

## AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

A STATEMENT OF FAITH OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA #883

We are not alone, we live in God's world. We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, and who works in us and others by the Spirit. We trust in God. We are called to be the church: to celebrate God's presence, to live with respect in creation, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope. In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God. Amen.

## GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. World without end. Amen. Amen.

## HYMN

“There's a Spirit in the Air”

#192 vv. 1-6

1. There's a Spirit in the air, telling Christians everywhere:  
praise the love that Christ revealed, living, working, in our world.
2. Lose your shyness, find your tongue; tell the world what God has done.  
God in Christ has come to stay. Live tomorrow's life today.
3. When believers break the bread, when a hungry child is fed,  
praise the love that Christ revealed, living, working, in our world.
4. Still the Spirit leads the fight, seeing wrong and setting right:  
God in Christ has come to stay. Live tomorrow's life today!
5. When a stranger's not alone, when the homeless find a home,  
praise the love that Christ revealed, living, working, in our world.
6. May the Spirit fill our praise, guide our thoughts and change our ways:  
God in Christ has come to stay. Live tomorrow's life today.

## INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

God is a generous giver of gifts that flow like a river from the fountain of life. Bring offerings and tributes with thanks and praise; for the gifts we give are the gifts of God.

## OFFERING PRAYER

Generous God, who turns water into wine and scarcity into abundance, we offer our gifts to you with grateful hearts. May these offerings be transformed, just as you transform our lives with your grace. Guide us to use these resources to meet the needs we see around us, to share your love, and to build your kingdom. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

## DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise him all creatures here below. Praise him above our heavenly host. Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.



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 19, 2025

Second 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. [†] = 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 25:6-9 [NRSV]**

On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear. And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the covering that is spread over all nations; he will swallow up death forever. Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken. It will be said on that day, "See, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the Lord for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation."

### PRELUDE

"Andante"

DANA MOODY

### MESSAGE FOR GROWING CHRISTIANS

#### CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)

Lay Reader: When we are lonely, feeling forsaken, there is One who knows how we feel:

**All: our God who gathers us up, pulling us close to the heart of love.**

Lay Reader: When we sit at the table of despair, when we nibble at life's stale crusts, there is One who throws a party for us:

**All: our God who loves to celebrate, who fills our lives with goodness.**

Lay Reader: When we are mired in the muck of life, when every day seems to be the same as yesterday, there is One who comes to us:

**All: our God who changes our names, our God who transforms our lives.**

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### OPENING PRAYER

Lay Reader: When we stand at the edge of desolation, staring down into our emptiness,

**All: you reach out to keep us from falling.**

Lay Reader: When we fumble and stumble through the shadows of our world,

**All: you offer us a little light, which is all we need until our eyes grow accustomed to the bright dawn of your grace and wonder.**

Lay Reader: When we are worn down by the rough edges of life,

**All: you polish us until we gleam with hope.**

Lay Reader: When we feel deserted,

**All: you adopt us as your very own.**

Lay Reader: When the world files a bill of divorce against us, turning its back,

**All: you slip a ring of joy on our finger, clasping our hands in yours, as you whisper vows of love that will remain longer than the stars will burn.**

Lay Reader: God in Community, Holy in One, we give you praise for your presence, even as we pray as we are taught,

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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. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

### HYMN

#### “Ye Servants of God”

#181

1. Ye servants of God, your Master proclaim,  
and publish abroad his wonderful name  
the name all-victorious of Jesus extol,  
his kingdom is glorious and rules over all.
2. God ruleth on high, almighty to save,  
And still he is nigh, his presence we have;  
The great congregation his triumph shall sing,  
Ascribing salvation to Jesus our King.
3. “Salvation to God, who sits on the throne!”  
Let all cry aloud and honor the Son:  
The praises of Jesus the angels proclaim,  
Fall down on their faces and worship the Lamb.
4. Then let us adore and give him his right,  
All glory and power, all wisdom and might;  
All honor and blessing with angels above,  
And thanks never ceasing and infinite love.

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lay Reader: We plead ignorance, but we know. We know the hurt we have caused, the names we have called other people, the love we hold back from family and friends. Let us confess our shadowed lives, so the light of God's mercy might illumine us. Please join me as we pray together, saying:

**People: If we are to have any hope, Transforming God, we must face the reality of our lives, putting a name to our failings. You hand us a bouquet of gifts, but we let them wither by not placing them in your living water. You call us to speak out for those who live in the corners and cupboards of our world, but we believe our silence is the best way to help them. We listen to those who tell us that to trust in you is a sign of weakness, rather than listening to your invitation to hope in you always.**

**You will not rest until we are one with you God of Peace, so forgive us and fill us with your mercy. Gift us, so we may respond to those opportunities to serve your people. May your Spirit teach us the new language of faith, so we might confess Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior.**

[Silence is kept]

Lay Reader: This is the good news: you are God's delight, you are God's joy, you are God's beloved. God will not remain silent, but will call you by name.

**People: From the farthest corners of heaven to this very place, from God's heart to ours – we are forgiven. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

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### ANTHEM

“I Have Decided to Follow Jesus”

CHANCEL CHOIR

### SCRIPTURE

John 2:1-11 [NRSV]

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, “They have no wine.” And Jesus said to her, “Woman, what concern is that to me and to you? My hour has not yet come.” His mother said to the servants “Do whatever he tells you.” Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, “Fill the jars with water.” And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, “Now draw some out, and take it to the person in charge of the banquet.” So they took it. When the person in charge tasted the water that had become wine and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), that person called the bridegroom and said to him, “Everyone serves the good wine first and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.” Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee and revealed his glory, and his disciples believed in him.

### SERMON

“Do Whatever He Tells You”

Rev. Ned Alderman

## HYMN

### “Come, Let us Dream”

W&S #3157

1. Come, let us dream God’s dream again.  
Come, one and all, let us ascend  
the mountain top where those of old  
saw God’s new day on earth unfold.
2. The lame shall walk, the blind shall see,  
the doors swing wide, all prisoners free,  
the lowly raised, the proud brought low  
this is God’s dream; let justice flow.
3. When hatred ends and war shall cease,  
so all may dwell in deepest peace,  
then be assured the time is near  
when perfect love casts out all fear.
4. But know the cost of claiming sight  
of God’s new day, of wrongs made right,  
for some have paid the highest price,  
their lives for us, a sacrifice.
5. Prophets are scorned in their own lands  
and martyrs slain by righteous hands;  
though dreamers die, the dream will live,  
for we have yet our lives to give.

## SENDING FORTH

May the Spirit’s love, flowing like water across the face of the earth, fill you with every gift for the good of the world. And the blessing of God, Eternal Source, Fountain of Life, and Giver of Gifts, be with you always. Amen.

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

## GOING FROM VILLAGE TO VILLAGE

## POSTLUDE

### “Sweet is the Work”

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 – Monica Whitehurst

Audio–Visual Operator – Ericka Litten

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