

College Avenue Presbyterian Church
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**GOD WILL
 PROVIDE
 THE LAMB**



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 24, 2017

GATHERING SONG "All Creatures Of Our God And King" - insert

CALL TO WORSHIP

SONG OF PRAISE "Make Me A Channel Of Your Peace" - insert

TIME OF CONFESSION

Silent Prayer followed by Prayer of Forgiveness and Assurance of Pardon

SONG OF RESPONSE "Don't be Afraid" - 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 after today's service

GIVING OF OUR TITHES & OFFERINGS TO EMPOWER THE WORK OF GOD IN THE CHURCH

OFFERTORY SONG "Amen Chorus"

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

READING OF SCRIPTURE

Genesis 21:1-3; 22:1-14

insert

SERMON

"Provision, Promise and Life : Even Today"

- Rev. Monte McClain

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

You are invited to come forward with your pet for a blessing. Dogs should be on a leash. Please form a line along the pathway as you approach, and then return to your seat via the far side along the fence.

SONGS OF RESPONSE

"God Of The Sparrow"

insert

"All God's Critters Have A Place In The Choir"

insert

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MOMENT FOR DEACONS

Diana Geary

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 CHRIST

"La Pace de Dio"

(Italian)

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 21:1-3; 22:1-14

It's often that we find ourselves with no good options in life. A paradoxical truth to learn as we age, it makes faith in a Loving God, who can remain ambiguous in hardship, tough. When we feel damned if we do, damned if we don't we envision God as either unloving, uninvolved or impotent to help. Today's scripture, one of the most foundational – and most difficult – of the Bible challenges that vision of God.



We jump from the creation story (last week in Genesis 1) to a story well within the life of Abram and Sarai. They have left everything: their land, home, culture and people to set out for the new place that God promised them. They have heard the promise of life – of the gift of children when they remain infertile and barren in their old age, and had their names changed to Abraham and Sarah (Genesis 11 & 12). They, who were dead, are now alive, with the birth of their son Isaac (whose name ironically means “laughter”). He, not Abram’s step-son Ishmael, is the promised way forward, the potential for life, for Abram [meaning “father”] to truly be Abraham [meaning “father of many”] as God promised when comparing his future descendants to the number of stars in the sky. This foundational family has discovered that the God in whom they trust is not one who makes bad people good, as much as a God who makes the dead alive.

Here Abraham is commanded by God to take Isaac and offer him in sacrifice. Abe has no good option, no way out. For either he obeys God and then sacrifices his own child (his future and life). Or he disobeys God and preserves Isaac. While the story is barbaric to our ears, it probably also was to Abraham’s, even if other neighboring cultures in the ancient world practiced child sacrifice as a way to entreat, appease and win over gods. (We read in Leviticus 20:2-5 of the ancient worship of Molech).

The story has some remarkable literary points. If we read the names literally we read of Laughter and Father of Many going into the desert. We also hear one word repeated three times: “Here I Am.” The second (or middle) occurrence of which is strikingly followed by the vision that “God will provide...” Is this story a horrific amalgam of ancient worship and a God who changes his mind? Or could it be that the point of the story is that God is the God of Life, of Promise, of Potential, who provides a way when there is no way, who provides life when there is none?

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 choose or act when you have no good options?
- How have you experienced God as the God of Potential?
- How do you need to know God as the God of Promise & Life?

ANNOUNCEMENTS & COMMUNITY NEWS

September Birthdays

27 Linda Trowbridge 28 Lisa Ko

UPCOMING EVENTS

Youth Group: for Middle and High School Students – Weekly Sunday night from 7:00-8:30pm.

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

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

Next Week in Worship : Communion as we celebrate World Communion Sunday; & collecting food and donations for the Deacons.

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

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.

Session Meeting | Thursday Night, 9/28 7:30pm

Theology on Tap Tuesday, October 3rd 7:30pm at the Golden Squirrel Pub. BYO open, safe discussion around a theological question

The Church Retreat see photos of the weekend fun on our Facebook page or our church website at www.capcoakland.org select PHOTOS.

Thank You to Today's Leadership:

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)
Musicians: Dave Eagle, Kevin Goldberg, Pete Feltman

Leadership for next week, 10/1/17:

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.**

Leader: The animals of God's creation
inhabit the skies, the earth, and the sea.

**People: They share in the fortunes of human existence
and have a part in human life.**

Leader: God, who confers gifts on all living things,
has often used the service of animals
or made them reminders of the gifts of salvation.

**People: Animals were saved from the flood and afterwards
made a part of the covenant with Noah. (GENESIS 9:9-10)**

Leader: The paschal lamb recalls the Passover sacrifice and the
deliverance from slavery in Egypt. (EXODUS 12:3-14)

People: A giant fish saved Jonah; (JONAH 2:1-10)

Leader: ravens brought bread to Elijah; (1 KINGS 17:6)

**People: animals were included in the repentance of
Nineveh; (JONAH 3:7)
and animals share in Christ's redemption of all God's
creation.**

Leader: We, therefore, invoke God's blessing on these animals.

**People: As we do so, let us praise the Creator
and thank God for setting us as stewards
over all the creatures of the earth.**

LYRICS TO THIS MORNING'S SONGS:

"All Creatures Of Our God And King"

St. Francis of Assisi; 13th century

1. All creatures of our God and king,
Lift up your voice and with us sing
Alleluia, Alleluia
O Brother sun with golden beam,
O sister moon with silver gleam
Sing praises Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

2. O brother wind with clouds and rain
you nurture gifts of fruit and grain
Alleluia, Alleluia
O sister water, flowing clear,
make music for your Lord to hear
Sing praises Alleluia Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

3. O brother fire, so warm and bright
chase off the shadows of the night
Alleluia, Alleluia
Dear mother earth who
day by day unfolds such blessings on our our way
Sing praises Alleluia , Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia



4. All who for love of God forgive,
all who in pain or sorrow grieve
Alleluia, Alleluia
Christ bears your burdens and your fears,
so even in the midst of tears
Sing praises, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

"Make Me A Channel Of Your Peace"

St. Francis of Assisi; 13th century

1. Make me a channel of your peace
Where there is hatred let me bring your love
Where there is injury your pardon Lord
And where there's doubt true faith in you

Refrain

Oh master grant that I may never seek
So much to be consoled as to console
To be understood as to understand
To be loved as to love with all my soul

2. Make me a channel of your peace
Where there's despair in life let me bring hope
Where there is darkness only light
And where there's sadness ever joy

3. Make me channel of your peace
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned
In giving our ourselves that we receive
And in dying that we're born to eternal life

"Don't be Afraid"

John Bell; The Iona Community

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

"God of the Sparrow, God of the Whale"

Jaroslav J. Vajda 1983

1. God of the sparrow
God of the whale
God of the swirling stars
How does the creature say Awe
How does the creature say Praise



2. God of the earthquake
God of the storm
God of the trumpet blast
How does the creature cry Woe
How does the creature cry Save

Continued on next page...

3. God of the rainbow
God of the cross
God of the empty grave
How does the creature say Grace
How does the creature say Thanks

4. God of the hungry
God of the sick
God of the prodigal
How does the creature say Care
How does the creature say Life

5. God of the neighbor
God of the foe
God of the pruning hook
How does the creature say Love
How does the creature say Peace

6. God of the ages,
God near at hand
God of the loving heart
How do your children say Joy
How do your children say Home



"All God's Critters"

words & music by Bill Staines

1 All God's critters got a place in the choir
Some sing low and some sing higher,
Some sing out loud on a telephone wire,
Some just clap their hands, or paws,
or anything they've got now

2 Listen to the top where the little bird sings
On the melodies and the high notes ringing,
And the hoot owl cries over everything
And the mockingbird disagrees.

3 Singing in the night time, singing in the day,
When little duck quacks, and he's on his way.
And the otter aint got much to say
And the porcupine talks to himself

4 The dogs and the cats they take up the middle
While the honeybee hums and the cricket fiddles,
The donkey brays and the pony neighs
And the old gray badger sighs...

5 Listen to the bass, it's the one on the bottom
Where the bullfrog croaks and the hippopotamus
Moans and groans with a big t'do
And the old cow just goes moo.

6 It's a simple song a little song everywhere
By the ox and the fox and the grizzly bear,
The dopey alligator and the hawk above,
The sly old weasel and the turtle dove.



Genesis 21:1-3; 22:1-14

New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

21 ¹The Lord dealt with Sarah ["PRINCESS"] as he had said, and the Lord did for Sarah as he had promised. ² Sarah conceived and bore Abraham ["FATHER OF MANY"] a son in his old age, at the time of which God had spoken to him. ³ Abraham gave the name Isaac to his son whom Sarah bore him.

22 ¹After these things God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." ² He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains that I shall show you." ³ So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac ["LAUGHTER"]; he cut the wood for the burnt offering, and set out and went to the place in the distance that God had shown him. ⁴ On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place far away. ⁵ Then Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; the boy and I will go over there; we will worship, and then we will come back to you." ⁶ Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. So the two of them walked on together. ⁷ Isaac said to his father Abraham, "Father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." He said, "The fire and the wood are here, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" ⁸ Abraham said, "God himself will provide the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." So the two of them walked on together.

⁹ When they came to the place that God had shown him, Abraham built an altar there and laid the wood in order. He bound his son Isaac, and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. ¹⁰ Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to kill his son. ¹¹ But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven, and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." ¹² He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me." ¹³ And Abraham looked up and saw a ram, caught in a thicket by its horns. Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. ¹⁴ So Abraham called that place "The Lord will provide" ["JEHOVAH-JIREH"]; as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the Lord it shall be provided."