

OFFERING PRAYER

Faithful God, who calls us to follow and empowers us by your Spirit, we bring these gifts to you in gratitude and hope. May they be used to proclaim good news, set the oppressed free, and bring sight to the blind. Transform our offerings into acts of love and justice that reflect the mission of Jesus in this world. In His holy 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.

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 4:14-24 [NIV]

Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. He was teaching in their synagogues, and everyone praised him.

He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written: "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor. Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. He began by saying to them, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing." All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his lips. "Isn't this Joseph's son?" they asked. Jesus said to them, "Surely you will quote this proverb to me: 'Physician, heal yourself!' And you will tell me, 'Do here in your hometown what we have heard that you did in Capernaum.'" "Truly I tell you," he continued, "no prophet is accepted in his hometown."

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

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

"Jesus' Purpose"

Debbie Rippard

A MODERN AFFIRMATION

Leader: Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is the one true church, apostolic and universal, whose holy faith let us now declare:

All: We believe in God the Father; infinite in wisdom, power, and love, whose mercy is over all his works, and whose will is ever directed to his children's good.

We believe in Jesus Christ, Son of God and Son of man, the gift of the Father's unfailing grace, the ground of our hope, and the promise of our deliverance from sin and death.

We believe in the Holy Spirit as the divine presence in our lives, whereby we are kept in perpetual remembrance of the truth of Christ, and find strength and help in time of need.

We believe that this faith should manifest itself in the service of love as set forth in the example of our blessed Lord, to the end that the kingdom of God may come upon the earth. 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 26, 2025

Third 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

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 6-10 [NIV]

All the people came together as one in the square before the Water Gate. They told Ezra the teacher of the Law to bring out the Book of the Law of Moses, which the Lord had commanded for Israel.

So on the first day of the seventh month Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, which was made up of men and women and all who were able to understand. He read it aloud from daybreak till noon as he faced the square before the Water Gate in the presence of the men, women and others who could understand. And all the people listened attentively to the Book of the Law. Ezra opened the book. All the people could see him because he was standing above them; and as he opened it, the people all stood up. Ezra praised the Lord, the great God; and all the people lifted their hands and responded, "Amen! Amen!" Then they bowed down and worshiped the Lord with their faces to the ground. They read from the Book of the Law of God, making it clear and giving the meaning so that the people understood what was being read. Then Nehemiah the governor, Ezra the priest and teacher of the Law, and the Levites who were instructing the people said to them all, "This day is holy to the Lord your God. Do not mourn or weep." For all the people had been weeping as they listened to the words of the Law.

Nehemiah said, "Go and enjoy choice food and sweet drinks, and send some to those who have nothing prepared. This day is holy to our Lord. Do not grieve, for the joy of the Lord is your strength."

PRELUDE

“Aria”

DANA MOODY

MESSAGE FOR GROWING CHRISTIANS

HYMN

“I’m Gonna Sing When the Spirit Says Sing”

#333

1. I’m goin’-a sing when the Spirit says sing, I’m goin’-a sing when the Spirit says sing.
I’m goin’-a sing when the Spirit says sing, and obey the Spirit of the Lord.
2. I’m goin’-a pray when the Spirit says pray, I’m goin’-a pray when the Spirit says pray.
I’m goin’-a pray when the Spirit says pray, and obey the Spirit of the Lord.
3. I’m goin’-a moan when the Spirit says moan, I’m goin’-a moan when the Spirit says moan,
I’m goin’-a moan when the Spirit says moan, and obey the Spirit of the Lord.
4. I’m goin’-a shout when the Spirit says shout, I’m goin’-a shout when the Spirit says shout,
I’m goin’-a shout when the Spirit says shout, and obey the Spirit of the Lord.

CENTERING PRAYER (responsively)

Lay Reader: Children of God, we gather to worship, to sing and proclaim with joy the good works God is doing in our midst.

People: We gather to worship, as is our custom.

Lay Reader: We also gather today to pray for our families, our community, and our world. To name the challenges that press in around us, to lament the suffering in our world, to declare our trust in God in the midst of hardship.

People: We gather to worship, as is our custom.

Lay Reader: We, like those in Nazareth, gather to hear and receive the Word of God proclaimed among us. To encounter the life-giving message of God’s love redeems us to be bearers of love and freedom in this world.

People: We gather to worship, as is our custom.

Lay Reader: Children of God, listen. Pay attention. Ready your hearts. God is here. Jesus has come among us. The Spirit brings the Word to life in our midst. Are you ready?

People: We gather to worship, as is our custom. Thanks be to God! Amen.

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

MORNING PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Lay Reader: God, we do not understand Jesus, the prophet. We do not want to get our hands dirty with the poor, the oppressed, the prisoners.

People: Forgive us for being insulated and isolated.

Lay Reader: Open our hearts to the poor,

People: help us to love them as you love them, working to bring in the good news of the reign of God.

Lay Reader: We pray these prayers in God’s name and pray as Jesus taught us to pray...

Posted on Waiting for Water: Liturgy for the Easter Journey 2013

THE LORD’S PRAYER (singing)

Leader: Our Father

People: Our Father

Leader: In Heaven

People: In Heaven

Leader: Holy is Your name.

People: Holy is Your name.

Leader: Your kingdom come,

People: Your kingdom come,

Leader: Your will be done,

People: Your will be done,

Leader: On earth,

People: On earth,

Leader: As in heaven.

People: As in heaven.

Leader: Give us today,

People: Give us today,

Leader: Our daily bread.

People: Our daily bread.

Leader: And forgive those,

People: And forgive those,

Leader: Who sin against us.

People: Who sin against us.

Leader: Save us from the time,

People: Save us from the time,

Leader: Of trials.

People: Of trials.

Leader: And deliver us,

People: And deliver us,

Leader: From evil.

People: From evil.

Leader: For the kingdom and the power and the glory are Yours forever.

People: For the kingdom and the power and the glory are Yours forever.

Leader: Forever,

People: Forever,

Leader: And ever.

People: And ever.

Leader: Our Father,

People: Our Father,

Leader: In Heaven,

People: In Heaven,

ALL: Holy is Your name.

ANTHEM

“Here I Stand”

CHANCEL CHOIR

1. Open my eyes, that I may see glimpses of truth thou hast for me;
Place in my hands the wonderful key that shall unclasp and set me free.

Refrain

Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!

2. Open my ears, that I may hear voices of truth thou sendest clear;
And while the wave-notes fall on my ear, everything else will disappear

Refrain

Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see,
Open my ears, illumine me, Spirit divine!

3. Open my mouth, and let me bear gladly the warm truth everywhere;
Open my heart and let me prepare love with thy children thus to share.

Refrain

Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my god, thy will to see.
Open my heart, illumine me, Spirit divine!

CLOSING PRAYER

May the Holy Spirit bless us with inspiration to recognize and pay attention to all the ways
the Word of God springs to life around us in the familiar rhythms and customs of our day,
so that we may find and bring God’s love, peace, and hope wherever we go. Amen.

POSTLUDE

“Variation”

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