

College Avenue Presbyterian Church
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OUTDOOR WORSHIP

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS



September 29, 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

"All Creatures of Our God and King"

- Insert

CALL TO WORSHIP

SONG OF PRAISE

"This Is My Father's World"

- Insert

Children from 2 years to 6th grade are invited to gather at the front of the sanctuary and depart for our Godly Play time. You can collect your child(ren) after the service upstairs.

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

READING OF SCRIPTURE

Exodus 40:34-38; John 1:6-18

- Insert

SERMON

"We're all in this Together"

- Monte McClain

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

- Deacon Marda Stothers

We use the following liturgical call and response spoken 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

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 Got A Place In The Choir"

- Insert

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

OFFERTORY SONG

"In The Garden"

- Insert

THE LIFE OF OUR CHURCH

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

"La pace di 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 Around Exile Exodus 40:34-38; John 1:6-18



Where is God? It's a question we ask today in the face of natural disasters, human-made massacres, cancer and other life-altering diseases, climate change and the chaos of daily life. It's a question not just asked by skeptics but also by believers. We might wonder where God is in the midst of the massive change going around us, where our seemingly Christian world and society doesn't seem to be Christian, or God doesn't seem to be showing up in our need. Is God absent?; silent?; deaf to our cries? Or are we not listening?

Our texts today talk of the tabernacle, the tent of Meeting or Dwelling. It was the place of worship of the ancient Israelites. As they were delivered by God's mighty hand from slavery in Egypt they were led in the desert by a pillar of fire and cloud to guide them day and night through the wilderness towards the promised land. In Exodus 40 this divine presence (the *Shekhinah*) moves in and resides among the people in the Tent of Meeting, commonly called the Tabernacle. The name Tabernacle, or dwelling place (מִשְׁכָּן *Mishkan*) comes from the Hebrew verb for to settle down, abide, or dwell (שָׁכַן *shakan*). The tent in the middle of the camp is where God chooses to dwell – in the middle of the people, in their neighborhood, in the center of their lives and living.

As they enter the Promised Land and later build the Temple in the city of Jerusalem that pillar presence, the glory of God moves and dwells among the people in the holy of holies of the Temple. But the divided Kingdom of Israel and the Temple are later destroyed and exiled by the Assyrian Empire (722 BCE) and Babylonian Empire (587 BCE). The prophet Ezekiel shares a vision of the *Shekhinah* of God departing the Temple at the moment that they are defeated by their enemies. Did God abandon them?

Curiously the priests, prophets and scholars come to see that the *Shekhinah* didn't abandon the people, but rather went with them in their exile as a homeless presence residing directly among the people. John 1 speaks of Jesus as the word made flesh, who lived among us, or moved into our neighborhood. John uses the word tabernacle, literally saying that word made flesh tabernacled among us. Jesus is no longer physically among us, so what does that mean in terms of God's presence – or *Shekhinah* – among us, in our problems and chaos, and in our world?

QUESTIONS FOR THE PRACTICE OF EXAMEN & CONTEMPLATION

- What word, phrase or image grabs your attention?
- When have you most felt God's presence? Least felt it?
- How do you understand God as present in today's world?

ANNOUNCEMENTS & COMMUNITY NEWS

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

5 Emma Fleming 7 Cameron Beatty

COMMUNITY LIFE CALENDAR

Worship Today: This is our annual outdoor worship at which we celebrate the Blessing of the Animals – a tradition rooted in the 12th century life of Francis of Assisi who articulated the beauty of the natural world and how we – it – and God are all connected. *Can you help us bring in the chairs after worship?*

Youth Group for Middle-High School Students Sundays 1:00-3:00pm. Today we're heading to see the movie *Ad Astra* at Grand Lake Theatre at the 1:30pm showing.

ESL Class tomorrow & Mondays 7-9pm. Help us 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.* This Friday (10/2) the meal is being prepared and served by a group from Aurora School 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: World Communion Sunday As we celebrate communion next week we'll be doing so with Christians all over the world, as the ecumenical movement has encouraged all churches to celebrate communion the first Sunday in October.

Thank you to Today's Leadership

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

Leadership for next week, 10/4/19:

Counting: Marge Harvey, Marda Stothers
Deacon Liturgist: Fredora Darmstadt
Fellowship: Joy & Al Barnes
Children remain in worship for communion

LYRICS & WRITTEN RESPONSES FOR TODAY'S CELEBRATION

"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 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

GATHERING WORDS | CALL TO WORSHIP

*An excerpt of Romans 8:1-30 (the Message Translation)
The congregation responds with **the text in BOLD PRINT***

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)

Continued next column...

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.**

"This is My Father's World"

Maltbie D. Babcock (1901)

*Increasingly we identify the paternalistic and sometimes
misogynistic language that has been within our tradition.
God is beyond gender. We call God Father because of a
prayer teaching offered by Jesus in the gospels. His point was
that God is like a loving parent, always wanting good for the
children of God. In this way you can call God Father or
Mother...it's up to you.*

1. This is my Father's/Mother's world,
And to my listening ears
All nature sings, and round me rings
The music of the spheres.
This is my Father's world:
I rest me in the thought
Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas;
His hand the wonders wrought.

2. This is my Father's world.
Oh, let me ne'er forget
That though the wrong seems oft so strong,
God is the ruler yet.
This is my Father's world:
The battle is not done:
Jesus who died shall be satisfied,
And earth and heaven be one.

"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

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

continued next column...

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 ain't 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.

"I come to the garden alone" (In the Garden)

Author: C. Austin Miles (1913)

1. I come to the garden alone,
While the dew is still on the roses;
And the voice I hear, falling on my ear,
The Son of God discloses.

Refrain:

And He walks with me, and He talks with me,
And He tells me I am His own,
And the joy we share as we tarry there,
None other has ever known.

2. He speaks, and the sound of His voice
Is so sweet the birds hush their singing;
And the melody that He gave to me
Within my heart is ringing.

3. I'd stay in the garden with Him
Tho' the night around me be falling;
But He bids me go; thro' the voice of woe,
His voice to me is calling.