed,
4 Mid toil and tribulation, and tumult of her war,
5 Yet she on earth has union with God, the Three in One,

She is his new creation by water and the word.
her charter of salvation: one Lord, one faith, one birth,
by schisms rent asunder, by heresies distressed,
she waits the consummation of peace forevermore:
and mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won:

From heaven he came and sought her to be his holy bride.
One holy name she blesses, partakes one holy food,
yet saints their watch are keeping; their cry goes up: "How long?"
till with the vision glorious her long-ing eyes are blest,
O happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we,

With his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.
and to one hope she presses, with every grace endued.
And soon the night of weeping shall be the morn of song.
and the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.
like them, the meek and lowly, may live eternal ly.

This hymn was one of twelve written by an English curate to affirm the articles of the Apostles' Creed with biblical allusions such as 1 Corinthians 3:11 here. Though not created for this text, the tune was joined to it in 1868, and the two have been inseparable ever since.

TEXT: Samuel John Stone, 1866, alt.
MUSIC: Samuel Sebastian Wesley, 1864

AURELIA
7.6.7.6.D

"The Church's One foundation"

Author: S. J. Stone (1866)

Lyrics from the Glory to God Hymnal

Music in the Blue Hymnal #442

1 The church's one foundation
is Jesus Christ her Lord.
She is his new creation
by water and the word.
From heaven he came and sought her
to be his holy bride.
With his own blood he bought her,
and for her life he died.

2 Elect from every nation,
yet one o'er all the earth,
her charter of salvation:
one Lord, one faith, one birth.
One holy name she blesses,
partakes one holy food,
and to one hope she presses,
with every grace endued.

3 Though with a scornful wonder
this world sees her oppressed,
by schisms rent asunder,
by heresies distressed,
yet saints their watch are keeping;
their cry goes up: "How long?"
And soon the night of weeping
shall be the morn of song.

4 Mid toil and tribulation,
and tumult of her war,
she waits the consummation
of peace forevermore:
till with the vision glorious
her longing eyes are blest,
and the great church victorious
shall be the church at rest.

5 Yet she on earth has union
with God, the Three in One,
and mystic sweet communion
with those whose rest is won:
O happy ones and holy!
Lord, give us grace that we,
like them, the meek and lowly,
may live eternally.

15 All Creatures of Our God and King

Unison

1 All crea-tures of our God and King, lift up your voice
 2 O broth-er wind with clouds and rain, you nur-ture gifts
 3 O broth-er fire, so warm and bright, chase off the shad-
 4 All who for love of God for-give, all who in pain

Harmony

Al-le-lu - ia! Al-le-lu - lu - ia!
 Al-le-lu - lu - ia! Al-le-lu - lu - ia!
 Al-le-lu - lu - ia! Al-le-lu - lu - ia!
 Al-le-lu - lu - ia! Al-le-lu - lu - ia!

Unison

O broth-er sun with gold-en beam, O sis-ter moon
 O sis-ter wa-ter, flow-ing clear, make mu-sic for
 Dear moth-er earth, who day by day un-folds such bless-
 Christ bears your bur-dens and your fears; so, e-ven in

Harmony

with sil-ver gleam, sing prais-es! Al-le-lu - ia!
 your Lord to hear, Sing prais-es! Al-le-lu - ia!
 ings on our way, sing prais-es! Al-le-lu - ia!
 the midst of tears, sing prais-es! Al-le-lu - ia!

Unison

Al-le-lu - lu - ia! Al-le-lu - lu - ia!
 Al-le-lu - lu - ia! Al-le-lu - lu - ia!
 Al-le-lu - lu - ia! Al-le-lu - lu - ia!
 Al-le-lu - lu - ia! Al-le-lu - lu - ia!

5 And you, most gentle sister death,
 waiting to hush our final breath:
 Alleluia! Alleluia!

Since Christ our light has pierced your gloom,
 fair is the night that leads us home.
 Sing praises! Alleluia!
 Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

6 O sisters, brothers, take your part,
 and worship God with humble heart.
 Alleluia! Alleluia!
 All creatures, bless the Father, Son,
 and Holy Spirit, Three in One!
 Sing praises! Alleluia!
 Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Sometimes called "The Canticle of the Sun," this cosmic roll call allows human beings to give voice to all creation. One of the earliest religious poems in the Italian language, it is made even more expansive by this broad, repetitive melody with interspersed "Alleluia's."