

College Avenue Presbyterian Church
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July 8, 2018

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 HYMN

"Let All Things Now Living"

- Blue Hymnal #554

CALL TO WORSHIP

SONG OF PRAISE

"Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"

- Blue Hymnal #263

ACT OF CONFESSION. *OPENING OURSELVES TO BEING UNDONE, THAT WE MIGHT BE REDONE*

SUNG PRAYER OF REPENTANCE

"Spirit of the Living God"

- Blue Hymnal #322

DECLARATION OF GRACE. *THE IN-BREAKING OF GOD'S GRACE DISRUPTS OUR HUMAN CONDITION OF SIN*

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 today's liturgist after today's service

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

OFFERTORY SONG

"Goodness Is Stronger than Evil"

- Insert

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

READING OF SCRIPTURE

Romans 8:18-39

-
Pew Bible p. 1096

TESTIMONY SERMON

"Telling It Like It Is"

- Richard Harvey & Monte McClain

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

SONG OF RESPONSE

"Thine is the Glory"

- Blue Hymnal #122

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SENDING CALL AND RESPONSE

Leader: God is good!

Leader: And all the time!

People: All the time!

People: God is good!

EXHORTATION & BEDICTION

PASSING THE PEACE OF GOD

"Ping An"

- Chinese, Mandarin

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.

NOTHING

NOTHING CAN SEPARATE US FROM THE LOVE OF GOD. ROMANS 8:35

The pastoral letter we call Romans is the chef d'oeuvre of the work of the apostle Paul. This note to the church in ancient Rome is a soaring piece of literature and hymnic poetry that deals with the deepest theological and ethical questions that we still face ourselves today. They include: How do we come to faith in Christ? Does it matter what religious, or non-religious, background from which we start that journey? How is it that the life and death of Jesus changes, shapes and redeems my life?; our life?; our world? How can this belief in the good news of Jesus as good news for the whole world be true when bad things happen to both good and bad people?

Romans 8 is one of the climactic moments in the rhetorical argument of Paul in why we should embrace, endure and hope in the love of God made visible in the life of Christ Jesus. At the onset of the letter Paul articulates succinctly his conviction:

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel; it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who has faith, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed through faith for faith; as it is written, 'The one who is righteous will live by faith.'" – Romans 1:16-17

Here, Paul concludes that idea, rooted in a hope in and for the future. The word "hope" (or "eager longing" in the NRSV translation) in 8:19 is more than a positive thought. The Greek word comes from the idea of straining one's neck forward to see what is coming next.

Paul writes about faith as a long race, endurance as the food we must turn towards, communal encouragement as the well we must drink from, and a radical-bigger-than-you-could-ever-imagine love of God in which we must root our trust and belief. Hardship, horror and loss are part of life from which we do not escape in faith. And our ultimate destination, the purpose of all that God has done, is doing, and will do – is our redemption. Not an individual redemption but one that connects me to you and you to me, and all of us both to each other and to all of creation. The English word "redemption" means 'repurchase' or 'buy back'. But Paul is talking about a state of being that is deeply intertwined with notions of freedom, actualization, harmony, vibrant peace, and God's universal will. We can hope for it because the Spirit of God moves within our prayers, giving us a glimpse, or foretaste, of this incontrovertible purpose of God that nothing – not even the evils faced by Christ – can impede.

Questions for the practice of Examen & Contemplation

- How are you straining for hope, to glimpse God's purpose?
- How have you glimpsed the purpose of God in your life?

ANNOUNCEMENTS & COMMUNITY NEWS

JULY BIRTHDAYS

7 James Dillard	11 Dave Eagle
13 Alana D'Attilio	15 Chris Olson
17 Rachel Brylawski	21 Chickwendu Okereke
22 Kaya Ramirez Blake 1998	24 Maya Patil 2002
27 John Fonua	John LaMotte
31 Lisa Wu	

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

STAFF NEWS | Pete is taking vacation time in early July. He'll be absent from worship on July 8th and 15th. We're grateful for Jennifer Huang accompanying worship today on the piano!

Choir Practice: Choir is on break until mid-July

Teaching ESL Classes, tomorrow, Monday, July 9th, 7-9pm at Primera Iglesia 1940 High St 94601.

Celtic Prayer Group | Wed 7:00pm

The Vocabulary of Faith | We're doing a 7 week class on Reclaiming Jesus. Join at anytime. More info at www.capcoakland.org/the-vocabulary-of-faith

Friday Night Meal | Fridays 6-7pm Our next meal is 7/28 Served by the group from First Covenant Church

TEAM CHICK | If you'd like to be involved with helping Chick and his family while he prepares for a future heart transplant which include visits, helping with practical needs (meals, sitting with him) talk to Janet Majors to learn more or get involved.

Coffee & Conversation | Tuesday, July 10th 10-11a | BYO conversation around a faith or ethical question on the patio facing Safeway at College @ Claremont Aves.

Ukelele Classes | Sundays after worship | Talk to Karl Shadley if you're interested!

Letter Ministry | Encourage another with a hand-written note. Find a list and pre-addressed, stamped envelopes ready to go on the back wall!

All Church Retreat – with First Pres Alameda! | September 7-9, 2018 | We combined two sister church communities to create an even more vibrant church retreat experience. CAPC Oakland + First Presbyterian of Alameda = way more fun! Register on paper or online @ www.capcoakland.org/church-retreat.

Thank You to Our Leadership This Morning:

Testimony: Richard Harvey
Fellowship: Beth & Bill Beatty
Godly Play: Cameron Beatty | ST; Maya Patil | DK
Music: Jennifer Huang

Leadership for next week, 7/15/18:

Testimony: Gary Yee
Fellowship: Richard & Marge Harvey
Godly Play: Ellen Brylawski [ST] ; Fredora Demetriadou [DK]

LYRICS & WRITTEN RESPONSES FOR TODAY'S WORSHIP

"Let all things now living"

Author: Katherine Davis (1939)

Blue Hymnal #554

1. Let all things now living
A song of thanksgiving
To God our Creator triumphantly raise;
Who fashioned and made us,
Protected and stayed us,
By guiding 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:
Till shadows have vanished,
All fearfulness banished,
As forward we travel from light into Light.
2. By law God enforces.
The stars in their courses,
The sun in its orbit obediently shine;
The hills and the mountains,
The rivers and fountains,
The depths 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.

GATHERING WORDS | CALL TO WORSHIP

*Based on Romans 8:26-27, The Message. Taken from
<https://re-worship.blogspot.com/>*

*The congregation responds with **the text in BOLD PRINT***

We've gathered together in the presence of God
to offer our praise and our prayers.

**We come before God with confidence,
knowing that even when we can't find the words,**

God's own Spirit is right here with us,

praying in us and for us,

giving shape to our wordless hopes and longings,

and pleading for us before the throne of grace.

So let's come with joy to offer our worship

to God who knows and loves us all.

"Immortal, Invisible, God only wise"

Author: Walter C. Smith (1867)

Blue Hymnal #263

1. Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
Most blessèd, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
Almighty, victorious, Thy great name we praise.
2. Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
Nor wanting, nor wasting, Thou rulest in might;
Thy justice, like mountains, high soaring above
Thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and
love.
3. To all, life Thou givest, to both great and small;
In all life Thou livest, the true life of all;
We blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,
And wither and perish; but naught changeth Thee.
4. Thou reignest in glory, Thou rulest in light,
Thine angels adore Thee, all veiling their sight;
All praise we would render; O help us to see
'Tis only the splendor of light hideth Thee!

"Spirit of the Living God, Fall Afresh on Me"

Daniel Iverson (1926) | Blue Hymnal #322

Spirit of the living God,
Fall afresh on me;
Spirit of the living God,
Fall afresh on me.
Melt me, mold me,
Fill me, use me.
Spirit of the living God,
Fall afresh on me.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

*Adapted by Monte from a prayer from
2cherish2commend.com*

*The congregation responds with **the text in BOLD PRINT***

**Holy and Sovereign Creator,
your word has gone out into all the universe,
declaring us completely forgiven,
totally accepted and forever loved by you!"
Yet when we often find ourselves
in a cauldron of adversity and difficulty.
All too easily we succumb to despair
our minds seduced into believing the tempting lie
that you really don't care about us;
that we are unworthy of such radical love.**

**Forgive us for the ways that
we doubt your goodness and provision.
We ask your forgiveness and restoration
for not living in the security of your love.**

**The cross of Christ was raised
to demonstrate how deeply you love us.
We too easily overlook it.
All too often our listening to other voices
has resulted in our spiritual undoing.
They whisper the deceiving myth of scarcity in a
world of abundance that you have given.
They elaborate an argument
of how unworthy we are of your love.
They entice us to fear of other people,
who may take the love you have for us,
that others have for us.
They tempt us to horde the gifts and grace you
have given us, as if they were stamped with an
expiration date.
They appeal to the easy doubt
which germinates in hardship and pain;
and deceives us into believing
that you are angry at us and will destroy us.
They deafen us by screaming our all-too-frequent
past and present failures in loving you, and loving
others as you first love us.
But in the midst of these confusing voices,
the Spirit of Your Son cries in our hearts:
"We are more than conquerors
through Jesus who loves us."
Give us grace, renew faith within us this day
that we might hear and respond anew
to your life-giving voice today.
AMEN.**

"Goodness is Stronger than Evil"

Author: Desmond Tutu & John Bell

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Goodness is stronger than evil;
love is stronger than hate;
light is stronger than darkness.
life is stronger than death.

Victory is ours, victory is ours
through him who loved us.
Victory is ours, victory is ours
through him who loved us.

"Thine is the Glory"

Translator: Richard Birch Hoyle;

Author: Edmond Budry (1904)

Tune: JUDAS MACCABEUS | Blue Hymnal #

1. Thine is the glory,
Risen, conquering Son;
Endless is the victory
Thou o'er death hast won.
Angels in bright raiment
Rolled the stone away,
Kept the folded grave clothes
Where Thy body lay.

Refrain:

Thine is the glory,
Risen, conquering Son;
Endless is the victory
Thou o'er death hast won.

2. Lo! Jesus meets us,
Risen from the tomb;
Lovingly He greets us,
Scatters fear and gloom.
Let the church with gladness,
Hymns of triumph sing,
For the Lord now liveth;
Death hath lost its sting.
3. No more we doubt Thee,
glorious Prince of life!
Life is naught without Thee;
Aid us in our strife.
Make us more than conquerors
Through Thy deathless love;
Bring us safe through Jordan
To Thy home above.

Goodness Is Stronger than Evil 750

Good-ness is stron-ger than e - vil; love is stron-ger than hate;

light is stron-ger than dark - ness; life is stron-ger than death.

Vic - tory is ours; vic - tory is ours
Oh, vic - tory is ours; vic - tory is

through God who loves us. us.
ours through God who loves us. us.

Recognizing that this text arose from the years of apartheid in South Africa adds depth and resonance to its already confident language. Yet these words can also be read as a summary of Christ's death and resurrection, the true basis of our hope that good will triumph over evil.

TEXT: Desmond Tutu, c. 1994

MUSIC: John L. Bell, 1996

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GOODNESS IS STRONGER

8.6.7.6.4.4.5