

College Avenue Presbyterian Church  
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July 15, 2018

## 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 HYMN

"Did you Feel the Mountains Tremble"

- Insert

CALL TO WORSHIP

SONG OF PRAISE

"Amazing Love"

- Insert

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

SUNG PRAYER OF REPENTANCE

"Spirit of the Living God"

- Blue Hymnal #322

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

"Goodness Is Stronger than Evil"

- Insert

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

READING OF SCRIPTURE

Romans 5:1-11, 18-21

- Lori Castner

Pew Bible p. 1093

TESTIMONY SERMON

"Telling It Like It Is"

- Gary Yee & Monte McClain

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

SONG OF RESPONSE

"10,000 Reasons"

- Insert

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SENDING CALL AND RESPONSE

Leader: God is good!

Leader: And all the time!

**People: All the time!**

**People: God is good!**

EXHORTATION & BLESSING

PASSING THE PEACE OF GOD

"Ping An"

- Chinese, Mandarin

*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

### Romans 5:1-11, 18-21

The pastoral letter we call Romans is the chef-d'oeuvre of the work of the apostle Paul. This note to the church in ancient Rome is a soaring piece of literature and hymnic poetry that deals with the deepest theological and ethical questions that we still face ourselves today. They include: How do we come to faith in Christ? Does it matter what religious, or non-religious, background from which we start that journey? How is it that the life and death of Jesus changes, shapes and redeems my life?; our life?; our world? How can this belief in the good news of Jesus as good news for the whole world be true when bad things happen to both good and bad people?



Romans 5 comes in the middle of the argument that Paul makes for following Jesus as Lord based upon Roman rhetoric, logic and Judeo-Christian theology. He has so far laid out that the observation that something is amiss in the world in terms of justice. This comes from sin: the human capacity and choice to choose other than the wisdom and right-living that God wills for us. The story of the tree in the garden reveals how that propensity for rebellion, or for rejection of God's will to prioritize our own (in Adam and Eve eating of the Tree of Knowledge), dominates our being, social relationships, and institutions. Paul advances that as sin came into the world through one choice, sin can be undone, or reverse-redeemed through one choice: Jesus dying on the cross as a result and ransom price for such sin. Through the person and passion of Jesus what was once a powerfully contagious downward spiral towards death has been transformed into an infective upward-spiral pulling us towards the abundant life God desires for us.

This dynamic that Paul calls justification is surprising and unique among religious ideas. It's free, coming without a cost that can be pre-paid, earned through right actions, or deserved through tribal belonging. It's a gift of love given freely without any sort of quid-pro-quo-deal-making or application process. In fact, Paul says that what defines it most is that Christ gives the gift, (or "grace" in Greek) without us asking, or even being aware. God in Christ acts first, not to trick, guilt, or implicate us in a prescribed reaction; but out of pure unadulterated love. It's a manifestation of God's heart which when experienced can only be responded to with ecstatic awe, life-changing self-awareness, and active gratitude. As Jean Calvin wrote, our only response is to say Thank You! In all that we are, do, say and become.

### Questions for the practice of Examen & Contemplation

- **Baptism is the visible way in which we receive, experience and articulate the invisible gift-grace of freely-given love. How have you experienced that gift in life?**
- **What do you do with this gift of love? Who would you like to receive and/or know it? Why?**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS & COMMUNITY NEWS

### JULY BIRTHDAYS

|    |                    |    |                    |
|----|--------------------|----|--------------------|
| 15 | Chris Olson        | 17 | Rachel Brylawski   |
| 21 | Chickwendu Okereke | 22 | Kaya Ramirez Blake |
| 24 | Maya Patil 2002    | 27 | John Fonua         |
| 27 | John LaMotte       | 31 | Lisa Wu            |

### COMMUNITY CALENDAR

**STAFF NEWS** | Pete is taking vacation time in early July. He returns this week and will be here next Sunday 7/22.

**Choir Practice:** Choir is on break until mid-July

**Teaching ESL Classes, tomorrow, Monday, July 16<sup>th</sup> 7-9pm** at Primera Iglesia 1940 High St 94601

**Celtic Prayer Group** | Wed 7:00pm

**The Vocabulary of Faith** | We're doing a 7 week class on Reclaiming Jesus. Join at anytime. More info at [www.capcoakland.org/the-vocabulary-of-faith](http://www.capcoakland.org/the-vocabulary-of-faith)

**Friday Night Meal** | Fridays 6-7pm Our next meal is 7/28 Served by the group from First Cov Church

**TEAM CHICK** | If you'd like to be involved with helping Chick and his family while he prepares for a future heart transplant which include visits, helping with practical needs (meals, sitting with him) talk to Janet Majors to learn more or get involved.

**Ukelele Classes | Sundays after worship | No class this week – returns next Sunday 7/22.** Talk to Karl Shadley if you're interested!

**Letter Ministry** | Encourage another with a hand-written note. Find a list and pre-addressed, stamped envelopes ready to go on the back wall!

**All Church Retreat – with First Pres Alameda!** | September 7-9, 2018 | Register on paper or online @ [www.capcoakland.org/church-retreat](http://www.capcoakland.org/church-retreat).

**Care Giver Support Group** | Today, 7/15 @3pm Talk to Marda Stothers for more info.

**Recreation VBS** | August 6-12, 9a-3pm | for all church kids & others! | You can also volunteer to help! Register online @ [www.recreationvbs.org](http://www.recreationvbs.org) &/or talk with Monte about any questions!

**Thank You to Our Leadership This Morning:**  
Testimony: Gary Yee  
Reader: Lori Castner  
Fellowship: Richard & Marge Harvey  
Godly Play: E Brylawski [ST] ; F Darmstadt [DK]

### Leadership for next week, 7/22/18:

Testimony: Myrna Shadley  
Fellowship: Fredora Darmstadt & Kristy McClain  
Godly Play: Linda Davis [ST] ; Elaine Price [DK]

## LYRICS & WRITTEN RESPONSES FOR TODAY'S WORSHIP

### **"Did You Feel The Mountains Tremble"**

*Matt Redman & Martin Smith*

Did you feel the mountains tremble,  
Did you hear the oceans roar  
When the people rose to sing of  
Jesus Christ, the risen one  
Did you feel the people tremble?  
Did you hear the singers roar?

When the lost began to sing  
of Jesus Christ the saving one  
And we can see that God, You're moving  
A mighty river through the nations  
And young and old return to Jesus  
Fling wide Your heavenly gates  
Prepare the way of the risen Lord

#### **chorus**

Open up the doors and let the music play  
Let the streets resound with singing  
Songs that bring Your hope  
and songs that bring Your joy  
Dancers who dance upon injustice

Do you feel the darkness tremble,  
When all the saints join in one song  
And all the streams flow as one river,  
to wash away our brokenness  
And here we see that God You're moving,  
A time of Jubilee is coming  
When young and old will turn to Jesus  
Fling wide you heavenly gates,  
Prepare the way of the risen Lord

chorus

### **GATHERING WORDS | CALL TO WORSHIP**

*From a Liturgy for the Reaffirmation of Baptism from the  
PCUSA, based upon 1 Corinthians. 12:12-13, 17 & Micah 6:8.  
The congregation responds with **the text in BOLD PRINT***

Just as the body is one  
and has many members  
and all the members of the body, though many,  
are one body,  
so it is with Christ.

*Continued next column....*

**For in the one Spirit  
we were all baptized into one body—  
Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—  
and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.**

Now you are the body of Christ  
and individually members of it.  
God has told you what is good:  
and what does the Lord require of you?

**To do justice, and to love kindness,  
and to walk humbly with our God.**

### **"Amazing Love"**

*Chris Tomlin*

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken  
I'm accepted, You were condemned  
I am alive and well, Your spirit is within me  
'Cause You died and rose again

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken  
I'm accepted, You were condemned  
I am alive and well, Your spirit is within me  
'Cause You died and rose again

Amazing love, how can it be?  
That You, my King would die for me?  
Amazing love, I know it's true  
It's my joy to honor You  
In all I do, I honor You

### **"Spirit of the Living God, Fall Afresh on Me"**

*Daniel Iverson (1926) | Blue Hymnal #322*

Spirit of the living God,  
Fall afresh on me;  
Spirit of the living God,  
Fall afresh on me.  
Melt me, mold me,  
Fill me, use me.  
Spirit of the living God,  
Fall afresh on me.

## LITANY OF CONFESSION

*From a Liturgy for the Reaffirmation of Baptism from the  
PCUSA, The congregation responds with **the text in BOLD PRINT***

Sovereign God,  
in baptism you called us to turn from sin  
and to turn to Jesus Christ;  
but we stray from his ways and do not heed your call.

*Silence.*

Lord, have mercy.  
**Christ, have mercy.**

In baptism you joined us to Christ in his death  
that we might be raised with Christ in new life;  
but we cherish old ways and fail to embrace the risen life  
of righteousness, justice, and love.

*Silence.*

Lord, have mercy.  
**Christ, have mercy.**

In baptism you united us with  
all the baptized who confess your name;  
but we foster division in the church.  
We refuse to live as one people,  
and so fail to witness to your reconciling love  
before the world.

*Silence.*

Lord, have mercy.  
**Christ, have mercy.**

In baptism you call us to ministry in all realms of life,  
but we refuse the struggle to know your will;  
we do not nurture the ways of peace;  
we allow enmity and hatred to grow among us,  
putting neighbor against neighbor,  
and nation against nation.  
We abuse the earth you entrust to our care,  
and live in discord with all you have made.

*Silence.*

Lord, have mercy.  
**Christ, have mercy.**

In baptism you sent us to serve with compassion  
all for whom Christ died;  
but we ignore the suffering of the oppressed  
and the plight of the poor.  
We take bread from the hungry,  
and will not listen to cries for justice.

*Continued in the next column...*

*Silence.*

Lord, have mercy.  
**Christ, have mercy.**

In baptism  
you gave us the Holy Spirit to teach and guide us,  
but we rely on ourselves,  
and refuse to trust your direction.  
We spurn your eternal wisdom,  
preferring the luring ways of the world.

*Silence.*

Lord, have mercy.  
**Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, have mercy on us.  
Remember the promises you made to us  
in our baptism,  
forgive our sinful ways and heal our brokenness.  
Set us free from all that enslaves us,  
and raise us to new life in Jesus Christ,  
that we may be your faithful servants,  
showing forth your healing love to the world,  
to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

## **"Goodness is Stronger than Evil"**

*Author: Desmond Tutu & John Bell*

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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.

## **“10,000 Reasons”**

*Matt Redman*

### ***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



# Goodness Is Stronger than Evil 750

Good-ness is stron-ger than e - vil; love is stron-ger than hate;

light is stron-ger than dark - ness; life is stron-ger than death.

Vic - tory is ours; vic - tory is ours  
Oh, vic - tory is ours; vic - tory is

through God who loves us. us.  
ours through God who loves us. us.

Recognizing that this text arose from the years of apartheid in South Africa adds depth and resonance to its already confident language. Yet these words can also be read as a summary of Christ's death and resurrection, the true basis of our hope that good will triumph over evil.

TEXT: Desmond Tutu, c. 1994

MUSIC: John L. Bell, 1996

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GOODNESS IS STRONGER  
8.6.7.6.4.4.5