

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



**J
E
S
U
S
G
I
V
E
U
S
T
R
U
E
L
I
G
H
T
O
R
S
I
G
H
T**



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

August 26, 2018

GATHERING SONG

"Amazing Grace"

- Blue Hymnal #280

CALL TO WORSHIP

SONG OF PRAISE

"There Is A Balm In Gilead"

- Blue Hymnal #394

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

SUNG RESPONSE

"Come and Find the Quiet Center"

- 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

"I'll Fly Away"

- Insert

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

READING OF SCRIPTURE

John 9:13-33

Pew Bible, p. 1039

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD IN TESTIMONY

- Janet Majors

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

SONG OF RESPONSE

"I Saw the Light"

- 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 GOD

"Dul thar an suaimehneas Críost"

- Irish

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 9:1-41



Today's passage from the gospel story of the life and teaching of Jesus has been written masterfully by the Apostle John. The care with which John draws the portraits of increasing faith and hardening blindness is masterful. The events of the story seem to be gradually pushed to the background by the sharpening focus brought about by the repetitive interrogations of the Pharisees making confident statements of their knowledge (16, 24, 29) and the Blind Man confessing his ignorance (12, 25, 36). The story articulates the way in which in our humanness, true sight can miraculously emerge, while in our confidence we can fail to see the truth right in front of our eyes.

The story includes a few historical and cultural pieces foreign to our world view. The man is thought to be blind (less than whole, less than what God intended in creation) because of the sin of his parents. If one was sick or handicapped it was commonly thought in the Ancient World, and even among the Jews although the book of Job refuted such a theological affirmation, that suffering, brokenness and sickness were direct results of disobeying God's will (committing sin). A baby born handicapped, or less than whole couldn't have sinned, and so such a state must be a direct consequence of the sin of the parents. The story takes place on the Sabbath, the divinely ordained day of worship-full rest. Healing on the Sabbath (although it seems weird, as it's doing good) was considered breaking God's commandment to rest.

The Pharisees are stuck on the details, confident that they know how God acts and moves in the world, hardening their hearts, turning a blind eye to the life and person of Jesus: the presence of God among them. The Blind Man, delivered miraculously from the darkness of his blindness, sees himself, the world, and gradually God's presence in it; coming to distinguish the identity of Jesus.

The story is brilliantly timeless, the "we" of the Pharisees and the "we" on the lips of the formerly blind man, pull us as readers and listeners into the story, making it our own. Augustine of Hippo wrote: "The blind man stands for the human race...if the blindness is infidelity, then the illumination is faith...He washes his eyes in that pool Siloam, which is interpreted as 'one who has been sent': he was baptized in Christ." (*Much of my writing is lifted from the analysis of Raymond E. Brown in his Commentary of John I, pp. 369-382*)

Questions for the practice of Examen & Contemplation

- What grabs your attention in this reading?
- How is your faith story like the story of the blind man?
- How do you use vocabulary like blindness/sight, light/darkness to talk of your own faith? If you don't use them, what words help you talk of your faith journey & life?

ANNOUNCEMENTS & COMMUNITY NEWS

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

30 Monte and Kristy McClain 1997

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

2 Betty Trowbridge	3 Mercy Beatty
7 Michael Mendonca	8 Monte McClain
9 Diana Geary	11 Linda Davis
19 Sylvan Zappin	27 Linda Trowbridge
28 Lisa Ko	1997

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Youth Group today | @ 7pm!

Choir Practice | Tuesday, 5:30-6:30pm (Sanctuary)

Care-Giver Support Group | Today 3:00pm

Friday Night Meal | Our next meal is this coming Friday, 8/29 6-7pm served by the Local Rotary Group and the Piedmont Service Crew

Church Retreat Leadership Meeting | Today at 1:30pm at Acapulco's for a BYO Lunch 2100 Lincoln Ave. | Alameda

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

Letter Ministry | Encourage another with a handwritten note. They're ready to go on the back wall!

Deacons' Sunday | Bring financial donations or canned food (with pop tops are best!) to benefit our Deacons' Food Closet. We give out bags of food each Sunday after our gathering.

Rockridge Out & About Festival | Sunday, September 16th 12-6pm | the annual community celebration along the 12-block stretch of College Ave with live music, street entertainment, gourmet food and more! Beware that the avenue is closed for parking. Want to help our church do something?

Thank You to Our Leadership This Morning!
Testimony: Janet Majors
Fellowship: Bill & Beth Beatty
Godly Play: Cam Beatty [ST];
Elaine Price [DK]

Leadership for next week, 9/1/18:

Testimony: Elaine Price
Fellowship: Gary Yee & Patt Schroeder
No Godly Play as we're having communion.

LYRICS & WRITTEN RESPONSES FOR TODAY'S WORSHIP

"Amazing Grace"

John Newton

Blue Hymnal #280

1 Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see.

2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed!

3 Through many dangers, toils and snares,
I have already come;
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.

4 The Lord has promised good to me,
God's Word my hope secures;
God will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures.

5 When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we'd first begun.

GATHERING WORDS | CALL TO WORSHIP

Written by Monte McClain

*The congregation responds with **the text in BOLD PRINT***

One: We are people of faith.
Called to listen for God like we do the wind;

**ALL: to encounter the Spirit,
who often moves without us seeing it.**

One: The Apostle Paul speaks of faith as a gift,
given freely by God

**ALL: An invitation for us to realize we have been
given it, or to choose to open our clenched
hands.**

One: Our pioneers in the faith, women, men and
children like Esther, Peter and Samuel,
dared to trust God;

**ALL: They left us language pointing to God's
person as The Ancient of Days,
the Beginning and End,
the Spirit among us.**

One: They gave us vocabulary revealing God's
passion and purpose:

**ALL: Our Shield and Defender, Creator,
Divine Truth, Love, Lamb of God.**

One: We gather again today to ask together
"Where is it that God wants to lead us?"

**ALL: Trusting that we have received the promise
of steadfast love, seeking spiritual sight
that we might follow the call and promise
given to us in Christ.**

"There Is A Balm In Gilead"

Traditional African American Spiritual, Anonymous

Inspired from Jeremiah 8:22 | Blue Hymnal #394

Refrain

There is a balm in Gilead
to make the wounded whole
There is a balm in Gilead
to heal the sin sick soul

1. Sometimes I feel discouraged
and think my works vain
But then the Holy Spirit
revives my soul again
2. Don't ever feel discouraged
for Jesus is your friend
And if you lack for knowledge,
he'll not refuse to lend
3. If you cannot preach like Peter,
If you cannot pray like Paul
You can tell the love of Jesus
and say "He died for all."
4. Be sure to keep that ointment
never far away
And if you feel you've lost it,
you only have to pray

Confession of Our Brokenness Responsive Reading:

Taken from www.rev-o-lution.org/2014/03/21/worship-resources-for-march-30th-2014-fourth-sunday-of-lent/

God of Wholeness,

**we confess that we are fractured and scattered.
We think we see in the mirror fully,
but we still see through the glass darkly.
We perceive others as less than ourselves.
We look down on those whom we think do not
work hard enough,
and we compare others to ourselves.
We do not see our neighbors as our brothers
and sisters.
Forgive us.
Forgive us for not viewing others
the way You view all of us, as Your children.
Call us again to the commandment to love
our neighbors as ourselves,
and call us to seek their well-being
and to see their full value.
In the name of Christ,
who forgives and restores us all, we pray.
Amen.**

Time for silent prayer

"Come And Find The Quiet Center"

Shirley Erena Murray

1. Come and find the quiet center
in the crowded life we lead
Find the room for hope to enter
find the frame where we are freed
Clear the chaos and the clutter,
clear our eyes that we can see
All the things that really matter,
be at peace and simply be

Blessing of God's Pardoning Wholeness

from 1 Corinthians 13:12-13

**For now we see in a mirror, dimly, then we will see
face to face. Now we know only in part, then we
will know fully, even as we have been fully known
by God. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these
three; and the greatest of these is love. Go from
this place, knowing the love of God, and sharing
that love with others. Amen.**

"I'll Fly Away"

Traditional Spiritual

1. Some glad morning when this life is o'er,
I'll fly away;
To a home on God's celestial shore,
I'll fly away (I'll fly away).

Chorus

I'll fly away, fly away, Oh Glory
I'll fly away; (in the morning)
When I die, Hallelujah, by and by,
I'll fly away (I'll fly away).

2. When the shadows of this life have gone,
I'll fly away;
Like a bird from prison bars has flown,
I'll fly away (I'll fly away)

3. Jesus a few more weary days and then
I'll fly away
To a land where joys shall never end
I'll fly away

"I Saw the Light"

Hank Williams / country gospel / 1948

1. I wandered so aimless life filled with sin
I wouldn't let my dear Savior in
Then Jesus came like a stranger in the night
Praise the Lord I saw the light

chorus

I saw the light I saw the light
No more darkness no more night
Now I'm so happy no sorrow in sight
Praise the Lord I saw the light

2. Just like a blind man I wandered along
Worries and fears I claimed for my own
Then like the blind man,
that God gave back his sight,
Praise the Lord I saw the light

chorus

3. I was a fool to wander and stray
Straight is the gate and narrow the way
Now I have traded the wrong for the right
Praise the Lord I saw the light

chorus