College Avenue Presbyterian Church 5951 College Avenue | Oakland | 94618 www.capcoakland.org | www.capcoakland.me Office: 510.658.3665 | capc.manager@gmail.com

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Sunday • August 13, 2023 at 10:30am in Person & on Zoom

Welcome to **CAPC Oakland!**

We are a reformed, multicultural. politically purple, community of followers of Jesus. Together we seek to vigorously live our faith in our words, actions, and relationships in the East Bay.

As a community we are committed to inclusivity and mutual empowerment which is why all our community gatherings are hybrid. (both in person and via Zoom).

This allows us to gather together and be consistent with our values and commitments.

In our community, face masks are not required, but always welcome. We want you do to what you need to do for you! Masks are available in the entry.

CHILDREN

We have Godly Play – "Sunday School" for children during our service. It's a Montessori-like approach to teaching children language to use to learn to express faith through the telling of Bible Stories. The Goldy Play group and leaders leave for their arranged learning space after the 2nd song.

PRAYER CARDS

To operationalize participation in our Prayers of the People we invite you to fill out a prayer card and share it with the liturgist or to share you requests in the chat on ZOOM labeling it with 'prayer.'

Want Wi-Fi during our gathering? Select our network - Capc1. Our password is 5106583666

CCL #1137062

GATHERING AROUND GOD'S WORD BOTH IN PERSON & VIA ZOOM

PRELUDE "The Great Storm is Over"

GATHERING SONG "Morning has Broken" - Insert

CALL TO WORSHIP - Sarah Evangelista

"Crowded Table" SONG OF PRAISE - Insert

Children are invited to depart for Godly Play upstairs with today's Story-Teller

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

HEARING SCRIPTURE Psalm 92 - Sarah Evangelista

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

- Rev. Monte McClain

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

SONG OF RESPONSE "Beautiful Things" - Insert

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

WE USE A CALL AND RESPONSE LITURGICALLY PRAYED AT THE CONCLUSION OF SHARING A PRAYER.

Leader: God, in your mercy. People: Hear our prayer.

OFFERING SONG "Hakuna" -Insert

THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

SENDING SONG "The Summons" - Glory to God #726

SENDING CALL AND RESPONSE

Leader: And all the time! Leader: God is good! People: All the time! People: God is good!

EXHORTATION & BENEDICTION

PASSING THE PEACE OF GOD "Amani ya Mungu" - Swahili

"Don't Let Us Get Sick" **POSTLUDE**

Reflections on Today's Readings Psalm 92

We're wrapping up our summer series in which we're wrestling with the three words we've used to describe our church mission and ethos. It's both who we are and who we aspire to become. Today we're sitting with what word(s) you would use to capture and express just that in a time of public testimony.

The word testimony comes from the ancient Greek word of $\mu\acute{\alpha}\rho\tau\upsilon\varsigma$ or martyr. The word "martyr" comes originally from the ancient Greek legal term for "witness", for someone who gives testimony or evidence in a court of law. It's come to represent those who are killed for the witness that they gave to the faith and beliefs that motivated and shaped them. Psalm 92 is a song of witness (what has been seen and heard) to be sung on the sabbath.

It begins with praise for God because of God's "steadfast love" and "faithfulness." Steadfast Love is the common translation of the single Hebrew word *khesed*. The Hebrew meaning is difficult to convey with any single English expression, and thus we see different English Bibles using a variety of translations in different contexts: steadfast love, lovingkindness, love, kindness, mercy, loyalty, favor, devotion, goodness, and still others. The range of translations gives a sense of the broad meaning of the word. God's *khesed* and faithfulness (Hebrew *emunah*) are the two primary attributes of God's covenant relationship with Israel. They're what the psalmist has seen and heard.

The second part of today's reading begins with an assertion that the righteous flourish (v. 12) like a mighty palm or cedar tree. But our own experience and our knowledge of history teach us that the righteous indeed do not always flourish, that in fact it is precisely the righteous who frequently suffer more than others. This is, of course, a common problem both in scripture and for theology more broadly. In this case, however, a solution is suggested by the psalm itself.

The depicted flourishing of the trees includes their location: "They are planted in the house of the Lord; they flourish in the courts of our God." This combination of thriving flora and temple imagery is actually quite common. We see it in the garden (Genesis 1-3) and in the Temple (Revelation 21-22). The flourishing of the righteous is thus rooted in the presence of God. If the flourishing of the righteous happens in the house of God, then we are not there yet. In the Mishnah, (Tamid 7:4) the psalm is described as "a song for the world that is to come, for the day which is wholly Sabbath rest for eternity. Proclaiming this psalm, then, is an act of faith.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION & EXAMEN:

- What engaged, enraged, or surprised you in these texts?
- What invitation do you hear the Spirit of God speaking to you – or to us, as a church – to act, speak, be, or change, through this word of scripture? What invitation do you hear the Spirit of God speaking to you – or to us – through this word of scripture?

August Birthdays

12 Sharon Nelson 22 Patrice Trowbridge

12 David Kittams 25 Margaret Smith

August Anniversaries

10 Thom and Tina Faulkner 2002 30 Monte and Kristy Parsons McClain 1997

Today at & around CAPC Oakland

Post Service Garden Party! Join us for light snacks and the chance to connect after our service.

Letters of Love: *Everyone loves getting mail!* Pick up an addressed envelope in the back and write a note of encouragement and love to someone who could use a good word. Recipients and their situations are explained on the magnetic board.

This week at & around CAPC Oakland

TODAY ~ Sign the welcome card for our new neighbors of the JCC East Bay.

Quilters Club (a new small group!) Mondays 10a-12p, in the library. No experience required.

community Bible Study – Tuesday 7:00-8:00PM on Zoom. We're wrestling together with the book of 1 Samuel. This week we're reading 1 Samuel 9:1-11:15 Resources & info online at www.capcoakland.org/wrestling-with-scripture

Friday Night Meal – Fridays 6:00-7:00PM. Sign up online to help with set-up, serving, and cleanup – this -or *any* Friday! This coming Friday our partners of Montclair Presbyterian are cooking!

Women's Group: Saturday 9:30-10:30am on Zoom.

Thinking Theologically –Process Theology is one of the newer ways of thinking about Christian faith. Meeting this Wednesday, 8/16 @ 7pm at the church. (More info & the reading are on our Thinking Theologically web page with this QR Code.)

Staff Vacation News Pete Feltman will be on vacation Sundays, August 6th and 13th. Mahri Holt is on vacation this weekend.

Local Mission Action – We're partnering with the Golden Squirrel to collected needed school supplies for our neighboring Claremont Middle School. Info in the entryway and online at capcoakland.me

Thank You to Today's Leadership:

Godly Play: Beth Beatty

Liturgists: Sarah Evangelista,

Music: Karl Shadley & Kristy Parsons McClain, Ben

Bencomo

Video Tech: Dann Wilkens, Thom Faulkner, Albert Hussian

Lyrics & Responses for Today's Celebration

We affirm that God is neither male nor female – but wholly and holy other. In doing so, we seek to empower each person to participate fully in worship, able to identify with the lyrics of songs and the words of our communal prayers through our use of gender inclusive language

"Morning has Broken"

Author: Eleanor Farjeon (1931) The Blue Presbyterian Hymnal #469

1 Morning has broken like the first morning, blackbird has spoken like the first bird. Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning! Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!

2 Sweet the rain's new fall sunlit from heaven, like the first dewfall on the first grass. Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden, sprung in completeness where God's feet pass.

3 Mine is the sunlight!
Mine is the morning
born of the one light
Eden saw play!
Praise with elation,
praise every morning,
God's recreation
of the new day!

Call to Worship Opening litany

~ Psalm 34, 1-8 (The Message Translation) in The New Manual of Worship by Nancy E. Hall. **The people read the bold text**

One: I bless God every chance I get; my lungs expand with praise of the Lord.

ALL: I live and breathe God; if things aren't going well, hear this and be happy:

One: Join me in spreading the news; together let's get the word out.

ALL: God met me more than halfway, he freed me from my anxious fears.

One: Look at the Holy One; offer your warmest smile. Never hide your feelings from God.

ALL: When I was desperate, I called out, and God got me out of a tight spot.

One: God's angel set up a circle of protection around us while we pray.

ALL: Open your mouth and taste, open your eyes and see— how good the Eternal One is.

Crowded Table"

Author: Thomas Andrew Dorsey (1938) Glory to God #834 | The Presbyterian Hymnal #404 © 1938, ren. Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp.

[Verse 1]

You can hold my hand
When you need to let go
I can be your mountain
When you're feeling valley-low
I can be your streetlight
Showing you the way home
You can hold my hand
When you need to let go

[Chorus]

I want a house with a crowded table
And a place by the fire for everyone
Let us take on the world while we're young and able
And bring us back together when the day is done

[Verse 2]

If we want a garden
We're gonna have to sow the seed
Plant a little happiness
Let the roots run deep
If it's love that we give
Then it's love that we reap
If we want a garden
We're gonna have to sow the seed

[Chorus]

[Bridge]
The door is always open
Your picture's on my wall
Everyone's a little broken

And everyone belongs Yeah, everyone belongs

[Chorus]

I want a house with a crowded table
And a place by the fire for everyone
Let us take on the world while we're young and able
And bring us back together when the day is done
And bring us back together when the day is done

"Beautiful Things"

Songwriters: Lisa Gungor / Michael Gungor

Verse 1
All this pain
I wonder if I'll ever find my way
I wonder if my life could really change
At all

Verse 2.

All this earth Could all that is lost ever be found Could a garden come up from this ground At all

Chorus 1

You make beautiful things You make beautiful things out of the dust You make beautiful things You make beautiful things out of us

Verse 3
All around
Hope is springing up from this old ground
Out of chaos life is being found
In You

Misc 1

(Bridge)

You make me new You are making me new You make me new You are making me new (REPEAT)

"Hakuna"

In Swahili

Hakuna Mungu kama wewe Hakuna Mungu kama wee Hakuna Mungu kama wewe Hakuna Mungu kama wewe

Translation There is no God like you. There is none.

"The Summons"

Author: John L. Bell © 1987, Iona Community, GIA Publications, Inc. Glory to God #726

- 1. Will you come and follow me If I but call your name? Will you go where you don't know And never be the same? Will you let my love be shown, Will you let my name be known, Will you let my life be grown In you and you in me?
- 2. Will you leave yourself behind If I but call your name? Will you care for cruel and kind And never be the same? Will you risk the hostile stare Should your life attract or scare? Will you let me answer prayer In you and you in me?
- 3. Will you let the blinded see If I but call your name? Will you set the prisoners free And never be the same? Will you kiss the leper clean, And do such as this unseen, And admit to what I mean In you and you in me?
- 4. Will you love the 'you' you hide
 If I but call your name?
 Will you quell the fear inside
 And never be the same?
 Will you use the faith you've found
 To reshape the world around,
 Through my sight and touch and sound
 In you and you in me?
- 5. Lord, your summons echoes true When you but call my name.
 Let me turn and follow you And never be the same.
 In your company I'll go Where your love and footsteps show. Thus I'll move and live and grow In you and you in me.