We pray for all your creation: turn us from our exploitative ways to help you renew the earth. **Blessed are those who trust in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord.**

God, you demand much, but promise that your yoke is easy. Guide us throughout our lives, keeping us ever mindful of the good news of your forgiving and renewing grace; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

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HYMN

"For All the Saints"

TFWS #2283

- 1. For all the saints who've shown your love in how they live And where they move, for mindful women, caring men, Accept our gratitude again.
 - For all the saints who loved your name, whose faith increased the Savior's fame, who sang your sons and shared your word, accept our gratitude good Lord..
 - For all the saints who named your will, and showed the kingdom coming still Through selfless protest, prayer, and praise, Accept the gratitude we raise.
 - 4 Bless all whose will or name or love Reflects the grace of heaven above.Though unaclaimed by earthly powers, your life through theirs has hallowed ours.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

God places before us the ways of life and the ways of death and bids us to choose. As we prepare to give our tithes and offerings this day, let us choose wisely, guided by the Holy Spirit who dwells among us.

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OFFERING PRAYER

Gracious God, who blesses us in our brokenness and rejoices with us in our joy, we bring these gifts as an offering of hope and love. May they be used to heal the hurting, feed the hungry, and welcome the weary. Help us to be a community that reflects your kingdom, where all find acceptance and grace. 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.



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." February 16, 2025 Sixth Sunday After Epiphany

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. $[\dagger] =$ 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

Luke 6:12-16 (NRSV)

Now during those days he went out to the mountain to pray, and he spent the night in prayer to God. And when day came, he called his disciples and chose twelve of them, whom he also named apostles: Simon, whom he named Peter, and his brother Andrew, and James, and John, and Philip, and Bartholomew, and Matthew, and Thomas, and James son of Alphaeus, and Simon, who was called the Zealot, and Judas son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor.

PRELUDE

"Lead Me, Lord"

DANA MOODY

MESSAGE FOR GROWING CHRISTIANS

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)

Lay Reader: When we turn our hearts away from God and toward ourselves, putting trust in our own strength,

<u>People:</u> we become like a shrub in the desert, living in a parched, salty place. When we trust in God, when our trust is God, we are like a tree planted by water.

Our roots go deep, we are ever-green; even in a drought we are not anxious, but bear fruit, full and beautiful, gifts of the God who made us.

OPENING PRAYER

Compassionate God, we recognize that our world is a broken place, hurt by poverty, famine, and disease. We admit that sometimes we make the world a broken place, tolerating prejudice, conflict, and self-interest. We confess that our hearts also suffer with anger, resentment, and jealousy.

Renew us in Your love, O God, and heal us with the comfort of Your abundant love. Awaken us to the role we can play in healing Your creation. Strengthen us through the power of the Holy Spirit to hear Your word and move forward in faith. Amen.

Written by Gill Le Febre

HYMN

"Make Me a Captive, Lord" #421, vv. 1, 3, 4

 Make me a captive, Lord, and then I shall be free.
Force me to render up my sword, and I shall conqueror be. I sink in life's alarms when by myself I stand;
imprison me within thine arms, and strong shall be my hand.

3 My power is faint and low till I have learned to serve, it lacks the needed fire to glow, it lacks the breeze to nerve. It cannot drive the world until itself be driven; Its flag can only be unfurled when thou shalt breathe from heaven.

4.My will is not my own till thou hast made it thine; If it would reach a monarchs throne, it must its crown resign. It only stands unbent amid the clashing strife, When on thy bosom it has leant, and found in thee its life.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

<u>Lay Reader</u>: The prophet Jeremiah says that God tests our minds and searches our hearts, because the condition of mind and heart affects actions. Trusting in God's mercy, let us invite God to search us, so that God might also lead us in the way everlasting.

<u>People</u>: Merciful God, your call to discipleship is demanding. You call us to reorder our lives by the kingdom you are bringing in Jesus Christ. Yet we still pass by the ones you especially notice: people who are poor and hungry; people who weep. We have not stood with those who are hated, bullied, and excluded. Comfortable with the way things are, we are too complacent, even complicit with injustice and prejudice.

Forgive us, O God, and turn us back to your gospel. We pray this now, for our sake, and for the sake of your world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Lay Reader: Because Christ has been raised from the dead, sin and death do not have the last word! Our faith is not in vain!

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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

"Put Your Hand in the Hand"

CHANCEL CHOIR

Luke 6:17-26 [NRSV]

SCRIPTURE

He came down with them and stood on a level place with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases, and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. And everyone in the crowd was trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them. Then he looked up at his disciples and said:

"Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled. Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh. Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice on that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven, for that is how their ancestors treated the prophets.

But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry. Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep. Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is how their ancestors treated the false prophets."

SERMON"Right Between the Eyes"Rev. Ned Alderman

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

Holy One, you have created us with the ability to choose between life and death, blessings and curses. Help us to reject the advice of the wicked or sit with the scoffers, and by your grace, empower us to put our trust in you.

Blessed are those who trust in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord.

We pray for those who put their trust in themselves instead of in you.

Blessed are those who trust in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord.

We pray for those who put their trust in princes and politicians, and find themselves deceived and misled.

Blessed are those who trust in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord.

We pray for those who are poor, who hunger, who weep.

Blessed are those who trust in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord.

We pray for those who are making poor choices in their lives; may they turn to you for guidance.

Blessed are those who trust in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord.

HYMN

"Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven"

#66

 Praise my soul, the King of heaven, to the throne thy tribute bring; ransomed, healed, restored, for given, evermore God's praises sing. Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise the everlasting King.

2. Praise the Lord for grace and favor to all people in distress; praise God, still the same as ever, slow to chide, and swift to bless. Alleluia! Alleluia! Glorious now God's faithfulness.

- Father-like, God tends and spares us; well for feeble frame God knows; mother-like, God gently bears us, rescues us from all our foes, Alleluia! Alleluia! Widely yet God's mercy flows.
 - 4. Angels in the heights, adoring, you behold God face to face; saints triumphant, now adoring, gathered in from every race. Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise with us the God of Grace.

SENDING FORTH

Beloved, go today in the blessing of Christ, who calls you, equips you, and accompanies you as you live out God's justice and joy wherever you go! Amen.

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

GOING FROM VILLAGE TO VILLAGE

POSTLUDE

"St. Petersburg Hymn"

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 Nursery Care Providers: Lisa & Brooks Ryno Prayer Partner: Brenda Swoope Lay Reader - Debbie Rippard Audio-Visual Operator - Julian Baker 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 Haupert-Johnson