



## *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."*

### *January 12, 2025*



#### **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 2:25-38 [CEB]**

A man named Simeon was in Jerusalem. He was righteous and devout. He eagerly anticipated the restoration of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. The Holy Spirit revealed to him that he wouldn't die before he had seen the Lord's Christ. Led by the Spirit, he went into the temple area. Meanwhile, Jesus' parents brought the child to the temple so that they could do what was customary under the Law. Simeon took Jesus in his arms and praised God. He said, "Now, master, let your servant go in peace according to your word, because my eyes have seen your salvation. You prepared this salvation in the presence of all peoples. It's a light for revelation to the Gentiles and a glory for your people Israel."

His father and mother were amazed by what was said about him. Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "This boy is assigned to be the cause of the falling and rising of many in Israel and to be a sign that generates opposition so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your innermost being too."

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, who belonged to the tribe of Asher. She was very old. After she married, she lived with her husband for seven years. She was now an 84-year-old widow. She never left the temple area but worshipped God with fasting and prayer night and day. She approached at that very moment and began to praise God and to speak about Jesus to everyone who was looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

**PRELUDE**

**“Like A River Glorious”**

**DANA MOODY**

**MESSAGE FOR GROWING CHRISTIANS**

**CALL TO WORSHIP:**

People of God, do you know who you are?

**We are God’s beloved children.**

Disciples of Christ, do you know who you are?

**We are the wheat in Christ’s granary.**

Heirs of the Spirit, do you know who you are?

**We are the works of the Spirit, fashioned into the body of Christ.**

Sealed in God’s love, through the waters of our baptism, let us abide in the power of the living God.

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**OPENING PRAYER**

**O Lord, we come this morning knee-bowed and body-bent before thy throne of grace. O Lord – this morning – bow our hearts beneath our knees, and our knees in some lonesome valley. We come this morning like empty pitchers to a full fountain, with no merits of our own. O Lord, open up a window of heaven, and lean out far over the battlements of glory, and listen this morning. Amen.**

*James Weldon Johnson, USA, 20th century, UMH #677*

**HYMN**

**“This is the Spirit’s Entry Now”**

**#608**

1. This is the Spirit’s entry now: the water and the word,  
The cross of Jesus on your brow, the seal both felt and heard.
2. Let water be the sacred sign that we must die each day,  
To rise again by his design as followers of his way.
3. Renewing Spirit, hear our praise for your baptismal power  
That washes us through all our days. Lord, cleanse again this hour.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION:**

God loves us and calls us each by name. Knowing we are eternally forgiven and infinitely loved, let us boldly confess our sins before God.

**We are precious in your sight, yet we often forget that we are your beloved. We confess that our love is fickle and inconstant. We follow selfish goals and deny that our way of life harms others and hurts your world.**

**We are sorry and we want to change. Create in us a clean heart, strengthen our resolve, reconcile us one to another, and bless us with your peace. Amen.**

Beloved, God forgives your sins; know that you are pardoned and be at peace to love the Lord and serve the world.

*Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year C, Volume 1 ©  
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## **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. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

**ANTHEM**

**“Wade in the Water“**

**CHANCEL CHOIR**

**Monica Whitehurst, Ned Alderman, Soloists**

**SCRIPTURE**

**Luke 3:15-17, 21-22 [CEB]**

The people were filled with expectation, and everyone wondered whether John might be the Christ. John replied to them all, “I baptize you with water, but the one who is more powerful than me is coming. I’m not worthy to loosen the strap of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. The shovel he uses to sift the wheat from the husks is in his hands. He will clean out his threshing area and bring the wheat into his barn. But he will burn the husks with a fire that can’t be put out.”

When everyone was being baptized, Jesus also was baptized. While he was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit came down on him in bodily form like a dove. And there was a voice from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I dearly love; in you I find happiness.”

**SERMON**

**“The Call of the Moment“**

**Rev. Ned Alderman**

## **REAFFIRMATION OF THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT**

Brothers and sisters in Christ: Through the Sacrament of Baptism we are initiated into Christ's holy Church. We are incorporated into God's mighty acts of salvation and given new birth through water and the Spirit. All this is God's gift, offered to us without price.

Through the reaffirmation of our faith we renew the covenant declared at our baptism, acknowledge what God is doing for us, and affirm our commitment to Christ's holy Church.

On behalf of the whole Church, I ask you: Do you renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of this world, and repent of your sin?

**People: I do.**

Pastor: Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves?

**People: I do.**

Pastor: Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Savior, put your whole trust in his grace, and promise to serve him as your Lord, in union with the Church which Christ has opened to people of all ages, nations, and races?

**People: I do.**

Pastor: According to the grace given to you, will you remain faithful members of Christ's holy Church and serve as Christ's representatives in the world?

**People: I will.**

Pastor: Let us join together in professing the Christian faith as contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments. Do you believe in God the Father?

**People: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**Pastor: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?**

**People: I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, is seated at the right hand of the Father, and will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

Pastor: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**People: I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Let us pray.

Eternal Father: When nothing existed but chaos, you swept across the dark waters, and brought forth light. In the days of Noah you saved those on the ark through water. After the flood you set in the clouds a rainbow. When you saw your people as slaves in Egypt, you led them to freedom through the sea. Their children you brought through the Jordan to the land which you promised.

**People: Sing to the Lord, all the earth. Tell of God's mercy each day.**

Pastor: In the fullness of time you sent Jesus, nurtured in the water of a womb. He was baptized by John and anointed by your Spirit. He called his disciples to share in the baptism of his death and resurrection and to make disciples of all nations.

**People: Declare Christ's works to the nations, his glory among all the people.**

Pastor: Pour out your Holy Spirit, and by this gift of water call to our remembrance the grace declared to us in our baptism. For you have washed away our sins, and you clothe us with righteousness throughout our lives, that dying and rising with Christ we may share in his final victory.

All praise to you, Eternal Father, through your Son Jesus Christ, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns for ever. Amen.

## **REAFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Remember your baptism and be thankful. Amen.

## **THANKSGIVING**

Pastor: Let us rejoice in the faithfulness of our covenant God.

**People: We give thanks for all that God has already given us. As members of the body of Christ and in this congregation of The United Methodist Church, we will faithfully participate in the ministries of the Church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service and our witness that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.**

Pastor: The God of all grace, who has called us to eternal glory in Christ, establish and strengthen you by the power of the Holy Spirit that you may live in grace and peace.

*“The Services of the Baptismal Covenant of The United Methodist Church as Revised to Align with the 2008 Book of Discipline and Book of Resolutions,” Copyright © 2009, The United Methodist Publishing House. Published by The General Board of Discipleship with permission of The United Methodist Publishing House.*

## **HYMN**

### **“Come, Let Us Use the Grace Divine”**

**#606**

1. Come, let us use the grace divine, and all with one accord,  
In a perpetual covenant join ourselves to Christ the Lord;  
Give up ourselves, thru Jesus’ power, his name to glorify;  
And promise, in this sacred hour, for God to live and die.
2. The covenant we this moment make be ever kept in mind;  
We will no more our God forsake, or cast these words behind.  
We never will throw off the fear of God who hears our vow;  
And if thou art well pleased to hear, come down and meet us now.
3. Thee, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, let all our hearts receive,  
Present with thy celestial host the peaceful answer give;  
to each covenant the blood apply which takes our sins away,  
and register our names on high and keep us to that day!

## **INVITATION TO THE OFFERING**

As people who have passed through the waters of baptism, let us make our grateful offering to God our Redeemer.

## OFFERING PRAYER

Loving God, who guides us with your everlasting presence, we offer these gifts with grateful hearts. As Jesus stood with us in the waters of baptism, may these offerings stand as a testament to your love and grace. Use them to bring hope, healing, and transformation to our world. In Christ's 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. Amen.

## HYMN

### "Down by the Jordan"

#3045

1. Down by the Jordan, a prophet named John was baptizing,  
Preaching a message the people found bold and surprising:  
"God will forgive! Show that you'll change how you live!  
Surely God's new day is rising!"
2. There by the river, the crowd came with great expectation  
"Are you God's Chosen One, sent here to rescue our nation?"  
"No!" John replied. "He who is mightier than I  
Judges and offers salvation."
3. Jesus, you went to be baptized along with the others,  
Taking your place among sinners, God's lost sons and daughters.  
Then with great love, God's Spirit came as a dove!  
Your work began in those waters.
4. Here in the Church, we are baptized and filled with God's Spirit.  
Freed and forgiven, we're welcomed with joy! Can you hear it?  
This is God's sign! This is how God says, "You're mine!"  
Let's take the good news and share it!

## SENDING FORTH

We have been with Jesus to the River of Jordan, river of life, river of promise. Go forth in the joy of life, to live as children of promise.

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

## GOING FROM VILLAGE TO VILLAGE

*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 – Monica Whitehurst**

**Nursery – Lisa & Brooks Ryno**

**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**