

College Avenue Presbyterian Church  
 5951 College Avenue | Oakland | 94618  
[www.capcoakland.org](http://www.capcoakland.org) | [www.capcoakland.me](http://www.capcoakland.me)  
 Office : 510.658.3665 | [capc1@sbcglobal.net](mailto:capc1@sbcglobal.net)  
 Pastor Monte: 510.658.3666 | Cell 510.520.0746  
[montemcclain@gmail.com](mailto:montemcclain@gmail.com)



## 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



September 17, 2017

GATHERING SONG "All Things Bright And Beautiful Blue Hymnal" - Blue Hymnal #267

CALL TO WORSHIP

SONG OF PRAISE "Out of Deep Unordered Water" - insert

TIME OF CONFESSION

*Silent Prayer followed by Prayer of Forgiveness and Assurance of Pardon*

SONG OF RESPONSE "Softly And Tenderly Jesus Is Calling" - 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 "Worthy" - insert

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

READING OF SCRIPTURE

Genesis 1:1-2:4a

*Pew Bible, p. 1*

*We're doing a creative reading of the scripture this morning. At the conclusion of each reading you'll be prompted and invited to respond by saying aloud:*

**"And God saw that it was good"**

SERMON "You'll Never Be More than What You've Always Been" - Rev. Monte McClain

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

SONG OF RESPONSE "God Of Creation, Gentle Life Giver" - 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 "The Peace of Christ" (English)

*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 Scriptures

### Genesis 1:1-2:4a

Today we begin a new Sunday series. We'll first move through several big arching stories of the First Testament addressing the themes of life and call. We start at the beginning: Genesis (which literally means "at the beginning of..." The story of Creation is well known, so well known that we might not know it.

We spend a lot of time in our culture and nation these days fighting over creation versus evolution. Which should be taught in school? Who has the right to teach and speak about what? Is one correct while one is wrong? Can one believe both? Does it even matter? I think we ask the wrong question of the text. It's not written as a scientific explanation of how we (and the universe came to be) as much as it's a theological affirmation of faith, why we're here, what life is about, what the "good life" could resemble. When we fight about orthodoxy and scientific exactitude we fail to listen to the text for the invitation to life – and life worth living – that it extends to us.

In the past I was focused on the meaning of particular words. For example the word "day" does it mean a 24 hour period or can it mean something longer? "Created in the image of God" does that mean that we're – I'm – made of the same "stuff" as God? But in that hyper focus on a few terms, I was blinded to the radical beauty in the simple depth of this story. Notice how it's structure with eloquent repetition in the days, the declaration of what is God, the speaking of God. This isn't a story written down haphazardly. It's been carefully crafted and penned to capture and portray something that is beyond the power of mere words.

God speaks creation into being. I can't explain that scientifically, but I do see how life – all of it – mine and yours – is a conversation with God, in which God speaks first and invites us to join in, responding, participating. I do so that we are created with authority, agency and responsibility for the created order. Whether one believes in our actions driving current climate change or not, we cannot help but see every day how our actions, words and presence impact the world and those around us. The mysterious truth that we most see God (or God's image) when we act, live and move together (as a community) related in this creation story is a movement that I have experienced over and over. I see it in acts of generosity and love, planned and spontaneous. I see it most often when we share communion together in worship, serving one another. I learn (despite myself oftentimes) the notion of balance and boundaries that the story points to throughout the days of creation and commandment to sabbath rest as the God-glorifying culmination of life.

### Questions for the practice of Examen & Contemplation

- What shimmers for you in this passage?
- What image most speaks to you today?
- How do you struggle to see yourself as a "good" creation of God?
- What truths do you hear in this story that you've experienced?
- How does the story of creation call you to life in its fullest?

## ANNOUNCEMENTS & COMMUNITY NEWS

### September Birthdays

17 Olivia Wenzler 2005    19 Sylvan Zappin  
27 Linda Trowbridge    28 Lisa Ko

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Out and About – The Annual Rockridge Street Faire – today, Sunday, September 17<sup>th</sup>.** Can you help us staff a booth to share about our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary? 12-6:00pm

**Youth Group:** for Middle and High School Students – tonight from 7:00-8:30pm. Meeting weekly on Sunday nights beginning tonight.

**CAPC Choir | New Tuesday Night Rehearsal Schedule:** Sunday after worship and Tuesday nights 5:30-6:30pm

**Next week in worship:** We're doing our annual Blessing of the Animals outdoor service in the garden. Bring you furried, finned and feathered friends/family members to worship as we celebrate together.

**Next Sunday You're invited to celebrate the Retirement of Rev. Karl Shadley** || Sept 24 @ 2pm. Calvary Presbyterian, Berkeley 1940 Virginia

**Care Givers Support Group:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays 3:00-5:00 Call Marda at 540.7173 (Meets in Berkeley)

**Celebrating the Life of Edna Freitas:** Tomorrow, Monday, September 18<sup>th</sup> at 12:00pm. If you can lend a hand with ushering &/or hospitality, talk to Monte

**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](mailto:ellenbry@comcast.net)

**The Vocabulary of Faith** | Sunday 9:30 in the Library Find the text we study copied in the entry or online.

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

**The Church Retreat** see photos of the weekend fun on our Facebook page or our church website at [www.capcoakland.org](http://www.capcoakland.org) select PHOTOS.

### Thank You to Today's Leadership:

Ushers: Bill Beatty, Sharon Nelson  
Liturgist: Multiple Congregants  
Fellowship: Bill & Beth Beatty  
Godly Play: Linda Davis (ST); Elaine Price (DK)  
Musicians: Dave Eagle, Kevin Goldberg, Pete Feltman

### Leadership for next week, 9/24/17:

Ushers: Louise Hirschman, Albert Hussian  
Liturgist: Can you help? Contact Monte if you can.  
Fellowship: Linda Trowbridge, Patt Schroeder  
Godly Play: Beth Beatty (ST); Fredora Darmstadt (DK)

## CALL TO WORSHIP

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

Inspired from Philippians John 1:1-5 & Isaiah 55:6-11

Leader: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. All things came into being through the Word, and without the Word not one thing came into being.

**People: hat has come into being in the Word was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.**

Leader: The Prophet Isaiah invites all to "Seek the Lord while God may be found, to call upon the Lord while God is near.

**People: Lord of Creation we come to you, aware of how we choose ways other than your Way, how our thoughts often turn to the smallness of our fears instead of the vastness of your will.**

Leader: "My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways," says the Lord.

**People: For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;**

Leader: The Word of the Lord shall not return to God empty, but it shall accomplish that which God purposes, and succeed in the thing for which it is sent.

**People: We come to Holy One, Living Word, Creating Spirit, for you alone have the words of life. Speak to us in song, scripture and silence this morning, give us ears with which to hear.**

## LYRICS TO THIS MORNING'S SONGS:

### **"Our All Things Bright And Beautiful Blue Hymnal"**

Jacques Berthier, 1991; Taizé Community;  
Blue Hymnal #267

Refrain:

All things bright and beautiful,  
All creatures great and small,  
All things wise and wonderful:  
The Lord God made them all.

1 Each little flower that opens,  
Each little bird that sings:  
God made their glowing colors,  
God made their tiny wings.

Continued next column....

2 The purple-headed mountain,  
The river running by,  
The sunset, and the morning  
That brightens up the sky,

3 The cold wind in the winter,  
The pleasant summer sun,  
The ripe fruits in the garden,  
God made them every one.

4 God gave us eyes to see them,  
And lips that we might tell  
How great is God Almighty,  
Who has made all things well.

### **"And Out of Deep Unordered Water"**

"Glory to God" Hymnal, #484  
Fred Kaan (1965)

1 Out of deep, unordered water  
God created light and land,  
World of bird and beast and, later,  
In God's image, woman, man.  
There is water in the river  
Bringing life to tree and plant.  
Let creation praise its giver;  
There is water in the font.

2 Water on the human forehead,  
Birthmark of the love of God  
Is the sign of death and rising  
Through the seas there runs a road.  
There is water in the river  
Bringing life to tree and plant.  
Let creation praise its giver;  
There is water in the font.

3 Standing round the font reminds us  
Of the Hebrews' climb ashore.  
Life is hallowed by the knowledge:  
God has been this way before.  
There is water in the river  
Bringing life to tree and plant.  
Let creation praise its giver;  
There is water in the font.

### **"Softly And Tenderly Jesus Is Calling"**

Will L. Thompson; Glory to God: the Presbyterian Hymnal #418

3 O for the wonderful love he has promised,  
promised for you and for me!  
Though we have sinned, he has mercy and pardon,  
pardon for you and for me.

Refrain:

"Come home, come home!  
You who are weary, come home."  
Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling,  
calling, "O sinner, come home!"

## "Worthy"

(Land Of Rest Tune) Blue Hymnal #370

Worthy, worthy worthy is the lamb  
Worthy, worthy, worthy is the lamb

Praise you, praise you, praise you evermore  
We praise you, we praise you, we praise you evermore

Love you, love you, love you evermore  
We love you, we love you, we love you evermore

## "God Of Creation Gentle Life Giver"

Craig Mitchell, 2010; Sung to "Morning Has Broken"

1. God of Creation  
Gentle life-giver  
Present at birth, and  
all through our days  
Author of sunrise  
Song in the night sky  
Here in this place, we  
offer our praise

2. Jesus, Companion  
teacher and healer  
friend of the grieving,  
suffering, the poor  
Stand with your people  
whisper among us  
promise of mercy  
goodness for all

3. Spirit of Comfort  
blow through Creation  
stir up new life, breathe  
peace through our world  
Healer of hearts, and  
hope for tomorrow  
weave all our sorrows  
into new dawn

4. Here we give thanks for  
life in its fullness  
blessings received  
your gifts to us all  
Make us a people  
filled with compassion  
selflessly giving  
serving your world

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## Out of Deep, Unordered Water

1 Out of deep, un - or - dered wa - ter God cre -  
2 Wa - ter on the hu - man fore-head, birth-mark  
3 Stand - ing round the font re-minds us of the

at - ed light and land, world of bird and beast and,  
of the love of God, is the sign of death and  
He-brew's climb a - shore. Life is hal-lowed by the

lat - er, in God's im - age, wom - an, man.  
ris - ing; through the seas there runs a road. There is  
knowl-edge God has been this way be - fore.

Glory to God 484  
TEXT: Fred Kaan, 1965; © 1968 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60158. All rights reserved. Used by Permission.  
MUSIC (RUSTINGTON S.7.8.7.D): C. Hubert H. Parry, 1897

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## Out of Deep, Unordered Water

wa-ter in the riv-er bringing life to tree and plant. Let cre -

a-tion praise its giv-er: there is wa - ter in the font.