

College Avenue Presbyterian Church
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PEACEMAKERS WILL BE CALLED CHILDREN OF GOD FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS OF HEAVEN
 IS THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN MEEK WILL INHERIT THE EARTH
 BLESSED ARE...
 OF MOURN COMFORTED OF RIGHTEOUSNESS ALL WILL BE
 MERCIFUL WILL BE SHOWN MERCY PURE HEART THEY WILL SEEED FILLED

MATTHEW 5:1-12

Sunday • September 10, 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 to do 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 Godly 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.’

WI-FI

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 “Jesus Our Divine Companion”

GATHERING SONG “Blest Are They” - *Glory to God #172*

CALL TO WORSHIP

SONG OF PRAISE “Blessed Are The Poor In Spirit” - *insert*
Children are invited to depart for Godly Play upstairs with today’s Story-Teller

LISTENING FOR GOD’S WORD

HEARING SCRIPTURE Matthew 5:1-12

PROCLAIMING GOD’S WORD “Boats, Synagogues, and Houses” - *Rev. Monte McClain*

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

SONG OF RESPONSE “Kingdom Come” - *Insert*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD’S PRAYER - *Chickwendu Okereke*
 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 “My Shepherd Will Supply My Need” *Blue Hymnal #172*

THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

SENDING SONG “May The God Of Hope Go With Us” - *Glory to God #764*

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 “出入平安” | “chū rù píng ān” - *Cantonese*

POSTLUDE “On The Sunny Side Of The Street”

Reflections on Today's Reading Matthew 5:1-12



The main recorded teaching of Jesus is commonly called the Sermon on the Mount.

Recorded in Matthew 5-7, it begins with today's reading.

Jesus offers a radically different vision of the world – one that is disruptive and transformative – through nine simple beatitudes or sayings. It was likely a common way of teaching in the ancient world, and Jesus again uses (as he often does) existing modes of communication to communicate something new and different.

Jesus was alive and teaching in the time of the Pax Romana – Rome had conquered the “known” world. The Roman way of life was the way of doing things and the lingua franca. It was based on power, might makes right, and peace through violence. Jesus here speaks of something quite different. The sermon is not, a comprehensive manual nor a step-by-step “how to” book. Rather it offers a series of illustrations, or “for examples,” or “case studies” of life in God's empire, visions of the identity and the way of life that result from encountering God's present and future reign. It's more direction-pointing, more than giving commands, suggestive and illustrative rather than comprehensive. And we see in Matthew 4:17-25 how the Way of Jesus disrupts, transforms and re-orient's life.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION & EXAMEN:

- What engaged, enraged, or surprised you in these texts?
- What questions are you left with as you hear this reading? What is unclear to you; mysterious; hard to believe?
- Jesus talks about blessed life and blessing in the here and now (not just in the then and there of the text). How have you experienced the truth of God's transformative kingdom in your life?; in our community life together?
- The kingdom of God that Jesus announces and brings is also portrayed as where the last are first, and the first last (Matthew 20:16); where the blind see, the deaf hear, and the lame dance (Matthew 11:5-7) – how is this good news disruptive and transformative of the way in which our world usually operates and invites us to be together? When?; Where?; How have you tasted the good news of God's kingdom disrupting the status quo or *modus operandi* of our world?
- 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?

September Birthdays

2 Betty Trowbridge	9 Diana Geary
3 Mercy Beatty	11 Linda Davis
7 Michael Mendonca	19 Sylvan Zappin
8 Monte McClain	28 Lisa Ko

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

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 17-18. 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 clean-up – this - or any Friday! This Friday our partners of Montclair Presbyterian Church are cooking!



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

Baby Shower September 17th 12:15pm Our Deacons are hosting a baby shower for Jasmine, Adam, and Suraya as they await a new edition to their family. Flyers with more info are in the entryway.

Author Talk – Thursday, September 14th, 7-8:30pm. Author Judith Henya will be reading from her memoir entitled *Memories do Not Burn* which talked about her life-long work helping children of war and violence. Flyers in the entryway.

Presbytery Day – Saturday, 9/23, 10a-2:30pm @ First Pres. Berkeley – come hear Dr. William Yoo's author of, *What Kind of Christianity: A History of Slavery and Anti-Black Racism in the Presbyterian Church*. More info online at www.presbyteryofsf.org.

Building News – We signed the paperwork for our loan from the synod to fund our new roof. We're waiting for an inspection from PG&E before moving ahead with our solar system work.

Thank You to Today's Leadership:

Liturgist-Prayer: Chickwendu Okerke
Music: Pete Feltman, Dave Eagle, Josephine Hass, Talitha Amadea Aho, Ben Kramaz
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.

“Blest Are They”

*David Haas (1985) | © 1985 GIA Publications, Inc.
Glory to God #172*

1. Blest are they, the poor in spirit
Theirs is the kingdom of God
Blest are they, full of sorrow
They shall be consoled

Chorus

Rejoice and be glad
Blessed are you; holy are you
Rejoice and be glad
Yours is the Kingdom of God

2. Blest are they, the lowly ones
They shall inherit the earth
Blest are they, who hunger and thirst
They shall have their fill

3. Blest are they who show mercy
Mercy shall be theirs
Blest are they, the pure of heart
They shall see God

4. Blest are they who seek peace
They are the children of God
Blest are they who suffer in faith
The glory of God is theirs

5. Blest are you who suffer hate
All because of me
Rejoice and be glad, yours is the kingdom
Shine for all to see!

Call to Worship Opening litany

*Written by Beth Merrill Neel on her blog, 'Hold Fast to What Is Good'.
Used with permission. <https://holdfasttowhatisgood.com>*

The people read the bold text

One: To know the warmth of love,

ALL: To have the assurance that someone cares,

One: To be confident of our worth,

ALL: To be bold to love in return,

One: To be washed over with grace,

ALL: To be accepted as we are:

One: This is to know a bit of God.

ALL: Then let us worship our God.

“Blessed Are The Poor In Spirit”

Text: Copyright © 2009 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette.

NETTLETON 8.7.8.7 D ("Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing")

1. Blessed are the poor in spirit;
all God's realm is surely theirs.
Those in mourning will find comfort
as an answer to their prayers.
Meek ones whom this world despises
will inherit everything.
God, your kingdom still surprises;
may we seek the reign you bring.

2. Blessed, too, are those who hunger
and who thirst for what is right.
They will not be prone to wander,
for your will is their delight.
Those who show God's care and mercy
will receive that mercy too.
God, in Christ you show us clearly
of the joy we have in you.

3. Those who share the peace God
gives them will find blessings as God's own.
Those oppressed for faithful living
will call heaven's kingdom Home.
When the world's ways seem distressing
and we feel life's painful sting,
God, remind us of the blessings
of the wondrous life you bring.

"Kingdom Come"

Matthew Lees © 2006

This song was largely inspired by John Dominic Crossan's The Historical Jesus (1991: Harper Collins). Crossan's analysis reveals the centrality of the concept of the kingdom of God in Jesus' teaching.

1 Come and see a place you can go to
It's a place that's old and new
You might want to think twice
Yeah, it's no paradise
But this community's where God reigns
The kingdom's in you, the kingdom's in me

The kingdom's among us, it's not yet to be
Not in the sky above us, not even in the sea
It's across the land, just look and see
Kingdom come

2 It's a place for helpless children
Tax collectors, destitutes
For those who're never named
But still are always blamed
The hungry, meek and those in mourning

The kingdom is open for everybody
There's no black list or admission fee
So many were invited, but most of them had plans
'Cause open table means holding hands
Kingdom come

3 It's a place where you are injured
Stranded, lying by the way
The proud ignore your cries
But one who you despise
Becomes the one to come to your rescue

The kingdom is in your dependency
That, and not power, is the currency
Learn to love your enemies, it's not easy to do
But it's harder when they love you
Kingdom come

4 So sow trust just like some seed all 'round
Get back much more from some ground
The more that you invest
Will make returns the best
When forced to carry one mile, go two

The kingdom is here, it's not in a jar
Try weeding it out – you won't get far
The birds do not go hungry; the flowers are well
dressed
The kingdom is life, life at its best

"My Shepherd Will Supply My Need"

Author: Isaac Watts (1719)

Tune: RESIGNATION (Southern Harmony)

The Blue Presbyterian Hymnal #172 | Glory to God #803
Glory

1. My Shepherd will supply my need
Jehovah is His name
In pastures fresh He makes me feed
beside the living stream
He brings my wandering spirit back
when I forsake His ways
And leads me, for His mercy's sake,
in paths of truth and grace

2. When I walk through the shades of death
Your presence is my stay
One word of Your supporting breath
drives all my fears away
Your hand in sight of all my foes
does still my table spread
My cup with blessings overflows,
Your oil anoints my head

3. The sure provisions of my God
attend me all my days
O may Your house be my abode
and all my works be praise
There would I find a settled rest
while others go and come
No more a stranger or a guest,
but like a child at home

"May The God Of Hope Go With Us"

*"Canto de esperanza" / English; Spanish Alvin Schutmaat (1984)
Glory to God #765*

1. May the God of hope go with us every day,
filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.
May the God of justice speed us on our way,
bringing light and hope to every land and race.

Refrain:

Praying, let us work for peace;
singing, share our joy with all;
working for a world that's new,
faithful when we hear Christ's call.