

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

September 15, 2019

GATHERING AROUND GOD'S WORD

GATHERING SONG

"God is Here"

- Blue Hymnal #461

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 27

- Insert

SONG OF PRAISE

"The Lord is My Light"

- Insert

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

ACT OF CONFESSION

OPENING OURSELVES TO BEING UNDONE, THAT WE MIGHT BE REDONE

SUNG RESPONSE

"Don't Be Afraid"

- 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

"Guide My Feet"

- Blue Hymnal #354

COMMUNITY READING OF SCRIPTURE

Hebrews 11-12:3

Pew Bible, pp. 1168

SPEAKING OF FAITH

- Rev. Monte McClain

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

SONG OF RESPONSE

"Fight the Good Fight"

- Blue Hymnal #307

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

"Amani ya mungu"

(Swahili)

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 Hebrews 11-12:3

Today we begin a Fall Sunday Series on Exile & Diaspora. Those are the terms that we give to the great change that underwent the nation, people and faith of ancient Israel when the Northern Kingdom was defeated and destroyed by Assyria in 722 BCE and later the Southern Kingdom (Judah) was defeated and deported (exiled) to Babylon in 587 BCE. In their defeat, the people lost three major symbols of God's faithfulness and love: their land, their king and the Jerusalem Temple. If the things that God had given them as signs of his covenant with them were gone, did that mean that the covenant was over? That they were no longer God's chosen people? Had God abandoned them?



This time could have led to great despair in the fear that God had abandoned them. And while it did, and that suffering has to be taken seriously, it also was the impetus that inspired the most creative literature and daring theological articulations in the First Testament. The core of Israel responded to its sociological exile with theological reform. While Israel Faith had been centered in one people, in one place and one land, it spread throughout the diaspora, across the earth.

We live in a time of exile or diaspora. In the great, rapid and constant change around our culture, knowledge, technology, economy and general understanding we can feel like we have been exiled to a foreign land, perhaps even abandoned by God. The fastest-growing religious affiliation in our country is "unaffiliated." We are tasting in a new way the depth of multi-religiosity and cultural diversity rooted in a century of migration. We struggle with the expanding secularization of our culture while the church no longer functions at or near the center of things. This new reality in which we live, not just since 2018, is a framework that can feel foreign, unsure, uncomfortable, a sort of exile from what has felt like home to many of us. Where is God in all of this? What of the way in which we've known God directly and communally through the Church? Has God abandoned us? Have we abandoned God? Is faith in God simply passé?

We don't know exactly who wrote the letter to the Hebrews that we read today. We do know that it was written as a message of exhortation, or a word of encouragement (what the Hebrews of that time called a sermon) to those who followed Jesus and lived throughout the Roman Empire. This famous section we read today is one of the climactic sections, encouraging readers to persevere in faith by retelling the story of those who have lived in faith, trusting resolutely in God's fidelity, in the past.

QUESTIONS FOR THE PRACTICE OF EXAMEN & CONTEMPLATION

- What word, phrase or image grabs your attention?
- How does that word intersect with your life?
- What word of encouragement do you hear in the text?

ANNOUNCEMENTS & COMMUNITY NEWS

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

19 Sylvan Zappin 27 Linda Trowbridge
28 Lisa Ko

COMMUNITY LIFE CALENDAR

Worship Today: Much thanks to Jen Huang for accompanying our gathering on the piano as Pete Feltman is in Iowa for the memorial service of his grandmother who died earlier this past week.

Youth Group for Middle-High School Students
Sundays 1:00-3:00pm. Meets today!

Caregiver Support Group today at 3:00pm. Meets near CAL. *Contact Marda Stothers for more info at mqstothers@gmail.com*

ESL Class tomorrow & Mondays 7-9pm.
Interested in helping work with local immigrants?
Talk to Monte.

Join our Choir! Tuesdays 5:30-6:30p, Sundays 12-1p | *Contact Pete Feltman petefeltman@gmail.com*
No choir practice today because of the retreat

Celtic Prayer Group, Wednesdays 6:45-8:15pm
Meets near CAL. *Contact Marda Stothers for more info at mqstothers@gmail.com*

Friday Night Meal, Friday 6-7:00pm *Come to eat – come to serve. www.capcoakland.org/friday-night-meal*

Women's Group, Saturdays 8:30am | in the church library (meets 1st, 2nd, 3rd Saturdays)

Men's Breakfast Group, Next Saturdays 9/21 8:30am | talk to Bill Beatty for more info.

The Vocabulary of Faith | Sundays 9:30-10:15a *A weekly intro class to learning how to read the Bible.*

Next Sunday - Baptism of Breeze Ramirez

Blessing of the Animals – Outdoor Service - Sunday, 9/29 This is our annual outdoor worship to which you're invited to bring your feathered, furry and finned family members. If you can come early to help set-up we'll begin at 9:45am that day.

Thank you to Today's Leadership
Fellowship: Marge & Richard Harvey
Godly Play: Beth Beatty; Fredora Darmstadt

Leadership for next week, 9/22/19:
Counting: Sharon Nelson, Louise Hirschman
Deacon Liturgist: Marda Stothers
Fellowship: Ben Bencomo, Emma Fleming
Godly Play: David Kittams (ST); Avery Haynes (DK)

LYRICS & WRITTEN RESPONSES FOR TODAY'S CELEBRATION

*Today's service is created to be meditative and reflective,
Rooted in listening to and singing God's word.*

"God Is Here!"

*Fred Pratt Green (1979; rev. 1988)
Blue Hymnal #461*

1. God is here! As we Your people
Meet to offer praise and prayer,
May we find in fuller measure
What it is in Christ we share.
Here, as in the world around us,
All our varied skills and arts
Wait the coming of the Spirit
Into open minds and hearts.

2. Here are symbols to remind us
Of our lifelong need of grace;
Here are table, font, and pulpit;
Here the cross has central place.
Here in honesty of preaching,
Here in silence, as in speech,
Here, in newness and renewal,
God the Spirit comes to each.

3. Here our children find a welcome
In the Shepherd's flock and fold,
Here as bread and wine are taken,
Christ sustains us as of old.
Here the servants of the Servant
Seek in worship to explore
What it means in daily living
To believe and to adore.

4. Lord of all, of church and kingdom,
In an age of change and doubt
Keep us faithful to the gospel,
Help us work Your purpose out.
Here, in this day's dedication,
All we have to give, receive;
We, who cannot live without You,
We adore you! We believe!

"The Lord Is My Light"

*Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994
Taizé Community (1991), Glory to God #420*

The Lord is my light,
my light and salvation:
in God I trust, in God I trust.

CALL TO WORSHIP RESPONSIVE READING

*Today's reading is Psalm 27 an adaption from the Taizé
Communitu. The People read the BOLD print*

One: ¹ The Lord is my light and my salvation;
whom then shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of my life;
of whom then shall I be afraid?

**ALL: ² When evildoers came upon me
to eat up my flesh—
it was they, my foes and my adversaries,
who stumbled and fell.**

One: ³ Though an army should encamp against me,
Yet my heart shall not be afraid;

**ALL: And though war should rise up against me,
yet my heart shall not be afraid.**

One: ⁴ One thing I asked of the Lord,
that will I seek after:
to live in the house of the Lord
all the days of my life,

**ALL: to behold the beauty of the Lord,
and to seek God in the temple.**

Sung Refrain

One: ⁵ For on the day of trouble the Lord shall
shelter me in safety;
the Lord shall hide me in the secrecy of the holy
place and set me high upon a rock.

**ALL: ⁶ Even now the Lord lifts up my head
above my enemies round about me.**

Therefore I will offer in the holy place an oblation
with sounds of great gladness;
I will sing and make music to the Lord. t

Sung Refrain

One: ⁷ Hearken to my voice, O Lord, when I call,
Have mercy on me and answer me!

**ALL: ⁸ You speak in my heart and say, "Seek my
face."**

Your face, Lord, will I seek.

One: ⁹ Hide not your face from me,
nor turn away your servant in displeasure.

**ALL: You have been my helper;
Cast me not away;
Do not forsake me, O God of my salvation.**

One: Though my father and mother forsake me,
the Lord will sustain me.

Sung Refrain

One: ¹¹ Show me your ways, O Lord,
lead me on a level path
because of my enemies.

**ALL: ¹² Deliver me not into the hand of my
adversaries,
For false witnesses have risen up against me,
and also those who speak malice.**

One: ¹³ What if I had not believed
that I should see the goodness of the Lord
in the land of the living!

**ALL: ¹⁴ O tarry and await the Lord's pleasure;
be strong, and the Lord shall comfort your
heart;
wait patiently for the Lord.**

Sung Refrain

Don't Be Afraid"

Author: John L. Bell

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Iona Community, Scotland, GIA Publications, Inc.,

1 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.

"Guide My Feet"

Spiritual, Blue Hymnal #354

1. Guide my feet while I run this race, (yes, my Lord!)
Guide my feet while I run this race, (yes, my Lord!)
Guide my feet while I run this race,
For I don't want to run this race in vain!
(race in vain!)

2. Hold my hand while I run this race, (yes, my Lord!)
Hold my hand while I run this race, (yes, my Lord!)
Hold my hand while I run this race,
For I don't want to run this race in vain!
(race in vain!)

3. Stand by me while I run this race, (yes, my Lord!)
Stand by me while I run this race, (yes, my Lord!)
Stand by me while I run this race,
For I don't want to run this race in vain!
(race in vain!)

4. I'm Your child while I run this race, (yes, my Lord!)
I'm Your child while I run this race, (yes, my Lord!)
I'm Your child while I run this race,
For I don't want to run this race in vain!
(race in vain!)

"Fight the Good Fight"

John Samuel Bewley Monsell (1863, alt.)

Glory to God Hymnal #846

1. Fight the good fight with all thy might.
Christ is thy strength and Christ thy right.
Lay hold on life, and it shall be
thy joy and crown eternally.

2. Run the straight race
through God's good grace;
lift up thine eyes, and seek Christ's face.
Life with its way before us lies;
Christ is the path, and Christ the prize.

3. Cast care aside; lean on thy guide.
God's boundless mercy will provide.
Trust, and thy trusting soul shall prove
Christ is its life, and Christ its love.

4. Faint not nor fear: God's arms are near.
God changeth not, and thou art dear.
Only believe, and thou shalt see
that Christ is all in all to thee.