

We believe in the Church, those who are united in the living Lord for the purpose of worship and service.  
We believe in the reign of God as the divine will realized in human society, and in the family of God, where we are all brothers and sisters.  
We believe in the final triumph of righteousness, and in the life everlasting. 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.

**RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS**

**UMH, Pg. 48**

**HYMN**

**“I Sing Praises to Your Name”**

**TFWS #2037**

1. I sing praises to your name, O Lord, praises to your name, O Lord,  
for your name is great and greatly to be praised.
2. I give glory to your name, O Lord, glory to your name, O Lord,  
for your name is great and greatly to be praised.

**INVITATION TO THE OFFERING**

Disciples of Jesus, children of God, we often spend our money on that which is not true bread, and labor toward things that will never satisfy. In our offering, we give to things that are of God: bread for the hungry, good news for those who are oppressed, the ministries of the church that welcome strangers and sons and daughters alike. We bring before God a portion of all that God has so freely given to us.

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

**OFFERING PRAYER**

**Faithful God, our guide and sustainer, as we offer these gifts, may they bear fruit for your kingdom. In this solemn season of Lent, we remember your call to repentance and renewal. Help us tend the soil of our hearts so that we may grow in faith and bear witness to your grace. Use these offerings to bring hope to those in need and light to those in darkness. May we live as your fruitful servants, trusting in your abundant mercy. In the name of Christ who calls us to new life, 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.**



**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.”*

**March 23 2025**  
**Third Sunday of Lent**



*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 55:1-9 [TANAKH]**

Ho, all who are thirsty, come for water, even if you have no money; come, buy food and eat: Buy food without money, wine and milk without cost.

Why do you spend money for what is not bread, our earnings for what does not satisfy? Give heed to Me, and you shall eat choice food and enjoy the richest viands. Incline your ear and come to Me; hearken, and you shall be revived. And I will make with you an everlasting covenant, the enduring loyalty promised to David. As I made him a leader of peoples, a prince and commander of peoples, so you shall summon a nation you did not know, and a nation that did not know you shall come running to you – for the sake of the ETERNAL your God, the Holy One of Israel who has glorified you.

Seek GOD while you can, call out while [God] is near. Let the wicked give up their ways, the sinful, their plans; let each one turn back to GOD so as to be pardoned; to our God, who freely forgives.

For My plans are not your plans, nor are My ways your ways – declares GOD. But as the heavens are high above the earth, so are My ways high above your ways and My plans above your plans.

**PRELUDE**

**“Beneath the Cross of Jesus”**

**DANA MOODY**

**MESSAGE FOR GROWING CHRISTIANS**

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)

Lay Reader: Seek the Lord while God may be found.

People: Call upon the Lord while God is near!

Lay Reader: Forsake the ways that lead to death.

People: Embrace the paths that lead to life.

Lay Reader: Return to the Lord who abounds in mercy.

People: It is never too late to return to God!

Lay Reader: Seek the Lord while God may be found.

People: Call upon the Lord while God is near!

The Abingdon Worship Annual 2010: Worship Planning Resources for Every Sunday of the Year: Abingdon Press

OPENING PRAYER

A wilderness beckons us: a desert, a barren place, yet a place of blessing and discovery. Jesus, steady companion, accompany us, as we enter the hurtful places, the frightening places, the dangerous places deep within us. Jesus, our wise and well-traveled guide, lead us into this emptiness, where all will fall away, and we will have nothing but you. Walk us through the valley of the shadow of death, where we shall be raised and drink of deep springs.

Worship & Song, Worship Resources Edition, copyright 2011 by Abingdon Press

HYMN “We Sing to You, O God” TFWS #2001

1. We sing to you, O God, the Rock who gave us birth,  
let our rejoicing sing your name in all the earth.  
To you, O God, let songs be raised, In joyful hymns, our feast of praise.
2. We wandered far from home out in a desert land,  
you shielded with your love our fearful pilgrim band.  
You kept us safe within your arms and sheltered us against the storm.
3. You bear us through the world, an eagle to her young,  
who rises on her wings and bears us toward the sun.  
We ride the vaults of light and air and trust in your unfailing care.
4. O God, eternal God, we hide within your wings,  
the everlasting arms to whom our praises ring.  
Your word is true, your way is just, you are the God in whom we trust.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION [responsively]

The Scriptures call us to turn from sinful ways and return to God, who offers mercy and pardon. Trusting in that mercy, let us call upon God who is near.  
[period of silence]

Holy God, we confess that we have grown complacent in our response to you. You set before us a rich feast of blessing, but we are drawn to lesser things that cannot satisfy.

You call us to attend to urgent needs in the world, but we indulge our own desires. Our ways are not your ways; our thoughts do not ascend to your thoughts.

Forgive us when we fall short of your claim upon our lives. Disturb our complacency and quicken our desire for a more fruitful life. Be patient, we pray, as we amend who we are, in the hope of becoming who you intend us to be. We ask this in the name of our Savior, your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

God’s love is sure and steadfast, always providing a way out, a way through, a way back to God.

Through the waters of baptism, we have died with Christ and are raised with him. With gratitude, in faith, we will walk the way of Christ.

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

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 “The Holy Heart” CHANCEL CHOIR

SCRIPTURE Psalm 63:1-8, TANAKH [responsively]  
God, You are my God; I search for You, my soul thirsts for You, my body yearns for You, as a parched and thirsty land that has no water.  
I shall behold You in the sanctuary, and see Your might and glory,  
Truly Your faithfulness is better than life; my lips declare Your praise.  
I bless You all my life; I lift up my hands, invoking Your name.  
I am sated as with a rich feast, I sing praises with joyful lips when I call You to mind upon my bed, when I think of You in the watches of the night;  
for You are my help, and in the shadow of Your wings I shout for joy. My soul is attached to You; Your right hand supports me.

SERMON “Life at Present” Rev. Ned Alderman

STATEMENT OF FAITH, #884 a Statement of Faith of the Korean Methodist Church  
We believe in the one God, creator and sustainer of all things, Father of Nations, the source of all goodness and beauty, all truth and love.  
We believe in Jesus Christ, God manifest in the flesh, our teacher, example, and Redeemer, the Savior of the world.  
We believe in the Holy Spirit, God present with us for guidance, for comfort, and for strength.  
We believe in the forgiveness of sins, in the life of love and prayer, and in grace equal to every need.  
We believe in the Word of God contained in the Old and New Testaments as the sufficient rule both of faith and of practice.

1. O Christ, when you ascended you took your rightful throne  
your time on earth had ended, yet we weren’t left alone.  
You reign o’er earth and heaven; your Spirit guides our way.  
Your prayers uphold your people; you lead your church each day.
2. We look at earthly rulers and see what they command:  
we note their years of power, the borders of their land.  
Yet, Lord, you are not bounded by things like time and space;  
your reign is never ending, you rule in every place.
3. We’re tempted, Lord, to leave you in stories nicely told;  
sometimes we don’t believe you and say your ways are old.  
Sometimes we feel so lonely and live in doubt and fear.  
but your ascension means, Lord, you’re present with us here.
4. It’s often quite a challenge to follow in your way;  
we’re easily distracted! It’s hard, Lord, to obey.  
Sometimes we give you Sundays, an hour, maybe two.  
But your ascension means, Lord, all life belongs to you.
5. One day, O Lord, we’ll know you, as we are fully known;  
one day this world of sinners will bow before your throne.  
One day, God’s whole creation will sing and praise your name;  
on earth as now in heaven, we’ll celebrate your reign.

SENDING FORTH

May God bless you with the hope to cling to God, knowing that in the highs and lows, the joys and the sorrows, the known and unknown of this life, God’s love never fails. Thanks be to God! Amen.

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

GOING FROM VILLAGE TO VILLAGE

POSTLUDE

”Lord We Praise You”

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



PARTNERS IN MINISTRY TODAY

Members of the Church

Nursery Care Providers: Lisa & Brooks Ryno

Prayer Partner: Barbara Bennett

Lay Reader – Kelly Castellow

Audio–Visual Operator – Julian Baker

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