



Service for the Lord's Day

5th Sunday of Easter

April 29, 2018

10:00 a.m.

Please SILENCE ALL Personal Electronic Devices Before Worship.

We Gather as God's People

Welcome to our worship service. Take a moment to quiet yourself as we prepare ourselves for worship.

Welcome and Preparation for Worship

Welcome to Oakland-Cambridge Presbyterian Church! In this space, we invite you to bring all of who you are - your identity, your beliefs, your doubts, your story. Our prayer is that together we will experience God's presence. We invite you to sign the pew pads, which will be passed from the back of the sanctuary to the front. Please fill out the information, share with the others in your row, and then pass it to the row in front of you. Thank you. After worship, please join us for a time of fellowship and refreshments.

Prelude

Announcements of Our Church Life and Ministry

The Centering Song *SF* # 2164 (sing 3 times; the last time, a cappella) "Sanctuary"

Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true.

With thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for you.

Call to Worship [Responsive] Deacon Randy Johnson

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: God of the prophets, call to us today.

People: **Call us into Your ways of love, justice and righteousness.**

Leader: God of the poets, remind us again how much You love us.

People: **Sing to us Your ways of love, justice and righteousness.**

Leader: God of the disciples, teach us how to follow You.

People: **Teach us Your ways of love, justice and righteousness.**

Leader: God of all creation, help us to know Your ways

ALL: We gather to hear Your call, to sing Your praise, to teach each other, to pray and worship as the Body of Christ.

***The Opening Hymn** *PH* # 324 "Open My Eyes That I May See"

***The Prayer of the Day** [Responsive] Rev. Scott Marrese-Wheeler

Leader: Let us pray: You break in, O God, on the road.

People: **You break in, O God, exactly the way we do not believe.**

* Please stand as you are able.

Leader: You break in, O God, and change everything.

People: Why can't you just leave us alone and go transform people somewhere else who are not as certain and sure of you as we are.

Leader: You just disrupt us and cause us anxiety.

People: We are not people of change.

Leader: You break in, O God, with a call.

People: You break in, O God, with an invitation.

Leader: You break in, O God, with the truth.

People: Why do you wait for us to respond and never give up?

Leader: Why do you speak into our souls the truth of how we live?

People: Why do you keep goading us, provoking us disturbing us with the truth?

Leader: You break in, O God, with a new realm.

People: You break in, O God, with a new world.

Leader: You break in, O God, with your intent for the future; You always are a challenge to us and we dream of that realm of yours we speak of so often but what disturbs us most is how you want to get there through us,

People: with space enough for everyone even those who persecute you by doing nothing.

Leader: God, break in again

People: and call us to be your workers.

Leader: God, break in again

People: and use the gifts we are to build your realm.

Leader: God, break in again

People: and change our world and our lives once more. Amen.

***Two+** (A new way to share the peace of Christ and greet one another.)

“For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.” Matthew 18:20

Question: What one experience or person helped shape your world view?

We Listen for God's Word

The Children's Message Rev. Scott Marrese-Wheeler

Blessing: You are God's beloved child. With you God is well pleased.

Prayer for Illumination Deacon Randy Johnson

Leader: Let us pray... O Risen Christ, open us to the power of your resurrection as we hear it proclaimed anew this day,

People: that we too might rise to new life in you. Amen.

Building a Bridge from the Gospel of John to the Acts of the Apostles

The Scripture Acts 9:1-20 Readers Theatre (see insert)
(pages 127-128 N.T.)

Leader: For the Word of God in scripture, for the Word of God among us, for the Word of God within us,

People: We give thanks to God.

... musical interlude for quiet personal reflection...

We Respond to God’s Love

***Affirmation of Faith** [In Unison] *from Reclaiming Jesus:*

A Confession of Faith in a Time of Crisis

WE BELIEVE we are one body. In Christ, there is to be no oppression based on race, gender, identity, or class. The body of Christ, where those great human divisions are to be overcome, is meant to be an example for the rest of society. When we fail to overcome these oppressive obstacles, and even perpetuate them, we have failed in our vocation to the world— to proclaim and live the reconciling gospel of Christ.

THEREFORE, WE REJECT misogyny, the mistreatment, violent abuse, sexual harassment, harassment, and assault of women that has been further revealed in our culture and politics, including our churches, and the oppression of any other child of God. We lament when such practices seem publicly ignored, and thus privately condoned, by those in high positions of leadership. We stand for the respect, protection, and affirmation of women in our families, communities, workplaces, politics, and churches. We support the courageous truth-telling voices of women, who have helped the nation recognize these abuses. We confess sexism as a sin, requiring our repentance and resistance.

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People [Responsive] Rev. Scott Marrese-Wheeler

Leader: We pray to the Lord... *People:* Lord, hear our prayer.

The Lord’s Prayer (*using ‘debts’ and ‘debtors’...*)

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Prayer Response *PH* # 322 “Spirit of the Living God”

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.

Offering Our Tithes and Gifts to God

Offertory Music

***Offertory Response** *Sing the Faith* # 2036 “Give Thanks”

Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One,
give thanks because he’s given Jesus Christ his Son.

Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One,
give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ his Son.

And now let the weak say, "I am strong"; let the poor say,
"I am rich because of what the Lord has done for us."

And now let the weak say, "I am strong"; let the poor say,
"I am rich because of what the Lord has done for us." Give thanks!

***Offertory Prayer of Thanksgiving** [In Unison] Deacon Randy Johnson

From you, Generous One, comes every gift we need, every blessing we have. May we not hoard them for ourselves, but offer them back to you, that the poor might be fed, the lonely befriended, and the despairing be filled with hope. This we pray in Christ's name, Amen.

We Depart to Do God's Will

***Closing Hymn** *PH* # 280..... "Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound"

***The Sending** [Responsive]..... Rev. Scott Marrese-Wheeler

Leader: May God, who comes to us in the things of this world,

People: **bless our eyes and be in our seeing.**

Leader: May Christ, who looks upon you with deepest love,

People: **bless our eyes and widen our gaze.**

Leader: May the Spirit, who perceives what is and what may yet be,

People: **bless our eyes and sharpen our vision.**

Leader: May the Sacred Three-in-One, Creator, Redeemer, and Spirit, bless your eyes and cause you to see the Holy image of God in each and every person. Go in God's peace.

People: **Amen!**

***Song of Dismissal** *PH* # 432 "Canto de Esperanza"

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.

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.

Postlude



The liturgy this morning is from: Call to Worship ~ written by Rev. Mindi, on her Rev-o-lution blog; The Prayer of the Day ~ written by Rev. Roddy Hamilton, Minister of New Kilpatrick Church. Posted on the Church of Scotland's **Starters for Sunday** website; Prayer for Illumination ~ written by Andy James, First Presbyterian Church of Whitestone, Queens, New York. Posted in LiturgyLink; The Sending ~ Adapted from In the Sanctuary of Women, copyright © Jan L. Richardson. Posted on the painted prayer book. <http://paintedprayerbook.com/>.

Reclaiming Jesus: A Confession of Faith in a Time of Crisis

We are living through perilous and polarizing times as a nation, with a dangerous crisis of moral and political leadership at the highest levels of our government and in our churches. We believe the soul of the nation and the integrity of faith are now at stake. It is time to be followers of Jesus before anything else—nationality, political party, race, ethnicity, gender, geography—our identity in Christ precedes every other identity. We pray that our nation will see Jesus' words in us. "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another" (John 13:35). When politics undermines our theology, we must examine that politics. The church's role is to change the world through the life and love of Jesus Christ. The government's role is to serve the common good by protecting justice and peace, rewarding good behavior while restraining bad behavior (Romans 13). When that role is undermined by political leadership, faith leaders must stand up and speak out. Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said, "The church must be reminded that it is not the master or the servant of the state, but rather the conscience of the state." It is often the duty of Christian leaders, especially elders, to speak the truth in love to our churches and to name and warn against temptations, racial and cultural captivities, false doctrines, and political idolatries—and even our complicity in them. We do so here with humility, prayer, and a deep dependency on the grace and Holy Spirit of God. This letter comes from a retreat on Ash Wednesday, 2018. In this season of Lent, we feel deep lamentations for the state of our nation, and our own hearts are filled with confession for the sins we feel called to address. The true meaning of the word repentance is to turn around. It is time to lament, confess, repent, and turn. In times of crisis, the church has historically learned to return to Jesus Christ. Jesus is Lord. That is our foundational confession. It was central for the early church and needs to again become central to us. If Jesus is Lord, then Caesar was not—nor any other political ruler since. If Jesus is Lord, no other authority is absolute. Jesus Christ, and the kingdom of God he announced, is the Christian's first loyalty, above all others. We pray, "Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven" (Matthew 6:10). Our faith is personal but never private, meant not only for heaven but for this earth. The question we face is this: Who is Jesus Christ for us today? What does our loyalty to Christ, as disciples, require at this moment in our history? We believe it is time to renew our theology of public discipleship and witness. Applying what "Jesus is Lord" means today is the message we commend as elders to our churches. What we believe leads us to what we must reject. Our "Yes" is the foundation for our "No." What we confess as our faith leads to what we confront. Therefore, we offer the following six affirmations of what we believe, and the resulting rejections of practices and policies by political leaders which dangerously corrode the soul of the nation and deeply threaten the public integrity of our faith. We pray that we, as followers of Jesus, will find the depth of faith to match the danger of our political crisis.

Signers: Bishop Carroll A. Baltimore, President and CEO, Global Alliance Interfaith Network; Rev. Dr. Peter Borgdorff, Executive Director Emeritus, Christian Reformed Church in North America; Dr. Amos Brown, Chair, Social Justice Commission, National Baptist Convention USA, Inc.; Rev. Dr. Walter Brueggemann, Professor Emeritus, Columbia Theological Seminary; Dr. Tony Campolo, Co-Founder, Red Letter Christians; Dr. Iva Carruthers, General Secretary, Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference; The Most Rev. Michael B. Curry, Presiding Bishop and Primate, The Episcopal Church; Rev. Dr. James Forbes, President and Founder, Healing the Nations Foundation and Preaching

Professor at Union Theological Seminary; Rev. Wesley Granberg-Michaelson, General Secretary Emeritus, Reformed Church in America; Rev. Dr. Cynthia Hale, Senior Pastor, Ray of Hope Christian Church, Decatur, GA; Rev. Dr. Richard Hamm, former General Minister and President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ); Rev. Dr. Joel C. Hunter, Faith Community Organizer and Chairman, Community Resource Network; Rev. Dr. Jo Anne Lyon, General Superintendent Emerita, The Wesleyan Church; Bishop Vashti McKenzie, 117th Elected and Consecrated Bishop, AME Church; Rev. Dr. Otis Moss, Jr., Co-Convener National African American Clergy Network; Dr. John Perkins, Chair Emeritus and Founding Member, Christian Community Development Association; Bishop Lawrence Reddick, CEO, Christian Methodist Episcopal Church; Fr. Richard Rohr, Founder, Center for Action and Contemplation; Dr. Ron Sider, President Emeritus, Evangelicals for Social Action; Rev. Jim Wallis, President and Founder, Sojourners; Rev. Dr. Sharon Watkins, Director, NCC Truth and Racial Justice Initiative; Dr. Barbara Williams-Skinner, Co-Convener, National African American Clergy Network; President, Skinner Leadership Institute; Bishop Will Willimon, Bishop, The United Methodist Church, retired, Professor of the Practice of Ministry, Duke Divinity School

Oakland-Cambridge Presbyterian Church is committed to using language in such a way that all members of the community of faith may recognize themselves to be included, addressed, and equally cherished before God. Seeking to bear witness to the whole world, the church struggles to use language which is faithful to the biblical truth and which neither purposefully nor inadvertently excludes people because of gender, color, or other circumstance in life. (Book of Order, W-1.2006)

Everyone is invited to stay for fellowship and refreshment following worship today.

- Our liturgist today is Deacon Randy Johnson.
- Our musician today is Angie Williams.
- Our ushers/greeters today are Larry & Sylvia Jensen.
- **Nursery care is provided today by the Deacons.**
- Printed copies of sermons are available in the box on the wall outside of the church office and on our website www.OCPChurch.com.

ANNOUNCEMENTS —

- **First quarter giving statements are now available in Fellowship Hall. Please pick up your copy and take it with you. Thank you!**
- If you would like to be added to the mailing list for our newsletter, *The Good News*, please send either your email (preferred) or snail mail address to the church office. (Our addresses are listed on the last page of the bulletin.)
- **The Mission Committee reminds all folks to share their loose change in the Least Coin Crock, as a reminder of the prayers they say. Think of all the coins we would have if every time you prayed, you set aside a coin. These funds are to be used for local mission work. This is a year-long mission collection.**

- Help us save “pig points.” Please turn in your receipts from Piggly Wiggly in the brown bag in the narthex, so that we can receive a rebate. All funds received are used for mission projects. **The next deadline for receipts is Sunday, June 10.**
- Copies of *These Days*, a daily devotional magazine, are available at the rear entrance. Donations are voluntary.

EVENTS —

- Today after worship – Meeting of the congregation
- Next Sunday, May 6 – 10:00 a.m. Worship and Communion

VOLUNTEERS FOR NEXT SUNDAY —

- Communion Server – Joe Leto
- Liturgist – Judy Schroeder
- Ushers/Greeters – The Letos
- Fellowship – Cheryl & Al Bettenhausen
- Nursery – Deacons

CAMBRIDGE FOOD PANTRY & RESOURCE CENTER – APRIL 2018 Update

The Cambridge Food Pantry & Resource Center is open for shopping every Monday evening from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. Guests are invited to shop every other Monday. Donation hours during the month are Monday 9 am to 12 pm & 4 pm to 5 pm, Wednesday 9 am – 12 pm and Thursday 8:30 am to 3 pm. Donations may also be dropped off at Nikolay Middle School Office, during school hours 7:45 am to 3:45 pm, Monday thru Friday.

CAMBRIDGE POSTAL CARRIERS FOOD DRIVE Help The Cambridge Food Pantry on Saturday, May 12th by filling a bag with food and putting it out by your mail boxes for the mail carriers/volunteers to collect. The food will be brought to the Food Pantry to be sorted and put on shelves. Have bags of food out by mail box by 8:00 a.m.

ITEMS NEEDED AT FOOD PANTRY The Cambridge Food Pantry can use the following items Hamburger Helper, Ramen Noodles, Canned Ravioli, Ketchup, Mayo, Sugar, Crackers, Tuna, Hearty Soups, Pancake Mix and Syrup, Jams and Jelly, Adult large bladder control briefs, Paper Towel, Toilet Tissue

Community Café – May 3rd is the next Cambridge Community Café! Join the Cambridge CAP Board of Directors and Employees who will be serving “Breakfast for Dinner”, with Egg and French Toast bakes, Scrambled Eggs and Breakfast Meat, Cheesy Potatoes and Desserts 5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. at the Cambridge High School, 403 Blue Jay Way, Everyone in the Community is invited to come!!!!

PLEASE HOLD THESE MEMBERS AND FRIENDS IN PRAYER THIS WEEK —

Sandy Berge (sister of Charleen Janus)
Griffin Clark (grandson of Bill & Patty Strobusch)
Don Hawkins (husband of Margaret)
Jayne Kilian (daughter of Judy & Monty Pearson)
Wade Kubina (son of Jo Kubina)
Richard Nye (son-in-law of Ann & Dale Febock, Tara’s husband, deployed to Iraq)
Shawn Spack (son of Jenine & Jack Spack)
Mary Trailer
Rose Ann West
Betty Willmore

Jim Willmore
Phillip Yeadon

Our children and unchurched children and families, our military around the world, our enemies, our church leaders, families and individuals experiencing financial, job-hunting, health, or relationship problems.

The family of Patrick & Irene Sullivan, and other families who are grieving the loss of loved ones.

If you would like to be added to our weekly prayer list, please leave word in the church office or contact the pastor. Permission to be included in this publicly posted list has been obtained from those listed or their families.

Church Schedule

Worship Service: 10:00 a.m. Sunday

Communion: First Sunday of each month

Church School: Children through grade 7 meet at 10:00 a.m. Sunday
(Labor Day to Memorial Day)

Video of Worship Service: Cable 98 or 987 Sun. 5:30 p.m.; Mon.-Tues. 8 a.m. & Noon
(Link to video also available on our website or Facebook page)

Fellowship & Refreshment: Following worship service each week

Pastoral Office Hours: Generally 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. Tuesday or by appointment

Business Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Monday – Thursday
(Church hours are approved by Session and posted on church entry doors.)

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Visit us on Facebook: Oakland-Cambridge Presbyterian Church

CHURCH STAFF

Music—

Accompanists: Marian Korth, Angie Williams

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