

Lay Reader: Lord God, when we exercise leadership, help us rely not only on our own natural skills and abilities. Help us not to focus on ourselves. Help us not to brag or have a bad attitude, but trust you.

People: Thank you Jesus, who loved us so much that you led the way to the cross, so that we would be made right with God and become alive in all that we do. Lord God, we ask that our leadership not point to ourselves but to the grace and love of Jesus Christ. Amen.

STATEMENT OF FAITH (in unison)

We belong to God, eternal and infinite, Creator of all things and all that is to come. We follow Christ, who comes to us from God, and reveals God to us. He heals people and transforms lives, and calls us to join in his ministry. He was crucified, died, and was raised by God, and reigns over all Creation; and he bids us to die and rise with him in the service of healing the world. We live by the Spirit, together with the communion of saints, as members of the Body of Christ, God's holy universal church. We are confident in the forgiveness of sin, the power of resurrection and the reality of eternal life. In all things it is our desire to follow Christ, by the grace of the Holy Spirit for God's glory. Amen.

Worship & Song, Worship Resources Edition copyright 2011 by Abingdon Press

GLORIA PATRI

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

THANKSGIVING PRAYER (in unison)

Holy and generous God, you have anointed us and we are yours. Bless these tithes and offerings that they may become green pastures and still waters for any and all who need your comfort and restoration. Amen.

Long, Kimberly Bracken. Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year A, Volume 1 (p. 150). Presbyterian Publishing Corporation. 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. Amen.**



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 21 2024



PRAISE MUSIC

OPENING SCRIPTURE

My God, my God, why have You abandoned me; why so far from delivering me and from my anguished roaring? My God, I cry by day – you answer not; by night, and have no respite. But You are the Holy One, enthroned, the Praise of Israel. In You our fathers trusted; they trusted, and You rescued them. To you they cried out and they escaped; in You they trusted and were not disappointed. But I am a worm, less than human; scorned by men, despised by people. All who see me mock me; they curl their lips, they shake their heads. “Let him commit himself to the Lord; let Him rescue him, let Him save him, for He is pleased with him.” You drew me from the womb, made me secure at my mother's breast. I became Your charge at birth; from my mother's womb You have been my God. Do not be far from me, for trouble is near, and there is none to help. Many bulls surround me, mighty ones of Bashan encircle me. They open their mouths at me like tearing, roaring lions. My life ebbs away: all my bones are disjointed; my heart is like wax, melting within me; my vigor dries up like a shard; my tongue cleaves to my palate; You commit me to the dust of death. Dogs surround me; a pack of evil ones closes in on me, like lions [they maul] my hands and feet. I take the count of all my bones while they look on and gloat. They divide my clothes among themselves, casting lots for my garments.

But You, O Lord, be not far off; my strength, hasten to my aid. Save my life from the sword, my precious life from the clutches of a dog. Deliver me from a lion's mouth; from the horns of wild oxen rescue me. Then will I proclaim Your fame to my brethren, praise You in the congregation. You who fear the LORD, praise Him! All you offspring of Jacob, honor Him! Be in dread of Him, all you offspring of Israel! For he did not scorn, He did not spurn the plea of the lowly; He did not hide His face from him; when he cried out to Him, He listened. Because of You I offer praise in the great congregation; I pay my vows in the presence of His worshipers. Let the lowly eat and be satisfied; let all who seek the LORD praise Him. Always be of good cheer! Let all the ends of the earth pay heed and turn to the LORD, and the peoples of all nations prostrate themselves before You; for kingship is the LORD's and He rules the nations. All those in full vigor shall eat and prostrate themselves; all those at death's door, whose spirits flag, shall bend the knee before Him. Offspring shall serve Him; the LORD's fame shall be proclaimed to the generation to come; they shall tell of His beneficence to people yet to be born, for He has acted.

BREAKTHROUGH PRAYER

PRELUDE

“Jesus Loves Me”

Dana Moody

Spirit of Truth Ministries

Psalm 22 [TANAKH]

MESSAGE FOR GROWING CHRISTIANS

OPENING PRAYER

O Lord, we gather in your name. In your name, the sick become healthy. By the power of your name, our fears are dispelled. At the sound of your name, every knee will bow and every tongue will proclaim that you are Lord. In the name of Jesus, we are made right with God and washed clean. There is no other name under heaven by which we are saved. You have promised that where two or three gather in your name, you will be in our midst. We believe you. We acknowledge your presence with us. In Jesus' name, Amen.

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HYMN

“In Unity We Lift Our Song”

TFWS #2221

1. In unity we lift our song of grateful adoration, for brothers brave and sisters strong. What cause for celebration! For those whose faithfulness has kept us through distress, who've shared with us our plight, who've held us in the night, the blessed congregation.
2. For stories told and told again to every generation, to give us strength in times of pain, to give us consolation. Our spirits to revive to keep our dreams alive, when we are far from home and evil seasons come; how firm is our foundation.
3. For sacred scriptures handed down, a blessed trust and treasure, which give us hope when hope is gone and make us weep with pleasure. And when our eyes grow blind and death is close behind, we shall recite them still whose words our hearts can fill with hope beyond all measure.
4. For God our way, our bread, our rest, of all these gifts the Giver, our strength, our guide, our nurturing breast whose hand will yet deliver. Who keeps us till the day when night shall pass away, when hate and fear are gone and all our work is done, and we shall sing forever.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lay Reader: Merciful shepherd, give us the grace to love as you love. Give us the courage to love people who frighten us. Grant us the mercy to love with the same great love you have for us. Guide us as we learn to hear and welcome different voices. Love through us, that we may welcome and include every person to your community of love. Awaken our hearts to your generosity, when we neglect to embrace and include others. Forgive us when our love is absent, and renew your love in our hearts, that our love may expand and enfold all of your people on earth. In your love and grace, we pray. Amen.

People: The Spirit abides in each of us - loving us, loving through us, forgiving us, and forgiving through us. We are loved and forgiven, even as we love and forgive. Thanks be to God!

Scifres, Mary; Beu, B.J. The Abingdon Worship Annual 2021: Worship Planning Resources for Every Sunday of the Year (p. 108). Abingdon Press. Kindle Edition.

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

“Blessed Assurance”

Chancel Choir

EPISTLE

Psalm 23 [TANAKH]

The LORD is my shepherd; I lack nothing. He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me to water in places of repose; He renews my life; He guides me in right paths as befits His name. Though I walk through a valley of deepest darkness, I fear no harm, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff – they comfort me. You spread a table for me in full view of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; my drink is abundant. Only goodness and steadfast love shall pursue me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD for many long years.

RESPONSE TO SCRIPTURE READING

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

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“Travel Safe, But Travel”

Rev. Ned Alderman

HYMN

“Tell Out My Soul”

#200

1. Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord! Unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice; tender to me the promise of God's word; in God my Savior shall my heart rejoice.
2. Tell out, my soul, the greatness of God's name! Make known God's might, who wondrous deeds has done; God's mercy sure, from age to age the same; God's holy name, the Lord, the mighty One.
3. Tell out, my soul, the greatness of God's might! Powers and dominions lay their glory by; Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight, the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.
4. Tell out, my soul, the glories of God's word! Firm is the promise and God's mercy sure. Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord to children's children and forever more!

PRAYERS FOR STAFF SUPPORT SUNDAY

Lay Reader: We are people who must sing you, for the sake of our very lives. You are a God who must be sung by us, for the sake of your majesty and honor.

People: And so we thank you, for lyrics that push us beyond our reasons, for melodies that break open our givens, for cadences that locate us home, beyond all our safe places, for tones and tunes that open our lives beyond control, and our futures beyond despair.

Lay Reader: We thank you for the long parade of mothers and fathers who have sung you deep and true; we thank you for the good company of artists, poets, musicians, cantors, and instruments that sing for us and with us, toward you.

People: We are witnesses to your mercy and splendor; we will not keep silent...ever again. Amen.

1. He leadeth me; O blessed thought! O words with heavenly comfort fraught!
Whate'er I do, where'er I be, still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me.

Refrain

He leadeth me, he leadeth me; by his own hand he leadeth me;
His faithful follower I would be, for by his hand he leadeth me.

2. Sometimes mid scenes of deepest gloom, sometimes where Eden's bowers bloom,
By waters still, o'er troubled sea, still 'tis his hand that leadeth me.

Refrain

3. Lord, I would place my hand in thine, nor ever murmur nor repine;
Content whatever lot I see, since 'tis my God that leadeth me.

Refrain

4. And when my task on earth is done, when by thy grace the victory's won,
E'en death's cold wave I will not flee, since God through Jordan leadeth me.

Refrain

BENEDICTION

Lay Reader: Love will come to perfection in us when we can face the day of judgment without fear – because our relation to this world is just like Christ's. There is no fear in love, for perfect love drives out fear.

People: Form in us, O God, a community of creativity and collaboration.

Lay Reader: Our salvation is bound together with Creation.

Written by Rev. Paul Mitchell, Walla Walla, WA, senior pastor of Pioneer United Methodist Church

POSTLUDE

“Hornpipe”

Dana Moody

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:

Lay Reader: Monica Whitehurst

Organist/Director of Music: Dana Moody

Prayer Partner: Brenda Swoope

Audio-Visual Operator – Danny 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