

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



September 22, 2019

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 AROUND GOD'S WORD

GATHERING SONG

"Let All Things Now Living"

- Blue Hymnal #554

CALL TO WORSHIP

- Insert

SONG OF PRAISE

"Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah"

- Blue Hymnal #281

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

ACT OF CONFESSION

OPENING OURSELVES TO BEING UNDONE, THAT WE MIGHT BE REDONE

SUNG RESPONSE

"Our Darkness"

- 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

- Marda Stothers

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

"We Will Take What You Offer"

- Insert

READING OF SCRIPTURE

Deuteronomy 26:1-11; 30:15-20; & Luke 14:25-33

- Biruta Vinerts

Pew Bible, pp. 195, 1012

SPEAKING OF FAITH

"Nurturing a Creative Imagination"

- Rev. Monte McClain

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

SONG OF RESPONSE

"Love Is the Touch"

- 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

"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 Scriptures Around Exile Deuteronomy 26:1-11; 30:15-20; & Luke 14:25-33

Aiden Wilson Tozer (1897 – 1963) as self-taught American Christian pastor, who wrote more than 60 books on faith wrote “What we think about God is the most important things about us.”

Our society today is divided among those who think that God is always on their side, those who never think about God, and those who don't know what to think about God. The story of God, what we call the Bible, is considered either to be a literal word closed to change, with only one correct interpretation, a fable created by pre-modern humanity to explain what they feared, or a tool created by the powerful to manipulate and control those at the bottom rungs of the social pyramid. But the Bible is not a closed book of past events. It tells the ongoing good news of a God who breaks our stereotypes, and redefines reality, less by who God is than by what God does.

The selections from Deuteronomy 26 and 30 are the bookends to a larger section (26-30) that tell the arrival of Israel in the promised land and point towards the future that they would traverse in the Babylonian Exile and return. The Israelites are a people descended from a wandering pilgrim, Abraham, and later Jacob, who had no home and was on the verge of death in a foreign land. To this homeless man, God offers the gift of homecoming, to a land and space and to participation in what God is doing. For a people who were the ultimate outsiders God extends an invitation to be on the inside of the good that good is creating in the world and moving the world towards. It's a story of conversion through relationship. “God wills covenant, insists on the people turning to the Lord, but asks nothing of them that God's self will not do. God turns to the people. God is radically for the people. And it is God's turning that making their turning possible. Such as surprising notion of God yields a remarkable understanding of humanness, for we are ‘made in God's image.’ It announces that our mature humanness consists in the capacity to repent, in our willingness to care so deeply and to change so freely that we can make vows and keep them. In our doing this, we are most like the God who has created us and continually calls us to God's self.” (*The Bible Makes Sense*. Brueggemann, p. 60)

The story of Israel, the promise of relationship, the reality of their unfaithfulness, their exile seen as the consequent for their idolatry (worshipping a false god they wanted rather than the God who is) is the story of homecoming that is our own. Exile is not a permanent condition. God wills the people to be at home. That's the work of God. It's a story that we hear in Israel's story, hear Jesus point to in parables and his life, and one that we through creative imagination must choose as our own – as our call to choose life and abundance, or death and scarcity.

QUESTIONS FOR THE PRACTICE OF EXAMEN & CONTEMPLATION

- What word, phrase or image grabs your attention?
- How does that word intersect with your life?
- How and where do you hear an invitation to choose life and abundance in the text?

ANNOUNCEMENTS & COMMUNITY NEWS

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

19 Sylvan Zappin 27 Linda Trowbridge
28 Lisa Ko

COMMUNITY LIFE CALENDAR

Worship Today: We're making a giant card to be delivered to an adult child of our church community, Patrice Trowbridge, who recently began Medical School in Chicago. Send her a note of love, encouragement or “hello.”

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

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

Session Meeting, Thursday, 9/26 7-8:30pm

Friday Night Meal, Friday 6-7:00pm *Come to eat – come to serve.* This Friday (9/27) the meal is being prepared and served by a group from First Covenant Church of Oakland.
www.capcoakland.org/friday-night-meal

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

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

NEXT SUNDAY:

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 9:30am that day.

Thank you to Today's Leadership

Counting: Sharon Nelson, Louise Hirschman
Deacon Liturgist: Marda Stothers
Fellowship: Ben Bencomo, Emma Fleming
Godly Play: David Kittams (ST); Avery Haynes (DK)

Leadership for next week, 9/27/19:

Counting: Lina Foltz, Richard Harvey
Deacon Liturgist: Marda Stothers
Fellowship: Beth & Bill Beatty
Godly Play: Bill Beatty (ST); Rady Beatty (DK)

LYRICS & WRITTEN RESPONSES FOR TODAY'S CELEBRATION

"Let All Things Now Living

Katherine Davis (1939) Blue Hymnal #554

1. Let all things now living
A song of thanksgiving
To God the creator
Triumphantly raise.
Who fashioned and made us,
Protected and stayed us,
Who still guides us on
To the end of our days.
God's banners are o'er us,
Pure light goes before us,
A pillar of fire
Shining forth in the night.
'Til shadows have vanished
And darkness is banished
As forward we travel
From light into light.

2. By law God enforces,
The stars in their courses
And sun in its orbit
Obediently shine;
The hills and the mountains,
The rivers and fountains,
The deeps of the ocean
Proclaim God divine.
We too should be voicing
Our love and rejoicing;
With glad adoration
A song let us raise
Till all things now living
Unite in thanksgiving:
"To God in the highest,
Hosanna and praise!"

CALL TO WORSHIP RESPONSIVE READING

Today's reading from the Iona Abbey Worship Book. The People read the BOLD print

One: The God of heaven has made a home on earth,

ALL: Christ dwells among us and is one with us.

One: The highest in all creation lives among the least,

ALL: Christ journeys with the rejected and welcomes the weary.

One: Come now all who thirst

ALL: and drink the water of life.

One: Come now all who hunger

ALL: and be filled with good things.

One: Come now all who seek

ALL: and be warmed by the fire of love.

"Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah"

Author: William Williams (1745); Translator: Peter Williams (1771) Blue Hymnal #281

1. 1 Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah,
Pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but Thou art mighty;
Hold me with Thy powerful hand;
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
Feed me till I want no more,
Feed me till I want no more.

2. Open now the crystal fountain,
Whence the healing stream doth flow;
Let the fire and cloudy pillar
Lead me all my journey through;
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer,
Be Thou still my strength and shield,
Be Thou still my strength and shield.

3. When I tread the verge of Jordan,
Bid my anxious fears subside;
Death of death, and hell's destruction,
Land me safe on Canaan's side;
Songs of praises, songs of praises,
I will ever give to Thee,
I will ever give to Thee.

Continued next column...

"Our Darkness"

Author: Taizé Community

English; French

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Our darkness is never darkness in your sight
The deepest night is clear as the daylight

"We Will Take What You Offer"

Author: John L. Bell (1998)

We will take what you offer.

We will live by your word.

We will love one another

and be fed by you, Lord.

"Love Is the Touch"

Author: Alison Robertson

1. Love is the touch of intangible joy;
love is the force that no fear can destroy;
love is the goodness we gladly applaud:
God is where love is, for love is of God.

2. Love is the lilt in a lingering voice;
love is the hope that can make us rejoice;
love is the cure for the frightened and
flawed:
God is where love is, for love is of God.

3. Love is the light in the tunnel of pain;
love is the will to be whole once again;
love is the trust of a friend on the road;
God is where love is, for love is of God.

4. Love is the Maker, and Spirit, and Son;
love is the kingdom their will has begun;
love is the pathway the saints all have trod:
God is where love is, for love is of God.

CELEBRATING TIME

Our Darkness Is Never Darkness in Your Sight

La ténèbre n'est point ténèbre devant toi

Capo 2: (E) F# (Am) (G) (C) (D) (E) (F) (G) (A) (Bm) (F#)

Our dark - ness is nev - er dark - ness in your sight: the
La té - nè - bre n'est point té - nè - bre de - vant toi: la

(Am) (G) (C) (Dm6) (Esus) (E) (Bm) A D Em6 F#sus F#

deep - est night is clear as the day - light.
nuit com - me le jour est lu - miè - re.

Like other chants from the Taizé Community in France, this paraphrase of Psalm 139:12 is meant for repeated singing. It is most effective at evening services and works well with other Taizé chants such as "Within Our Darkest Night" (no. 294) and "The Lord Is My Light" (no. 842).

TEXT: Taizé Community, 1991

MUSIC: Jacques Berthier, 1991

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LA TÉNÈBRE
Irregular