

Lay Reader: With hope and love, we pray for the nations of the world, especially those places overwhelmed by war and conflict. By the light of the resurrection, destroy the shroud that is cast over all who live under dictatorship, in the clutches of propagandists, and in ignorance. Bless peacemakers who work to bring justice to their country, city, village, and household. God in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Lay Reader: With compassion, wipe away the tears of all who weep. Give us the spiritual tools we need to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and comfort those who are in any trouble. Send your angels to watch over the vulnerable and sick. God in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Lay Reader: Hear now the prayers of this assembly spoken aloud or in silence...God in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Lay Reader: With fondness, we remember those who have seen our risen Lord and witnessed to his resurrection so that we might have faith. May their words and deeds inspire us to sing our "Alleluia!" again and again. God in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Lay Reader: Passing from darkness to light, from bondage to freedom, from death to life, we commend to you, gracious and ever-living God, all for whom we pray.

People: Amen.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We belong to Christ, eternal and infinite, Creator of all things and all that is to come. We follow Christ, who comes to us from God, and reveals God to us. He heals people and transforms lives, and calls us to join in his ministry. He was crucified, died, and was raised by God, and reigns over all Creation; and he bids us to die and rise with him in the service of the healing of the world. We live by the Spirit, together with the communion of the saints, as members of the Body of Christ, God's holy universal church. We are confident in the forgiveness of sin, the power of resurrection and the reality of eternal life. In all things it is our desire to follow Christ, by the grace of the Holy Spirit, for God's glory. 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.



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 31, 2024 ~ 11:00 A.M.

EASTER SUNDAY



Welcome in the name of our Lord. A nurturing and well-supervised nursery is available for infants and young children. A Crying Room is also available. Please ask the greeter for further assistance and direction to these rooms. [†] = Invites persons to stand as they are able.

OPENING SCRIPTURE John 14:28-29, 12, 25-26 [NRSV] - Rev. Ned Alderman

You heard me say to you, 'I am going away, and I am coming to you.' If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur you may believe.

Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father.

I have said these things to you while I am with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all that I have said to you.

PRELUDE "Lift High the Cross" - Dana Moody

GREETING

Christ is risen!

The Lord is risen indeed!

Glory and honor, dominion and power, be to God for ever and ever.

Christ is risen! Alleluia!

MESSAGE FOR GROWING CHRISTIANS

OPENING PRAYER (in unison)

God of the empty tomb, we worship you for the great mystery of this holy day. We celebrate the resurrected Jesus, and we celebrate that you have raised us from the problems of life and given us joy and peace and hope. We give you thanks for the new life and the new light that we sense today while in your presence. May our faith in you resound throughout your creation, and may the light of the Resurrected Savior be visible in us as we venture out of this place of worship. Grant a world of peace and forgiveness through our prayers and example to other people. Hear this prayer in the name of the resurrected Lord. Amen.

HYMN "Christ the Lord is Risen Today" #302

1. Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia! Earth and heaven in chorus say, Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia! Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!

2. Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia! Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia! Death in vain forbids him rise, Alleluia! Christ has opened paradise, Alleluia!
3. Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia! Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia! Once he died our souls to save, Alleluia! Where's thy victory, boasting grave? Alleluia!
4. Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia! Following our exalted Head, Alleluia! Made like him, like him we rise, Alleluia! Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!
5. Hail the Lord of earth and heaven, Alleluia! Praise to thee by both be given, Alleluia! Thee we greet triumphant now, Alleluia! Hail the Resurrection, thou, Alleluia!
6. King of glory, soul of bliss, Alleluia! Everlasting life is this, Alleluia! Thee to know, thy power to prove, Alleluia! Thus to sing, and thus to love, Alleluia!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (responsively)

People: Gracious and Patient God, we come before you with so many things which weigh us down. We would like an “easy” faith, one that doesn't cause us to look within ourselves, to identify those many ways in which we have forsaken you. But faith is never easy. It requires our very souls. Forgive us, God, for all those things which we have neglected to do that would have helped someone else to be closer to you. Heal our hearts from the wounds which have been inflicted upon us by the anger and misunderstandings which occur in relationships. Prepare our lives to be of service to you. In silence, we wait. We long for your presence and your healing touch. Amen.

Lay Reader: God is merciful. God is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. Feel the healing, loving power of God in your lives, for it is given to you through Jesus Christ. Amen.

As Jesus has taught us to pray, we are bold to pray:

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

“Jesus Reigns”

Chancel Choir

GOSPEL

-John 20:1-18 [NRSV]

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.” Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus's head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed, for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb, and she saw two angels in white sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She said to them, “They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.” When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?” Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.” Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to him in Hebrew, “Rabbouni! (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, “Do not touch me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’” Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord,” and she told them that he had said these things to her.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“Christ is Alive”

Rev. Ned Alderman

†HYMN

“Up From the Grave He Arose”

#322

1. Low in the grave he lay, Jesus my Savior, waiting the coming day, Jesus my Lord!

Refrain

Up from the grave he arose, with a mighty triumph o'er his foes;
He arose the victor from the dark domain, and he lives forever, with his saints to reign.
He arose! He arose! Hallelujah! Christ arose!

2. Vainly they watch his bed, Jesus my Savior, vainly they seal the dead, Jesus my Lord!

Refrain

3. Death cannot keep its prey, Jesus my Savior; he tore the bars away, Jesus my Lord!

Refrain

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (responsively)

Lay Reader: Let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need, saying, God in your mercy, hear our prayer. With joy, we pray for all Christian assemblies united this morning at the empty tomb. Help us see you, O God, in those we do not expect to encounter and remove all fear from our hearts. God in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Lay Reader: With gratitude, we give you thanks for our newly baptized brothers and sisters in every land. Guide them and keep them, open their eyes again and again to your blessings. God in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Lay Reader: With humility, we pray for this planet, our home. Heal what we have scarred and broken; renew the face of the Earth from north to south, from east to west so that your creation may speak to us of your goodness. God in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

THANKSGIVING PRAYER

Glorious God, we rejoice in Jesus' victory over death! You raised him up to live forever. He left behind his linen wrappings – the shroud, his grave clothes. Robed in white, Christ leads us from darkness to light. Help us to follow him, leaving behind the things of our past that obscure our horizons. We dedicate these offerings as tokens of the breaking dawn of Christ. May our gratitude shine forth by joyfully giving of our earthly goods. 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.

HYMN

“He Lives”

#310

1. I serve a risen Savior, he's in the world today,
I know that he is living, whatever foes may say,
I see his hand of mercy, I hear his voice of cheer,
And just the time I need him, he's always near,

Refrain

He lives, he lives, Christ Jesus lives today!
He walks with me and talks with me along life's narrow way.
He lives, he lives, salvation to impart!
You ask me how I know he lives? He lives within my heart.

2. In all the world around me I see his loving care,
And though my heart grows weary, I never will despair.
I know that he is leading through all the stormy blast;
The day of his appearing will come at last.

Refrain

3. Rejoice, rejoice, O Christian, lift up your voice and sing
Eternal hallelujahs to Jesus Christ the King!
The hope of all who seek him, the help of all who find;
None other is so loving, so good and kind.

BENEDICTION

May the risen Christ go with us – before us to show us the way, behind us to encourage us; beside us to befriend us; above us to watch over us; and live within us and through us, that all might know the peace of God.

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POSTLUDE

“To the Cross”

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 Facebookpage. 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: Debbie & David Rippard

Lay Reader: Brenda Swoope

Organist/Director of Music: Dana Moody

Prayer Partner: Brenda Swoope

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. Dr. Cecelia R. Brooks

Resident Bishop, Richmond Area: Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson