

## 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. Amen.**

## HYMN

**“God Whose Love is Reigning O’er Us”**

**#100**

1. God whose love is reigning o’er us, source of all the ending true  
Hear the universal chorus raised in joyful praise to you:  
Alleluia, Alleluia, worship ancient, worship new.
2. Word of God from nature bringing springtime green and autumn gold;  
Mountain streams like children singing, ocean waves like thunder bold:  
Alleluia, Alleluia, as creation’s tale is told.  
  
3. Holy God of ancient glory, choosing man and woman, too;  
Abr’am’s faith and Sarah’s story formed a people bound to you.  
Alleluia, Alleluia, to your covenant keep us true.
4. Covenant, new again in Jesus, Star-child born to set us free;  
Sent to heal us, sent to teach us how love’s children we might be,  
Alleluia, Alleluia, risen Christ, our Savior be!
5. Lift we then our human voices in the songs that faith would bring;  
Live we then in human choices lives that, like our music, sing:  
Alleluia, Alleluia, joined in love our praises ring!

## BENEDICTION

May you neither ignore or excuse but may you respond rightly to your sin. With a changed heart and life, may you live out your true identity as a child of God. May you remain in right relationship with your Father God. And with your very being, may you preach a change of heart and life for the forgiveness of sins to all nations.

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## POSTLUDE

**“ Praise the Lord”**

**Dana Moody**



## *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 14, 2024*



## OPENING SCRIPTURE

**Romans 8:12-17 [NIV]**

Therefore, brothers and sisters, we have an obligation – but it is not to the flesh, to live according to it. For if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live. For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, “*Abba, Father.*” The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs – heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

## PRELUDE

**“Largo”**

**Dana Moody**

## MESSAGE FOR GROWING CHRISTIANS

## OPENING PRAYER

As the sun rises, so does our prayer, loving God. With each new dawn, renew our trust in you, our delight to do justice, and our gladness to be in your presence. Amen.

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## HYMN

**“My Hope is Built”**

**#368**

1. My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus’ blood and righteousness.  
I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus’ name.  
*Refrain*  
On Christ the solid rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand;  
all other ground is sinking sand.
2. When darkness veils his lovely face, I rest on his unchanging grace.  
In every high and stormy gale, my anchor holds within the veil.  
*Refrain*
3. His oath, his covenant, his blood, support me in the whelming flood.  
When all around my soul gives way, he then is all my hope and stay.  
*Refrain*

4. When he shall come with trumpet sound, O may I then in him be found!  
Dressed in his righteousness alone, faultless to stand before the throne!

*Refrain*

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Lay Reader:** We know how easy it is to trick ourselves into believing that every thought is pure, every act is just, every choice is correct. But if we want to be God’s children, to grow in hope, to walk in the Light, we must admit our mistakes, so we may open ourselves to the healing mercy of God’s love. Join me, please, as we pray together, saying,

**People:** **Emptier of tombs, we find ourselves running down the street after lies, rather than walking with you. We find it easy to love other people, as long as they don’t annoy or bother us. We hunger for love and search for affection, yet find it difficult to let others love us for who we are. Forgive us, Compassionate Heart. You listen to the whispers of our hearts, and then sing of the promises of hope. You grace us with peace, so our hearts can rest in you. You continue to transform us into Easter people, brothers and sisters of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Silence is kept. Not everything has been revealed to us, but this we do know: as God’s children, we are blessed, we are loved, we are forgiven. Our lives have been transformed by the abundant mercy given to us in Christ Jesus our Lord. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

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**Lay Reader:** **As Jesus has taught us to pray, we are bold to pray:**

### 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.**

### ANTHEM

**“Red Letters”** **Solo, Monica Whitehurst**  
**Dedicated to Ned Alderman and his love for DC Talk**

### EPISTLE

**1 John 3:1-7 [NIV]**

See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure. Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness. But you know that he appeared so that he might take away our sins. And in him is no sin. No one who lives in him keeps on sinning. No one who continues to sin has either seen him or known him. Dear children, do not let anyone lead you astray. The one who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

### RESPONSE TO SCRIPTURE READING

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

**People:** Thanks be to God.

### SERMON

**“Pure Hope”**

**Rev. Ned Alderman**

### HYMN

**“Ye Servants of God”**

**#181**

1. Ye servants of God, your Master proclaim, and publish abroad his wonderful name;  
The name all victorious of Jesus extol, his kingdom is glorious and rules over all.  
  
God ruleth on high, almighty to save, and still he is nigh, his presence we have;  
The great congregation his triumph shall sing, ascribing salvation to Jesus, our King.
2. “Salvation to God, who sits on the throne!” Let all cry aloud and honor the Son;  
The praises of Jesus the angels proclaim,  
fall down on their faces and worship the Lamb.
3. Then let us adore and give him his right, All glory and power, all wisdom and might;  
All honor and blessing with angels above, and thanks never ceasing and infinite love.

### AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe in one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. He is the true and living God, worthy to receive glory and honor and power. He created all things; by his will they existed and were created. We believe in the Lord Jesus Christ; all things came into being through him. He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. In him all things in heaven and on earth were created. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. Being in the form of God, he emptied himself, he took the form of a slave and was born in human likeness.

Being found in human form, he humbled himself; he became obedient to the point of death – even death on a cross. Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures; he was buried; he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures. God also highly exalted Jesus; he gave him the name that is above every name. God has put all things under his feet: he made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body. We believe that Jesus died and rose again. Through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. As all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ. Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory.

*Worship & Song, Worship Resources edition copyright 2011*

### GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen. Amen.

### THANKSGIVING PRAYER

God of love, help us remember that Christ has no body now on earth but ours, no hands but ours, no feet but ours. Ours are the eyes to see the needs of the world. Ours are the hands to bless the people we meet. Ours are the feet to do good in Christ’s name. Bless, O God, the work of our hands and these offerings, that they may be Christ’s work in the world. Amen.

*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 .*



**PARTNERS IN MINISTRY TODAY**

**Members of the Church**

**Nursery Care Providers: Brooks & Lisa Ryno**

**Lay Reader: Monica Whitehurst**

**Organist/Director of Music: Dana Moody**

**Prayer Partner: Brenda Swoope**

**Audio-Visual Operator - Ericka Litten**

**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**