

LESSON

“SERVE IN A WAY THAT IS PLEASING TO GOD”
REV. NED ALDERMAN

- HYMN
- “GIVE THANKS”
TFWS #2036
1.

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.
2.

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.
3.

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.
4.

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!

RESPONSE TO THE WORD – PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

Listening God, hear our prayers as we come before you. Hear the ones who are crying with pain in their heart. Hear the ones who are weeping with grief long into the night. Hear the ones who are sobbing in their loneliness.

Loving God, heal their pain. Restore their lives. Mend their broken hearts.

Leading God, lead us through the dark valleys. Lead us through troublesome times. Lead us to our home with you.

Teach us to listen to your voice, that we may hear the cry of the needy and respond. Teach us to love that we may offer care that brings others to you for healing. Teach us to lead, with your vision so that we lead others home in you.

Amen.

Adapted from Rev Abi and posted on Rev Abi’s Long and Winding Road blog. <http://vicar ofwadley.blogspot.ca>



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.”

August 24 2025

Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost

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

GREETING

JOYS AND CONCERNS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BREAKTHROUGH PRAYER

Loving, sustaining God, like the mighty oak, may our branches at Oaklette church embrace those around us in this community. Use us as an instrument to welcome and shelter your people. Deepen our roots so that our branches are strong. Let the Holy Spirit flow like a river through our church, so that we may do your will. In Jesus’ holy name, Amen.

OPENING SCRIPTURE

Luke 13:10-17 [CEB]

Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. A woman was there who had been disabled by a spirit for eighteen years. She was bent over and couldn’t stand up straight. When he saw her, Jesus called her to him and said, “Woman, you are set free from your sickness.” He placed his hands on her and she straightened up at once and praised God.

The synagogue leader, incensed that Jesus had healed on the Sabbath, responded, “There are six days during which work is permitted. Come and be healed on those days, not on the Sabbath day.”

The Lord replied, “Hypocrites! Don’t each of you on the Sabbath untie your ox or donkey from its stall and lead it out to get a drink? Then isn’t it necessary that this woman, a daughter of Abraham, bound by Satan for eighteen long years, be set free from her bondage on the Sabbath day?” When he said these things, all his opponents were put to shame, but all those in the crowd rejoiced at all the extraordinary things he was doing.

PRELUDE

“In Summer”

DANA MOODY

PASSING OF THE PEACE

MESSAGE FOR GROWING CHRISTIANS

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)

Lay Reader: Children of God, we gather today to encounter God.

People: **We do not come expecting to be terrified or dismayed but to be welcomed and embraced.**

Lay Reader: We gather today to witness the gospel at work among us.

People: **We come to join the assembly of the kingdom of God, to learn to live out God’s kingdom on earth as it is in heaven.**

Lay Reader: We gather today to declare our faith in God’s unshakeable kingdom.

People: **We come with grateful hearts, trusting in the secure foundation of God’s steadfast love at work among us. Thanks be to God!**

Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, March 2025

OPENING PRAYER (ALL)

Great healer, like the woman in the synagogue, we come before you bent and beaten down by the suffering in our lives. Free us from the demons that shackle our spirit. Make us whole, O God, that we may be a people of healing. Set us free from all that binds us, that we may break the chains of others. Amen.

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HYMN

“Holy, Holy”

TFWS #2039

1. Holy, holy, holy, holy, holy, holy,
Lord God Almighty; and we lift our hearts before you as a token of our love,
Holy, holy, holy, holy.
2. Gracious Father, gracious Father,
we’re so blessed to be your children, gracious Father;
and we lift our hearts before you as a token of our love,
gracious Father, gracious Father.
3. Precious Jesus, precious Jesus, we’re so glad that you’ve redeemed us,
precious Jesus, and we lift our hearts before you as a token of our love,
precious Jesus, precious Jesus.
4. Holy Spirit, Holy Spirit, come and fill our hearts anew,
Holy Spirit; and we lift our hearts before you as a token of our love,
Holy Spirit, Holy Spirit.
5. Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah;
And we lift our hearts before you as a token of our love,
Hallelujah, hallelujah!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lay Reader: You asked for my hands, that you might use them for your purpose. I gave them for a moment, then withdrew them, for the work was hard.

You asked for my mouth to speak out against injustice. I gave you a whisper that I might not be accused.

You asked for my eyes to see the pain of poverty. I closed them, for I did not want to see.

You asked for my life, that you might work through me. I gave a small part, that I might not get too involved.

Lord, forgive my calculated efforts to serve you – only when it is convenient for me to do so, only in those places where it is safe to do so and only with those who make it easy to do so.

Father, forgive me, renew me, send me out as a usable instrument, that I might take seriously the meaning of your cross.

People: **Amen.**

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Together, may we pray the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples 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

“A Joyful Song”

CHANCEL CHOIR

GOSPEL READING

Hebrews 12:18-29 [CEB]

You haven’t drawn near to something that can be touched: a burning fire, darkness, shadow, a whirlwind, a blast of a trumpet, and a sound of words that made the ones who heard it beg that there wouldn’t be one more word. They couldn’t stand the command, if even a wild animal touches the mountain, it must be stoned. The sight was so frightening that Moses said, “I’m terrified and shaking!”

But you have drawn near to Mount Zion, the city of the living God, heavenly Jerusalem, to countless angels in a festival gathering, to the assembly of God’s firstborn children who are registered in heaven, to God the judge of all, to the spirits of the righteous who have been made perfect, to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks better than Abel’s blood.

See to it that you don’t resist the one who is speaking. If the people didn’t escape when they refused to listen to the one who warned them on earth, how will we escape if we reject the one who is warning from heaven? His voice shook the earth then, but now he has made a promise: Still once more I will shake not only the earth but heaven also. The words “still once more” reveal the removal of what is shaken – the things that are part of this creation – so that what isn’t shaken will remain. Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that can’t be shaken, let’s continue to express our gratitude. With this gratitude, let’s serve in a way that is pleasing to God with respect and awe, because our God really is a consuming fire.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us give thanks, by which we offer to God an acceptable worship with reverence and awe. Offer to God the gifts of your life and labor and come into God’s courts with praise.

OFFERING PRAYER

Unshakable and Holy God, we bring these gifts before you, not as mere offerings, but as acts of faith in your unshakable kingdom. Though the world around us trembles, we trust in your steadfast love, knowing that in Christ, we are welcomed, transformed, and sent forth to serve. Bless these gifts, that they may be used to build your justice and mercy, bringing hope to the broken and light to the weary. With grateful hearts, we offer ourselves alongside these gifts, that we may be signs of your grace in the world. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.

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.

HYMN

“Womb of Life”

TFWS #2046

- 1 Womb of life, and source of being, home of every restless heart,
in your arms the worlds awakened; you have loved us from the start.
We your children, gather ‘round you, at the table you prepare.
Sharing stories, tears, and laughter, we are nurtured by your care.
2. Word in flesh, our brother Jesus, born to bring us second birth,
You have come to stand beside us, knowing weakness, knowing earth.
Priest who shares our human struggles, Life of Life, and Death of Death,
Risen Christ, come stand among us, send the Spirit by your breath.
3. Brooding Spirit, move among us; be our partner, be our friend.
When our memory fails, remind us whose we are, what we intend.
Labor with us, aid the birthing of the new world yet to be,
free of servant, lord, and master, free for love and unity.
4. Mother, Brother, Holy Partner; Father, Spirit, Only Son;
we would praise your name forever, One in three, and Three in one.
We would share your life, your passion, share your word of world made new,
ever singing, ever praising, one with all, and one with you.

BENEDICTION

Go now in the blessing of God’s love that cannot be shaken, trusting in God’s promises as you work for a world of justice and mercy for all. Amen.

Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, March 2025

POSTLUDE

“Pipings”

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 Facebook page. 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
- Prayer Partner: Brenda Swoope
- Lay Reader – Debbie Rippard
- Audio-Visual Operator – Rob Castellow
- Facebook Live Recorders: Monica Whitehurst & Danny Castellow
- Greeter: Joanne Rooks
- Pastor: Rev. Ned Alderman
- Administrative Assistant: Eileen Ballance
- Financial Secretary: Edna Bess
- Coastal Virginia Dist. Superintendent: Rev. Beth Givens
- Resident Bishop, Richmond Area: Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson