

College Avenue Presbyterian Church
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There is neither
 There is neither
 There is no
~~Jew nor Greek~~
~~Slave nor Free~~
~~Male or Female~~
 for you are all
 one in Christ Jesus

May 28, 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 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

"Joyful Joyful We Adore Thee"

- Blue Hymnal #464

CALL TO WORSHIP

SONG OF PRAISE

"Praise the One who Breaks the Darkness"

- insert

Those going to Godly Play are invited to come forward and depart through the double doors on the left at the conclusion of this song.

TIME OF CONFESSION

- Lori Castner

Silent Prayer followed by Prayer of Forgiveness and Assurance of Pardon

SONG OF RESPONSE

"Don't Be Afraid"

- insert

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

- Monte McClain

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

"Just As I Am"

- Blue Hymnal #370, v. 2

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

READING OF SCRIPTURE

- Lori Castner

Galatians 3:1-9, 23-29

- Pew Bible, p. 1129

SERMON

"Unity is not a Zero-Sum-Game"

- Monte McClain

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

SONG OF RESPONSE

"Standing On The Promises"

- 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 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 Galatians 3:1-9, 23-29



"At several times in history this [pastoral] letter, listened to by small groups of Christians, has shifted the direction of the age just enough to make the difference between a surge of new life and a drifting into decline." It radically transformed the direction in which the Church developed in its infancy (as we read last week in Acts 15). It also was paramount in shifting the perspective of both Martin Luther and John Calvin, setting loose the revolution we now call the Reformation. What might it be unleashing among us in our world and culture today in which how we are defined and what is considered our usefulness or power is defined by what we purchase, how much we can produce, or who our people are?

The letter was written by Paul to the church community in Galatia (what we now call Turkey). There a debate and division had occurred among the Jesus followers over identity: did one have to first identify as a Jew by adopting Jewish rituals (such as circumcision and law obedience) before identifying as a Christian?; or could a Gentile-born Jesus follower simply become Christian? The underlying issue is of freedom, identity, unity and how the Church would live out the teachings of Jesus in a pluralistic world. The letter has served as the genesis of many revolutions of thought and continues to speak to us today.

Paul argues for a unity based not on class, tribe or gender, but on family appurtenance. Underneath his affirmation seems to lie the proclamation of Jesus that "whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother."

In rabbinical dialogue the scriptural authority went to the argument, or citation, which came from the earliest part of the Torah. Here Paul goes back to Genesis 15:1-21 in which God makes the covenant with Abraham because of the latter's faith, not his circumcision (which is only recounted later in Genesis 17:1-27 in which his circumcision is recounted in verse 23). Hence Genesis 15 trumps chapter 17. Going back even farther Paul refers to the Call of Abraham in Genesis 12 in which God promises to use him and Sarai as an avenue for blessing "all the families of the earth."

Questions for the practice of Examen & Contemplation

- **What strikes or shimmers for you in this passage ?**
- **Alienation is the opposite of unity. When we feel alienated, we often respond to others (who are different than us) with "Us versus Them" thinking in which the "others" have to become like us in order for us to be unified. But Jesus says something different about family and unity. In our country today, we face a similar question of purity, conformity, alienation and calls to unity. We tend to approach it as a zero-sum-game, meaning that "our" winning is dependent upon the "other" losing. Jesus proposes – and Paul proclaims – a radically different Way. How do we approach others in the zero-sum-game mentality in our season of great partisan division, blaming and alienation? How does Jesus call us to approach our neighbors who differ from us in policy, perspective and political persuasion?**

ANNOUNCEMENTS & COMMUNITY NEWS

May Birthdays

31 Avery Haynes (2008)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Today :: We're expressing our gratitude for Swen Hendrickson who has long accompanied us on the bass guitar. He is soon moving to China. Today is his last day with us – be sure to say goodbye and thank you to him!

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 - Contact Bill Beatty for info billbeatty55@gmail.com

OCO Citywide Leadership Training | Monday, June 5th 5:30p dinner, 6pm meeting @ the OCO Office 7200 Bancroft #2 Oakland 94605

CAPC Connections Picture Chalkboard | We've put up new pictures! Grab some chalk and help make relational connections through doodles in the Coffee Hour Room.

Help the Golden Squirrel | Our neighbor business is going to court to defend their request for an expanded liquor license. Can you come to support them: June 7th at 10am, or write a letter of support (info in the entryway).

Church Retreat Registration Forms are both online at www.capcoakland.org and in the entry!

PENTECOST – Next week! : We're celebrating the birthday of the Church next week – wear red or ethnic flavored clothing to celebrate our multi-cultural identity!

Staff Vacation: Pete Feltman will be on vacation for the next 2 Sundays. Talk to Monte to help with the music.

Thank You to Today's Leadership:

Ushers: Louise Hirschman, Albert Hussian
Liturgist: Lori Castner
Fellowship: Patt Schroeder, Joy Barnes
Godly Play: Beth Beatty (ST); Emma Fleming (DK)
Musicians: Dave Eagle, Swen Hendrickson, Eli Wise, Pete Feltman

Leadership for next week, 6/4/17 : PENTECOST!

Ushers: Emma Fleming, Anne Marie Adams
Liturgist:
Fellowship: Bob & Ellen Brylawski
Godly Play: Children stay in worship for Communion

CALL TO WORSHIP

Responsive reading from the Iona Prayer Book
Reader reads plain font, **the people the bold.**

The world belongs to the Lord,

The Earth and all its people.

How good and how lovely it is

To live together in unity.

Love and faith come together,

Justice and peace join hands.

If the Lord's disciples keep silent,

These stones would shout aloud.

Lord, open our lips

And our mouths shall proclaim our praise.

"Joyful, Joyful We Adore:

Henry Alford (1844); Blue Hymnal #464

1. Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee,
God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee,
Opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;
Drive the gloom of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness,
Fill us with the light of day.

2. All Thy works with joy surround Thee,
Earth and heaven reflect Thy rays,
Stars and angels sing around Thee,
Center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
Flowery meadow, flashing sea,
Singing bird and flowing fountain,
Call us to rejoice in Thee.

3. Mortals, join the happy chorus
Which the morning stars began;
Love divine is reigning o'er us,
Joining all in heaven's plan.
Ever singing, march we onward,
Victors in the midst of strife,
Joyful music leads us sunward
In the triumph song of life.

"Just as I Am"

*Author: Charlotte Elliott, 1789-1871
Blue Hymnal #370*

2. Just as I am, though tossed about
With many a conflict, many a doubt,
Fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

"Praise the One who Breaks the Darkness"

*Words: Rusty Edwards, © 1987 by Hope Publishing Co.
sung to Netteleton or "Come Thou Font of Every Blessing"*

1. Praise the one who breaks the darkness
with a liberating light.

Praise the one who frees the prisoners,
turning blindness into sight.

Praise the one who preached the Gospel,
healing every dread disease,
calming storms and feeding thousands
with the very bread of peace.

2. Praise the one who blessed the children
with a strong yet gentle word.

Praise the one who drove out demons
with a piercing two-edged sword.

Praise the one who brings cool water
to the desert's burning sand.

From this well comes living water,
quenching thirst in every land.

3. Praise the one true love incarnate:

Christ who suffered in our place.

Jesus died and rose for many
that we may know God by grace.

Let us sing for joy and gladness,
seeing what our God has done.

Praise the one redeeming glory,
praise the One who makes us one.

"Don't Be Afraid"

Author: John L. Bell, 1995 Wild Goose Resource Group,

Don't be afraid my love is stronger

My love is stronger than your fear

Don't be afraid my love is stronger

And I have promised, promised to be always near,

“Standing On The Promises”

R. Kelso Carter (1886)

1 Standing on the promises of Christ my king,
through eternal ages let his praises ring;
glory in the highest, I will shout and sing,
standing on the promises of God.

Refrain:

Standing, standing,
standing on the promises of God my Savior;
standing, standing,
I’m standing on the promises of God.

2 Standing on the promises that cannot fail,
when the howling storms of doubt and fear assail,
by the living Word of God I shall prevail,
standing on the promises of God.

[Refrain]

3 Standing on the promises of Christ the Lord,
bound to him eternally by love’s strong cord,
overcoming daily with the Spirit’s sword,
standing on the promises of God.

[Refrain]

4 Standing on the promises I cannot fall,
listening every moment to the Spirit’s call,
resting in my Savior as my all in all,
standing on the promises of God.

838 Standing on the Promises

1 Stand - ing on the prom - is - es of Christ my king,
 2 Stand - ing on the prom - is - es that can - not fail,
 3 Stand - ing on the prom - is - es of Christ the Lord,
 4 Stand - ing on the prom - is - es I can - not fail,

through e - ter - nal a - ges let his prais - es ring;
 when the howl - ing storms of doubt and fear as - sail,
 bound to him e - ter - nal - ly by love's strong cord,
 lis - tening ev - ery mo - ment to the Spir - it's call,

glo - ry in the high - est, I will shout and sing,
 by the liv - ing Word of God I shall pre - vail,
 o - ver - com - ing dai - ly with the Spir - it's sword,
 rest - ing in my Sav - ior as my all in all,

stand - ing on the prom - is - es of God.
 stand - ing on the prom - is - es of God.
 stand - ing on the prom - is - es of God.
 stand - ing on the prom - is - es of God.

Perhaps because this hymn is so well known, its language sounds vaguely scriptural; but while there are various biblical uses of "stand" and "promises(s)," the two words are never combined. The confidence here is similar to that of "My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less" (see no. 353).

Refrain

Stand - ing on the prom - is - es, stand - ing on the prom - is - es,
 stand - ing on the prom - is - es, stand - ing on the prom - is - es,
 stand - ing on the prom - is - es of God my Sav - ior,
 stand - ing on the prom - is - es, stand - ing on the prom - is - es,
 stand - ing on the prom - is - es, stand - ing on the prom - is - es,
 I'm stand - ing on the prom - is - es of God.