

SERMON

“WOW, Look at that!”

DON MOODY

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (responsively)
We believe in one God,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
He is the true and living God,
worthy to receive glory and honor and power.
He created all things;
by his will they existed and were created.
We believe in the Lord Jesus Christ;
all things came into being through him.
He is the image of the invisible God,
the firstborn of all creation.
In him all things in heaven and on earth were created.
He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together.
Being in the form of God, he emptied himself,
he took the form of a slave and was born in human likeness.
Being found in human form, he humbled himself;
he became obedient to the point of death – even death on a cross.
Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures;
he was buried; he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.
God also highly exalted Jesus;
he gave him the name that is above every name.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERING PRAYER

God, our Creator, we thank you for the beauty of the world around us, from the vastness of the oceans and mountains to the smallest flower. We are grateful for the wonders of the natural world and the gifts it provides. You have entrusted us with the care of your creation. Help us to be good stewards of the earth, protecting its resources and preserving its beauty for future generations. Accept our gifts that we return to you today. 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.”

July 20, 2025
Sixth Sunday After Pentecost



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

PASSING OF GOD’S PEACE

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.

PRELUDE

“The Peaceful Forest”

DANA MOODY

MESSAGE FOR GROWING CHRISTIANS

OPENING SCRIPTURE

Genesis 1

The story of Creation from Genesis 1:

- *Day 1-* God created the heavens and the earth. He created light and darkness, day and night.
- *Day 2-* God separated the waters and created the sky.
- *Day 3-* God created the land and the sea and seed-bearing plants and trees.
- *Day 4-* God created the sun and moon and stars.
- *Day 5-* God created creatures that lived in water and flew in the air.
- *Day 6-* God created creatures on the land. He also created man and woman - both in his image. He gave authority for the man and woman to rule over the other creatures. He gave them seed bearing plants as food.

- After each day's work, God declared that it was good.

OPENING PRAYER (Unison)

Creator God, at the beginning of time your voice brought light into the darkness. Your hands shaped dry land. Your creativity exploded in colors and shapes and smells. And your breath brought life to all creatures. As I step outside, may I discover the light of your presence, hear your purpose-giving voice of direction, and be amazed and inspired by your creativity. And as I breathe in fresh air, may you fill me with the breath of your Spirit who brings me true peace, rest, and strength. Amen

HYMN **“For the Beauty of the Earth”** **# 92**

**1 For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies,
for the love which from our birth over and around us lies;
Lord of all, to thee we raise, this our hymn of grateful praise.**

**2 For the beauty of each hour of the day and of the night,
hill and vale and tree and flower, sun and moon and stars of light,
Lord of all, to thee we raise, this our hymn of grateful praise.**

**3 For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth, and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild,
Lord of all, to thee we raise, this our hymn of grateful praise.**

**4 For yourself, best Gift Divine, to the world so freely given,
agent of God's grand design: peace on earth and joy in heaven.
Lord of all, to thee we raise, this our hymn of grateful praise.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION [responsively]

Lay Reader: Lord, when we have taken your creation for granted;

People: Forgive us, gracious Father.

Lay Reader: When we have abused its resources and polluted its purity;

People: Forgive us, gracious Father.

Lay Reader: When we have not fulfilled our calling to steward your earth;

People: Forgive us, gracious Father.

Lay Reader: May we work with you in the renewal of creation;

People: Empower us, Holy Spirit

Lay Reader. May we speak and act for the good of your planet.

People: Inspire us, Jesus Christ.

Lay Reader: May we value and share the good gifts you provide;

People: Encourage us, Father of creation. Amen.

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.

ANTHEM **"All Things Bright and Beautiful"** **CHANCEL CHOIR**
Shellene Castellow, Flute

SCRIPTURE Psalm 8

**¹ Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!
You have set your glory
in the heavens.**

**²Through the praise of children and infants
you have established a stronghold against your enemies,
to silence the foe and the avenger.**

**3 When I consider your heavens,
the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars,
which you have set in place,**

**⁴ what is mankind that you are mindful of them,
human beings that you care for them?^[c]**

**⁵ You have made them^[d] a little lower than the angels^[e]
and crowned them^[f] with glory and honor.**

**⁶ You made them rulers over the works of your hands;
you put everything under their^[g] feet:**

**all flocks and herds,
and the animals of the wild,**

**⁸ the birds in the sky,
and the fish in the sea,
all that swim the paths of the seas.**

Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

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.

#144

**3 This is my Father's world: O let me ne'er forget
that though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the Ruler yet.
This is my Father's world. Why should my heart be sad?
The Lord is King: let the heavens ring!
God reigns; let earth be glad!**

DANA MOODY



Resident Bishop, Richmond Area: Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson