

**CHRISTMAS CANTATA
DIRECTOR DANA MOODY
PAYETTE**

**“THE KING OF WHO I AM”
NARRATOR: CHIP**



**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.”

**December 15, 2024
Third Sunday of Advent**



“THE KING OF WHO I AM” CHOIR

“UNTO US” CHOIR

“INTERLUDE 1” CHOIR

“FOLLOW FOLLOW” CHOIR

“CHRIST IS COMING TO THIS EARTH TONIGHT” CHOIR

“O HOLY NIGHT!” SOLOIST SHELLEY CASTELLOW CHOIR

“GLORY TO GOD” CHOIR

“HE GAVE THE GREATEST GIFT OF ALL” CHOIR
MONICA WHITEHURST & DON MOODY

“YOU’VE COME TO CLAIM THE HEART” SOLOIST DEBBIE RIPPARD CHOIR

“FOLLOW THE STAR” SOLOIST JULIAN BAKER CHOIR

“TAPESTRY OF CAROLS” CHOIR AND CONGREGATION
**O Come, All Ye Faithful; Joy to the World; Angels We Have Heard on High;
The First Noel; O Holy Night.**

“THE KING OF WHO I AM [Finale]” SOLOIST KAY HILL CHOIR

SENDING FORTH

Advent invites each of us into a new way of living in a world to which the kingdom of God has come and is yet coming. Go, now, blessed with the gift of togetherness, for it is only in being truly present with God and one another that we live as followers of the coming Messiah. Amen.

Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, June 2024

POSTLUDE “CAROL TAPESTRY DANA MOODY

GOING FROM VILLAGE TO VILLAGE

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

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

Isaiah 12:2-6 [NRSV]

Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and will not be afraid, for the Lord is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation.” With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. And you will say on that day: “Give thanks to the Lord; call on his name; make known his deeds among the nations; proclaim that his name is exalted. Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth. Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.”

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Bob and Judy Carter

No matter what troubles overwhelm us today, Isaiah reminds us that in all of our preparation and passionate pursuit of God’s coming kingdom, we must not forget that God’s salvation has come and is coming. “With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.” With joy you will remember that God’s salvation is already present among us.

Faced with the troubles and the suffering of the world, we choose to live in joyful presence to God and one another. We will not turn away from the pain and the hurt in our world, and we will not stop rejoicing in God, whose salvation fills us to overflowing

that God's love might flow through us and flood our troubled world with hope, peace, and joy.

We light this candle of joy as a sign of our commitment to be present to ourselves, our friends, our families, and our neighbors that in sharing our vulnerable lives we might share in the glorious joy of God's salvation together.

PRELUDE "SILENT NIGHT HOLY NIGHT" **DANA MOODY**

MESSAGE FOR GROWING CHRISTIANS

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)

All: Sing! Sing to the Lord a new song!

Lay Reader: : for new every morning mercies, for what the Lord has done for you.

All: Sing! Sing to the Lord a new song!

Lay Reader: for forgiving the sin that only you and God know about, for grace that is more than sufficient.

All: Sing! Sing to the Lord a new song! For every mountain you brought us over, for every hardship you saw us through, our souls sing, "Hallelujah, yes, and amen."

Worship & Song Worship Resources Edition copyright 2011 by Abingdon Press

OPENING PRAYER (ALL)

Dear God, the ideal earthly king has never come, but Christ who has come displays a truer royalty. While the perfect earthly state remains but a dream, you founded in Jesus Christ a spiritual community of love and righteousness, which makes all things new and for which we are eternally grateful. We thank you for this in Jesus' name. Amen.

The Abingdon Preaching Annual 2009 copyright 2008 by Abingdon Press

HYMN "Sing We Now of Christmas" **#237**

1. Sing we now of Christmas, Noel, sing we here!
Hear our grateful praises to the babe so dear.

Refrain

Sing we Noel, the King is born, Noel!
Sing we now of Christmas, sing we now Noel!

2. Angels called to shepherds, "Leave your flocks at rest,
journey forth to Bethlehem, find the child so blest.

Refrain

3. In Bethlehem they found him; Joseph and Mary mild,
Seated by the manger, watching the holy child.

Refrain

4. From the eastern country came the kings afar,
bearing gifts to Bethlehem, guided by a star.

Refrain

5. Gold and myrrh they took there, gifts of greatest price;
there was never a stable so like paradise.

Refrain

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: Creator of the universe, we stand amazed at your power and glory. We are eager to worship you and offer our praise, but we are often reluctant to answer when we hear you calling our name. We sing our songs of tribute in the sanctuary, but shy away from the river, lest we be baptized with the fire of the Holy Spirit. Forgive us when we forget your promise to be with us always, O God. Renew us with the power of your ever-present love, and strengthen us to proclaim your justice throughout the world. Amen.

Written by Laura Jaquith Bartlett, posted on the Ministry Matters website <http://www.ministry matters.com/>

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.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Let us bring to God our offerings, with thanksgiving that God provides more than enough for all. Let us give, as each is able, for the benefit of Christ's church and God's world.

*Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year C, Volume 1 © 2012
Westminster John Knox Press*

OFFERING PRAYER

God of Advent joy, we bring our offerings with hearts open to your transformative call. In this season of anticipation, may our gifts help mend what is broken and share the promise of redemption. Empower us to live fully present, giving generously and acting justly. Let these offerings be seeds of hope and joy that will draw us closer to your kingdom. Bless our giving, that it may reflect your love and bring light to our 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.

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

Nursery Care Providers: Lisa & Brooks Ryno

Prayer Partner: Shellene Castellow

Advent Readers: Judy & Bob Carter

Lay Reader – 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. Beth Givens

Resident Bishop, Richmond Area: Bishop Sue Hauptert–Johnson



*In Lieu of Christmas Cards
Barbara Bennett has made a donation to Oaklette Church.
Diana and Danny Etheridge have made a donation
to Oaklette Church.*



*A Poinsettia has been donated by
Barbara Bennett in honor of Todd Bennett for his **birthday**
on December 25th
and for the Food Pantry Workers.*