

College Avenue Presbyterian Church
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Identity vs. Interest



Pentecost Sunday • May 19, 2024 at 10:30am
 in Person & on Zoom

Welcome to CAPC Oakland!

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

In our community, face masks are not required, but always welcome. Masks are available in the entry.

As a community we are committed to being safe, open and real. We'd love to know you better. Use this QR Code to share your contact info or questions with our staff so we



can follow up. We will not sell, share or abuse your personal info.

CHILDREN

We are moving towards restarting 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. Until then we have quiet toys, and activity sheets around today’s scripture in the play area up front.

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.’

WI-FI

Want Wi-Fi during our gathering? Select our network – Capc-net. Our password is 5951CAPC

CCL #1137062

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

- PRELUDE “As The Windsong”
- WORDS OF WELCOME - Sharon Nelson
- GATHERING SONG “Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness” - Blue Hymnal #319
- CALL TO WORSHIP
- SONG OF PRAISE “Every Time I Feel The Spirit” - Blue Hymnal #315
- LISTENING FOR GOD’S WORD
- HEARING SCRIPTURE John 15:9-17 & Mark 1:40-45
- PROCLAIMING GOD’S WORD - Rev. Monte McClain
 “Following the Way of Jesus is about Identity not Interests”
- RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD
- SONG OF RESPONSE “We Cannot Measure How You Heal” - Insert
- PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD’S PRAYER - John LaMotte
 WE USE A CALL AND RESPONSE LITURGICALLY PRAYED AT THE CONCLUSION OF SHARING A PRAYER.
 Leader: God, in your mercy.
 People: Hear our prayer.
- COLLECTION OF OUR OFFERINGS AND GIFTS
- OFFERING SONG “Jesus I Am Resting, Resting” - Insert
- THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH
- SENDING SONG “In Christ There Is No East Or West” - Blue Hymnal #339
- 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 “Salam almasih” | سلام المسيح - Arabic
- POSTLUDE “Fire On The Mountain”

Today's Readings
Mark 1:40-45 & John 15:9-17

So far in Mark's recounting of the Jesus story, he's been experienced as a teacher with amazing authority, a deliverer of demons, a caller of disciples. The stories preceding this one are stories of healings done by Jesus, specifically the sick mother-in-law of Peter. Once returned to health, she enters immediately into (diaconat) service of others: or ministry. Jesus' reputation grow by leaps and bounds. But rather than staying in one spot to establish some sort of institutional place of healing, Jesus commits to being on the move, traveling throughout the area. He goes to the people as opposed to expecting the people to come to him.

Our Mark passage today tells of a man with a skin disease, most likely leprosy. Leviticus 13:2-15:57 presents extensive regulations regarding leprosy which can be summarized in two principal points: 1. this disease is communicable (so touch should be avoided and is forbidden); and 2. A priest must preside over ritual cleansing, the public, and legal, declaration that the leper is now clean, cured, and able to return to normal public life. So, this man was dependent upon the religious institutions and leadership to declare him healthy, even if he already was, *before* he could re-enter society, and return home.

Curiously his asking of Jesus to heal him seems to indicate that the priest(s), who he's already seen would not, or could not, do so. The word used throughout this story for "being made clean" is καθαρίζω or katharizo meaning to cleanse, make clean, literally, ceremonially, or spiritually, according to context. It can also mean to declare clean, which was something that only a recognized priest can do. See Leviticus 13:1-8. Jesus is angry, filled with disgust and compassion when asked if he is willing to declare clean or heal this leper. Could it be irritation that the priest(s) hadn't found doing so to be in their own interest?

Our passage from John tells of Jesus' ethos. Love of others isn't a transactional practice, or a political ethos, or a moral nicety. Love is life. Love is faith. Jesus is love. This abiding in love seems absent in Mark 1. No one seems to have sought to love, reach out, show compassion, or even "see" the leper beyond his illness.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION & EXAMEN:

- What engaged, enraged, or surprised you in this text?
- Do you think Jesus responds with anger or compassion in the story? Could it be both? How so?
- Who in our society, and your life, today goes un-helped, being unseen, or unloved like this unnamed leper?
- 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?

May Birthdays

15 Richard Harvey 18 Marge Harvey
28 Ziggy Amadea Aho 2001 28 Noah Laroia-Nguyen
31 Avery Haynes 2008

Today at & around CAPC Oakland

Post Service Sanctuary 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

Community Bible Study Sunday Edition

(Sundays 9:30-10:20am). Discussing the text used in our gathering each Sunday.

Quilters Club Mondays 10a-12p, in the library.

No Community Bible Study Wednesday Edition

This week – come to the Antisemitism Workshop!

Friday Night Meal – Fridays 6-7:00pm.

Sign up online (with this QR Code) to help with set-up, serving, & clean-up!



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

Book Club – We're discussing *Man's Search for Meaning* by Viktor Frankl. Bring a light snack to share. We are moving this date back to late June because of various vacation schedules!

Antisemitism Workshop with Rabbi Julie Saxe-Taller. Wednesdays May 22nd and June 5th

6-8pm. We're doing a 2 session workshop on the understanding and meaning of Antisemitism.

A helpful exercise in this current time.

We encourage you to come to both sessions.

RSVP with this QR Code.



Session Meeting – Thursday 5/23 @ 7^{pm} on Zoom

Godly Play – Sunday School – Monte is looking to restart this program for our children. Are you interested? Let him know.

Coffee Hour – Garden Party – To make organization easier we're placing a hard stop on our weekly garden party time at 12:30pm.

Thank You to Today's Leadership:

MUSIC: Pete Feltman, Dave Eagle, Kate Rose

VIDEO TECH: Dann Wilkens, Albert Hussian

Much thanks to Sharon Nelson for presiding over today's service.

LYRICS & RESPONSES FOR TODAY'S CELEBRATION

We affirm that God is neither male nor female – but wholly and fully 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

Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness

James K. Manley (1975) | Glory to God #291

chorus

Spirit, spirit of gentleness,
blow through wilderness, calling and free
Spirit, spirit of restlessness,
stir me from placidness, wind, wind on the sea

1. You moved on the waters,
you called to the deep
Then you coaxed up the mountains
from the valleys of sleep
And over the eons
you called to each thing
Awake from your slumber
and rise on your wings
2. You swept through the desert
you stung with the sand
And you gifted your people
with a law and a land
And when they were blinded
with their idols and lies
Then you spoke through your prophets
to open their eyes
3. You sang in a stable
you cried from a hill
Then you whispered in silence
when the whole world was still
And down in the city
you called once again
when you blew thru your people
on the rush of the wind
4. You call from tomorrow
you break ancient schemes
From the bondage of sorrow
the captives dream dreams
Our women see visions our men
clear their eyes
With bold new decisions your people arise

Call to Worship Opening Litany

From Ministry Matters.com. at <https://tinyurl.com/4bxzcdw4>

One: Come, Holy Spirit of God!
Bring your mighty power into our lives.

**Many: Rush through our spirits,
inspiring us to witness to the great love of God.**

One: Come, Holy Spirit of God!
Burn light bright flames in our hearts.

**Many: Emblazon us with the confident spirit
of faith that our lives will show your love.**

One: Come, Holy Spirit of God!
Be with us today in our thoughts and our prayers.

**Many: Come, Holy Spirit of God!
Be with us in our words and our deeds.
Amen.**

Every Time I Feel The Spirit

*Edward Perronet (1780)
Blue Hymnal #142, 143*

chorus

Every time I feel the spirit
moving in my heart I will pray.
Yes every time I feel the spirit
moving in my heart I will pray.

1. Upon the mountain when my Lord spoke.
Out of God's mouth came fire and smoke.
Looked all around me; it looked so fine
'til I asked my Lord if all was mine.

2. Jordan river is chilly and cold.
It chills the body but not the soul
There is but one train upon this track.
It runs to heaven and then right back

3. Down in the valley rings my Lord's voice.
It gives me freedom, and all my choice
I breathe so deeply, and breathe so well.
I know my Lord has triumphed o'er hell

4. 4. Out in the desert amidst the sand;
it's only my God that helps me stand
No trial too big to hinder my strife;
I will push onward, all through my life



We Cannot Measure How You Heal

Author: John L. Bell

The Irish Presbyterian Hymnbook #367

© 1989, WGRG the Iona Community (Scotland)

1 We cannot measure how You heal
or answer every sufferer's prayer,
yet we believe your grace responds
where faith and doubt unite to care.
Your hands, though bloodied on the cross,
survive to hold and heal and warn,
to carry all through death to life
and cradle children yet unborn.

2 The pain that will not go away,
the guilt that clings from things long past,
the fear of what the future holds,
are present as if meant to last.
But present too is love which tends
the hurt we never hoped to find,
the private agonies inside,
the memories that haunt the mind.

3 So some have come who need Your help
and some have come to make amends,
as hands which shaped and saved the world
are present in the touch of friends.
Lord, let Your Spirit meet us here
to mend the body, mind and soul,
to disentangle peace from pain
and make Your broken people whole.

Jesus I Am Resting, Resting

Jean Sophia Pigott (1876)

The Celebration Hymnal #741

1. Jesus, I am resting, resting
in the joy of what thou art;
I am finding out the greatness
of thy loving heart.
Thou hast bid me gaze upon thee,
as thy beauty fills my soul,
for by thy transforming power,
thou hast made me whole.

2 Simply trusting thee, Lord Jesus,
I behold thee as thou art,
and thy love, so pure, so changeless,
satisfies my heart;
satisfies its deepest longings,
meets, supplies its every need,
And surrounds me with its blessings:
Thine is love indeed!

3 Ever lift thy face upon me
as I work and wait for thee;
resting 'neath thy smile, Lord Jesus,
earth's dark shadows flee.
Brightness of my Father's glory,
sunshine of my Father's face,
keep me ever trusting, resting,
fill me with thy grace.

In Christ There Is No East Or West

Tune: Mc Kee

Lyrics: John Oxenham via traditional spiritual

1. In Christ there is no east or west
In him no south or north
But one great fellowship of love
Throughout the whole wide earth

2. In Christ shall true hearts everywhere
Their high communion find
His service is the golden cord
Close binding humankind

3. Join hands disciples of the faith
Whatever your race may be
All children of the living God
Are surely kin to me

4. In Christ now meet both east and west
In him meet south and north
All Christly souls are one in him
Throughout the whole wide earth