#### **CLOSING PRAYER (in unison)**

Living God, with your power and vision, we can prevail against the powers of death and the forces of destruction; we can escape the raging waters and survive the damaging storms. Lift us up from our weariness and hopelessness, and save us from the temptation to conform to the powers-that-be. By your powerful and life-giving name, renew our minds and our lives, that we may stand against the gates of the underworld. Amen.

POSTLUDE "Psalm XX" 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 by Ann and Jimmy Lee in memory of Billy McDonald, Jr.

The Food Basket on the altar is presented to the glory of God by Mildred Walling in memory of her husband, Julian Walling.



# 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."

Website: www.oakletteumc.org

Office's Email: <u>oaklette@oakletteumc.org</u>, Pastor's Email: <u>nedalderman@vaumc.org</u>

520 Oaklette Dr., Chesapeake, VA 23325

Telephone: (757) 545-7434 Fax: (757) 543-2222



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.

PRELUDE "Air" - Dana Moody

THE MORNING WELCOME

Rev. Ned Alderman

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Rev. Ned Alderman

**CENTERING PRAYER (in unison)** 

Holy and living God, you promise that our minds, so easily molded in the ways of our world, can be transformed in your grace, and that our lives may be renewed in this transformation. Open our minds, imaginations, hearts, and wills, that we may be made new as beloved members of your Church. Amen.

### †OPENING HYMN

# "As a Fire is Meant for Burning"

**TFWS #2237** 

- 1. As a fire is meant for burning with a bright and warming flame, so the church is meant for mission, giving glory to God's name. Not to preach our creeds or customs, but to build a bridge of care, we join hands across the nations, finding neighbors everywhere.
  - We are learners; we are teachers; we are pilgrims on the way.
     We are seekers; we are givers; we are vessels made of clay.
     By our gentle, loving actions we would show that Christ is light.
     In a humble, listening Spirit we would live to God's delight.
- 3. As a green bud in the springtime is a sign of life renewed, so may we be signs of oneness 'mid earth's peoples, many hued. As a rainbow lights the heavens when a storm is past and gone, may our lives reflect the radiance of God's new and glorious dawn.

## MORNING PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS (Responsively)

<u>People</u>: God of mercy and grace, it is hard to hold onto hope. We see people handed over as food for the enemies' teeth, or as prey for the hunters' traps. Sometimes we are the food and the prey. Sometimes we are the enemy and the hunter. Sometimes we are merely bystanders, too afraid or powerless to act as we should. Forgive us, O God, when we accept things as they are.

Maker of heaven and earth, giver of hope, savior of the distressed, fill our imaginations and our hearts with your splendid vision for our world. Transform and renew our minds that we may discern what is good and pleasing to you in this world you love so deeply. Amen.

<u>Lay Reader</u>: Jesus promised that the gates of the underworld would not be able to stand against the Church. Each of us is part of this Church, this body of Christ. Each of us has unique gifts and our own unique calling. Know that through God's mercies, you are forgiven. Know that God will bless you with new imaginings, new thoughts, new hopes, and new courage, that we too may stand against the gates of the underworld.

### THE LORD'S PRAYER (in unison)

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.

**SPECIAL MUSIC** 

"Our Lord Reigns"

**CHANCEL CHOIR** 

#### SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 16:13-20 [CEB]

Now when Jesus came to the area of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Human One is?"

They replied, "Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the other prophets."

He said, "And what about you? Who do you say that I am?"

Simon Peter said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

Then Jesus replied, "Happy are you, Simon son of Jonah, because no human has shown this to you. Rather my Father who is in heaven has shown you. I tell you that you are Peter. And I'll build my church on this rock. The gates of the underworld won't be able to stand against it. I'll give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven. Anything you fasten on earth will be fastened in heaven. Anything you loosen on earth will be loosened in heaven." Then he ordered the disciples not to tell anybody that he was the Christ.

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

**People:** Thanks be to God.

#### **SERMON**

# "Understand and Take the Keys"

- Rev. Ned Alderman

#### **HYMN OF RESPONSE**

# "Forward Through the Ages"

#555

1. Forward through the ages, in unbroken line, move the faithful spirits at the call divine; gifts in differing measure, hearts of one accord, manifold the service, one the sure reward.

\*Refrain\*

Forward through the ages, in unbroken line, move the faithful spirits at the call divine.

 Wider grows the kingdom, reign of love and light; for it we must labor, till our faith is sight.
 Prophets have proclaimed it, martyrs testified, poets sung its glory, heroes for it died.
 Refrain

Forward through the ages, in unbroken line, Move the faithful spirits at the call divine.

3. Not alone we conquer, not alone we fall; in each loss or triumph lose or triumph all.Bound by God's far purpose in one living whole, Move we on together to the shining goal.

Forward through the ages, in unbroken line, Move the faithful spirits at the call divine.

# **PARTNERS IN MINISTRY TODAY**

**Members of the Church** 

Nursery Care Providers: Debbie & Ron Repko

Lay Reader: Brenda Swoope

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 Haupert-Johnson