

THE LORD'S PRAYER:

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. 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 AFTER RECEIVING COMMUNION

Creative God, we thank you for revealing your love to us in bread and juice. We recognize your presence in us and all around us, and we ask that you continue to reveal your love for all Creation to the ends of the Earth through our lives. Make us your people and use us to reveal the in breaking of your kin-dom here and now: a world of justice and peace. Amen.

Written by Rev. Laura Baumgartner, Seattle, WA

OFFERING PRAYER

Generous God, we offer you our gifts as best we can. Although we don't share everything in common, as those first believers did, we are sharing these gifts, that they may be used for the common good. Bless these gifts with the power of your Holy Spirit. Bless us with a spirit of unity and love for all the world to know. In your Holy Spirit, we pray. Amen.

Scifres, Mary; Beu, B. J. The Abingdon Worship Annual 2021: Worship Planning Resources for Every Sunday of the Year [pp. 99-199]. Abingdon Press, Kindle Edition.

DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise him all creatures here below. Praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.



Oaklette United Methodist Church

God's Body in this Community"

"Oaklette United Methodist Church through worship, education, and outreach, seeks to make the gospel of Jesus Christ real, as we minister to all people."

April 7, 2024 ~ 11:00 A.M.

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER



Welcome in the name of our Lord. A nurturing and well-supervised nursery is available for infants and young children. A Crying Room is also available. Please ask the greeter for further assistance and direction to these rooms. [†] = Invites persons to stand as they are able.

OPENING SCRIPTURE

John 16:33 [NIV]

- Rev. Ned Alderman

"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

PRELUDE

"Meditation"

- Dana Moody

MESSAGE FOR GROWING CHRISTIANS

CENTERING PRAYER

God of surprise, you who appear to us when least expected and call us to a life unforeseen, help us pay attention to the continual presence of the resurrected Lord in our homes, in our communities, and in our hearts. Help us become willing to risk life together, the sharing of our resources, and the asking of difficult questions. By the power of your Holy Spirit continue to shape us in the promised hope of resurrection, through Christ our Lord, Amen.

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OPENING HYMN

"Christ is Risen"

#307

1. Christ is risen! Shout Hosanna! Celebrate this day of days.
Christ is risen! Hush in wonder, all creation is amazed.
In the desert all surrounding, see, a spreading tree has grown.
Healing leaves of grace abounding bring a taste of love unknown.
2. Christ is risen! Raise your spirits from the caverns of despair.
Walk with gladness in the morning. See what love can do and dare.
Drink the wine of resurrection, not a servant, but a friend;
Jesus is our strong companion. Joy and peace shall never end.
3. Christ is risen! Earth and heaven nevermore shall be the same.
Break the bread of new creation where the world is still in pain.
Tell its grim, demonic chorus: "Christ is risen! Get you gone!"
God the First and Last is with us. Sing Hosanna everyone!

MORNING PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS (in unison)

You know us so very well, Christ Jesus. You know our doubts and our questions, and you love us enough to welcome such doubts and questions. You know our fractures and divisions, and you love us enough to invite us to forgive one another and live in unity. You know the shadows that tempt us, and still you shine your light within, inviting warmth and welcoming us back to your path of peace and love. Thank you for loving us and for inviting us on the journey of love. Help us embrace this journey that we may walk in the light, and live in unity together. In your gracious love, we pray. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

God is faithful in love and grace, making our confession welcome and cleansing for the soul. Rejoice! We are children of light. Even when we falter, God’s love is strong enough to bring us back to the light of forgiveness and grace.

Scifres, Mary; Beu, B. J. The Abingdon Worship Annual 2021: Worship Planning Resources for Every Sunday of the Year [pp. 97-98] Abingdon Press. Kindle Edition

ANTHEM

“We are One”

Chancel Choir

SCRIPTURE READING

John 20:19-31 [NIV]

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord. Again Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.” And with that he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone’s sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.”

Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord!” But he said to them, “Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.” A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.” Thomas said to him, “My Lord and my God!” Then Jesus told him, “Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

Lay Reader: This is the Word of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“Dig In”

Rev. Ned Alderman

†HYMN AFTER SERMON “Easter People, Raise Your Voices”

1. Easter people, raise your voices, sounds of heaven in earth should ring.
Christ has brought us heaven’s choices; heavenly music, let it ring.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Easter people, let us sing.
2. Fear of death can no more stop us from our pressing here below.
For our Lord empowered us to triumph over every foe.
Alleluia! Alleluia! On to victory now we go.
3. Every day to us is Easter, with its resurrection song.
When in trouble move the faster to our God who rights the wrong.
Alleluia! Alleluia! See the power of heavenly throngs.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (responsively)

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Pastor: Creator God, you revealed to us your Creation on earth. The waters flowed, and the winds blew. You set the cosmos into motion and created living beings. You gave life to the plants and the sea creatures and the land animals. You put into flight the birds and insects, and you made people to walk on the ground. You blessed us all and called us good. But when our love failed and we turned away, You revealed a love for your people and all of Creation that never ends. And so we praise you, with all the company of saints and sinners, singing your unending hymn:

People: Holy, holy, holy God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosannah in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosannah in the highest.

Pastor: You continued to reveal your love for us in your son, Jesus, who came to live among us and move as a human on this Earth. When he dined with his friends, just before he was to be executed, he reminded them of your love revealed in the gifts of bread and juice before them on the table. He took the bread in his hands, gave thanks to you, broke it, and shared it with his friends, saying the familiar words, “Take, eat. This is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.” And when the supper was over, he took the cup, again gave thanks for it, and shared it with all who gathered, reminding them, “Drink this all of you. This is the cup of my covenant with you, for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

Together we proclaim the mystery of faith.

People: Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Still creating Spirit, be poured out on those gathered here and on these gifts from the field in bread and juice. As we receive them into our bodies, make us your body. Unite us with those who have come before us in your kin-dom and with those who wil come after us, now and always. Amen.

HYMN OF RESPONSE**“Christ is Alive”****#318**

1. Christ is alive! Let Christians sing. His cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring. His love in death shall never die.
2. Christ is alive! No longer bound to distant years in Palestine,
He comes to claim the here and now and dwell in every place and time.
3. Not throned afar, remotely high, untouched, unmoved by human pains,
but daily, in the midst of life, our Savior in the God-head reigns.
4. In every insult, rift, and war, where color, scorn, or wealth divide,
He suffers still, yet loves the more, and lives, though ever crucified.
5. Christ is alive, and comes to bring good news to this and every age,
Till earth and all creation ring with joy, with justice, love, and praise.

Today's service is being broadcast on Facebook Live at 11:00 am. You can access the service through the Oaklette Church Group on Facebook. You can also access the sermon through the Oaklette UMC Facebookpage. If you are unable to use Facebook Live a link can be sent to you by email after the Facebook Live Worship has been recorded, but we will need your email address to do this. The Facebook Live service will also be downloaded to our website on Monday morning.

The flowers on the altar today are presented to the glory of God.

The Food Basket on the altar is presented to the glory of God .

**CLOSING PRAYER**

Lay Reader: Go forth in peace; search, question, act, trust, believe!

People: **My God be always with us. Amen.**

Bennett, Tanya Lynn. The Abingdon Preaching Annual 2021: Planning Sermons and Services for Fifty-two Sundays [pp. 95]. Abingdon Press. Kindle Edition

POSTLUDE**“I Exalt Thee”****Dana Moody****PARTNERS IN MINISTRY TODAY****Members of the Church****Nursery Care Providers: Randy Story & Barbara Bennett****Lay Reader: Monica Whitehurst****Organist/Director of Music: Dana Moody****Prayer Partner: Brenda Swoope****Audio–Visual Operator – Rob Castellow****Facebook Live Recorder: Bright Tsevi****Greeter: Joanne Rooks****Pastor: Rev. Ned Alderman****Administrative Assistant: Eileen Ballance****Financial Secretary: Edna Bess****Coastal Virginia Dist. Superintendent: Rev. Dr. Cecelia R. Brooks****Resident Bishop, Richmond Area: Bishop Sue Hauptert–Johnson**