

They sailed to the region of the Gerasenes, which is across the lake from Galilee. When Jesus stepped ashore, he was met by a demon-possessed man from the town. For a long time this man had not worn clothes or lived in a house, but had lived in the tombs. When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell at his feet, shouting at the top of his voice, “What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, don’t torture me!” For Jesus had commanded the impure spirit to come out of the man. Many times it had seized him, and though he was chained hand and foot and kept under guard, he had broken his chains and had been driven by the demon into solitary places. Jesus asked him, “What is your name?” “Legion,” he replied, because many demons had gone into him. And they begged Jesus repeatedly not to order them to go into the Abyss. A large herd of pigs was feeding there on the hillside. The demons begged Jesus to let them go into the pigs, and he gave them permission. When the demons came out of the man, they went into the pigs, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned. When those tending the pigs saw what had happened, they ran off and reported this in the town and countryside, and the people went out to see what had happened. When they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone out, sitting at Jesus’ feet, dressed and in his right mind; and they were afraid. Those who had seen it told the people how the demon-possessed man had been cured.³⁷ Then all the people of the region of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them, because they were overcome with fear. So he got into the boat and left. The man from whom the demons had gone out begged to go with him, but Jesus sent him away, saying,³⁹ “Return home and tell how much God has done for you.” So the man went away and told all over town how much Jesus had done for him.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON **“We Have a Story to Tell”** **Debbie Rippard**

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; and 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, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

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. Amen.

Luke 8:26-39



"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.”

Second Sunday After Pentecost

June 22, 2025



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

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.

Psalm 42

As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, my God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God? My tears have been my food day and night, while people say to me all day long, “Where is your God?” These things I remember as I pour out my soul: how I used to go to the house of God under the protection of the Mighty One with shouts of joy and praise among the festive throng. Why, my soul, are you downcast? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God. My soul is downcast within me; therefore I will remember you from the land of the Jordan, the heights of Hermon—from Mount Mizar. Deep calls to deep in the roar of your waterfalls; all your waves and breakers have swept over me. By day the Lord directs his love, at night his song is with me—a prayer to the God of my life. I say to God my Rock, “Why have you forgotten me? Why must I go about mourning, oppressed by the enemy?” My bones suffer mortal agony as my foes taunt me, saying to me all day long, “Where is your God?” Why, my soul, are you downcast? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God.

PRELUDE

“Invocation”

DANA MOODY

PASSING OF THE PEACE

MESSAGE FOR GROWING CHRISTIANS

HYMN

“Freely, freely”

#389

1.

God forgave my sin in Jesus’ name, I’ve been born again in Jesus’ name,
and in Jesus’ name I come to you, to share his love as he told me to.
Refrain
He said, “Freely, freely you have received, freely, freely give.
Go in my name, and because you believe, others will know that I live.”
2.

All power is given in Jesus’ name, in earth and heaven in Jesus’ name,
and in Jesus’ name I come to you, to share his power as he told me to.
Refrain

CENTERING PRAYER (responsively)

Lay Reader: As we have been baptized into Christ,
People: We are clothed with Christ.
Lay Reader: And if we belong to Christ,
People: Then we are Abraham’s offspring
Lay Reader: And heirs according to the promise.
People: Thanks be to God.

MORNING PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Loving and holy God, we confess that we hold tightly to our pride and resist your transforming grace. You offer us freedom and a welcome place in your family, yet we struggle, trying to earn what you have already given. We cling to our old ways of doing and thinking. You call us your beloved children. Help us hear and claim our new identity. Free us from the bonds of limited imagination and empower us to thrive in your life of faith and grace. We pray in Jesus’ name the prayer You taught us to pray....

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

“We Say Amen”

CHANCEL CHOIR

OFFERING PRAYER (in unison)

Gracious and transforming God, you clothe us in grace and love. Receive these gifts as signs of our desire to live into Christ’s vision of your beloved community. Baptized into your peace and justice, may we shed old divisions and embrace the unity you intend for all people. Use these offerings to build bridges, mend hearts, and proclaim that in Christ, all are one—equal, cherished, and free. May our giving reflect the boundless love you pour into us. We pray this in the name of the one who makes us whole. 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.

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.

TFWS #2151

- Children of God, there is nothing to keep you from loving God and loving your neighbor. You are beloved, and you belong to Christ. You are claimed by God's love, redeemed by Christ's life, and set free to serve in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

DANA MOODY



Resident Bishop, Richmond Area: Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson