

People: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!

Pastor: Holy are you and blessed is your Son, Jesus Christ. Your Spirit anointed him to preach good news to the poor, to offer healing and mercy to the sick, to proclaim repentance and the forgiveness of sins, and to share your love with the world.

Through Christ and the Holy Spirit, you gave birth to the church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit. Christ commissioned us to be disciples of healing and hope to a world in need. As we sit at this table, you nurture us to live this commission with this bread of life and living water.

On the night when Jesus last ate with his disciples, he took bread, blessed it and broke it, and gave it to the disciples, saying, “Take, eat; this is my body.”

Then Jesus took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples and said: “This is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for many. Truly I tell you, I will never drink of the fruit of the wine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.”

And so, in remembrance of these, your mighty acts in Christ Jesus, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living gift to you and to your world. In union with Christ’s gift of love to us and to your world, we proclaim the mystery of faith.

People: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Pastor: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here and on these gifts of bread and the cup. Make them be for us the life and love of Christ, that we may be disciples of Christ for the world, redeemed by your love of grace.

By your Spirit, make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world. May we proclaim your love and your hope until Christ comes in final victory, when we will drink of the fruit of the vine and feast at your heavenly banquet.

Through Jesus Christ, together with the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Jesus calls us to travel light as we serve the world, for God is our strength and provision. Let us faithfully bring our offerings to God.

OFFERING PRAYER

Divine Giver, all that we have is a gift from you, and your grace is our sufficiency. Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may increase your blessing to others, through the grace and mercy of Christ. 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.



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 7, 2024



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 SONG

Spirit of Truth Ministries

OPENING SCRIPTURE

2 Corinthians 12:2-10

Lavon Armstrong

I know a man in Christ who was caught up into the third heaven fourteen years ago. I don’t know whether it was in the body or out of the body. God knows. I know that this man was caught up into paradise and that he heard unspeakable words that were things no one is allowed to repeat. I don’t know whether it was in the body or apart from the body. God knows. I’ll brag about this man, but I won’t brag about myself, except to brag about my weaknesses. If I did want to brag, I wouldn’t make a fool of myself because I’d tell the truth. I’m holding back from bragging so that no one will give me any more credit than what anyone sees or hears about me. I was given a thorn in my body because of the outstanding revelations I’ve received so that I wouldn’t be conceited. It’s a messenger from Satan sent to torment me so that I wouldn’t be conceited. I pleaded with the Lord three times for it to leave me alone. He said to me, “My grace is enough for you, because power is made perfect in weakness.” So I’ll gladly spend my time bragging about my weaknesses so that Christ’s power can rest on me. Therefore, I’m all right with weaknesses, insults, disasters, harassments, and stressful situations for the sake of Christ, because when I’m weak, then I’m strong.

PRELUDE

“Meditation”

Dana Moody

MESSAGE FOR GROWING CHRISTIANS

OPENING PRAYER* (in unison)

Loving God, who opens our hearts to the mysteries of faith in ordinary and extraordinary moments, come near to us today. Make known among us and within us your strength, that we might experience your power that uses what the powers of this world call weakness to demonstrate your Almighty love to all creation. Amen.

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

HYMN

“Open My Eyes That I May See”

#454

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 false 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!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION*

Lay Reader: Threats to life pierce us and cause us to doubt God's love. But God shows his love for us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us. Let us confess our sins and receive new life.

People: Holy Three, Holy One, triune God, we confess that we do not believe that you have overcome sin and death. We are more in touch with the pangs of our weakness than we are with the power of your love. In fear, we worship idols; in despair, we collapse in hopelessness; in rage, we seek to dominate others. O God of David, forgive us. O Son of David, have mercy on us. O Spirit of the Living God, grant us peace. Send us out with the good news: nothing can withstand the victory of the cross and resurrection of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Lay Reader: Hear and believe this good news: Jesus, the Christ, son of Mary, Son of the Most High God, was broken and poured out for our salvation. In Jesus Christ our sins are forgiven. Amen.

ANTHEM

“I’m Gonna Walk on Home”

Chancel Choir

GOSPEL

Mark 6:1-13 [CEB]

Jesus left that place and came to his hometown. His disciples followed him. On the Sabbath, he began to teach in the synagogue. Many who heard him were surprised. “Where did this man get all this? What’s this wisdom he’s been given? What about the powerful acts accomplished through him? Isn’t this the carpenter? Isn’t he Mary’s son and the brother of James, Joses, Judas, and Simon? Aren’t his sisters here with us?” They were repulsed by him and fell into sin. Jesus said to them, “Prophets are honored everywhere except in their own hometowns, among their relatives, and in their own households.” He was unable to do any miracles there, except that he placed his hands on a few sick people and healed them. He was appalled by their disbelief.

Then Jesus traveled through the surrounding villages teaching. He called for the Twelve and sent them out in pairs. He gave them authority over unclean spirits. He instructed them to take nothing for the journey except a walking stick – no bread, no bags, and no money in their belts.

He told them to wear sandals but not to put on two shirts. He said, “Whatever house you enter, remain there until you leave that place. If a place doesn’t welcome you or listen to you, as you leave, shake the dust off your feet as a witness against them.” So they went out and proclaimed that people should change their hearts and lives. They cast out many demons, and they anointed many sick people with olive oil and healed them.

RESPONSE TO SCRIPTURE READING

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

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“Starting Point”

Rev. Ned Alderman

HYMN

“Guide My Feet”

TFWS #2208

1. Guide my feet while I run this race. Guide my feet while I run this race.
Guide my feet while I run this race, for I don’t want to run this race in vain!
2. Hold my hand while I run this race. Hold my hand while I run this race.
Hold my hand while I run this race, for I don’t want to run this race in vain!
3. Stand by me while I run this race. Stand by me while I run this race.
Stand by me while I run this race, for I don’t want to run this race in vain!
4. I’m your child while I run this race. I’m your child while I run this race.
I’m your child while I run this race, for I don’t want to run this race in vain!
5. Search my heart while I run this race. Search my heart while I run this race.
Search my heart while I run this race, for I don’t want to run this race in vain!
6. Guide my feet while I run this race. Guide my feet while I run this race.
Guide my feet while I run this race, for I don’t want to run this race in vain!

The Lord’s Supper

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Pastor: It is a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere, to give thanks to you, Mighty God, our Comforter and Sustainer. You made us in your image, to love and be loved. When our love failed, your love remained steadfast. You delivered us from captivity in Egypt, made covenant, time and again, to be our God, that we might be your people.

In the lineage of Abraham and Sarah, David and Bathsheba, Paul and Peter, we come now with gratitude and praise for your mighty acts of salvation and your generous covenant of love. And so, with all your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HYMN

“Sent Forth by God’s Blessing”

#664

1. Sent forth by God’s blessing, our true faith confessing,
the people of God this dwelling take leave. The service is ended,
O now be extended the fruits of our worship in all who believe.

The seed of the teaching, receptive souls reaching,
shall blossom in action for God and for all.

God’s grace did invite us, and love shall unite us
to work for God’s kingdom and answer the call.

2. With praise and thanksgiving to God ever living
the tasks of our everyday life we will face.

Our faith ever sharing, in love ever caring,
embracing God’s children of each tribe and race.

With your grace you feed us, with your light now lead us;
unite us as one in this life that we share.

Then may all the living with praise and thanksgiving
give honor to Christ and that name which we bear.

BENEDICTION

As we go, may your Spirit go before us. As we go, may we follow where you lead. May we live what we have learned, share the message we have heard, and be a light unto the world as we go.

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GOING FROM VILLAGE TO VILLAGE

POSTLUDE

“A Mighty Fortress”

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 by Joanne Rooks in honor of our church family.

The Food Basket on the altar is presented to the glory of God.



PARTNERS IN MINISTRY TODAY

Members of the Church

Nursery Care Providers: Amy Weber & Donna Baker

Lay Reader: Monica Whitehurst

Organist/Director of Music: Dana Moody

Prayer Partner: Brenda Swoope

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 Haupt-Johnson