



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 2, 2025

Transfiguration Sunday



ANNOUNCEMENTS

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

BREAKTHROUGH PRAYER

Loving, sustaining God, like the mighty oak, may our braches 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: Luke 9:1-2, 6 [HCSB]

Summoning the Twelve, He gave them power and authority over all the demons, and power to heal diseases. Then He sent them to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal the sick. So they went out and traveled from village to village, proclaiming the good news and healing everywhere.

PRELUDE

"Glory Be to Jesus"

DANA MOODY

MESSAGE FOR GROWING CHRISTIANS

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Will you come to the highest mountain?

We come to worship the Lord.

Jesus is waiting, waiting to greet you.

Jesus, we come. Jesus, we're here.

Come!

We come to worship the Lord.

OPENING PRAYER

Lord of the Mountaintop, God of dazzling clothes, be with us when we come down from the height of worship to face a world that didn't see what we just saw in you. Show us what to do.

When demons rage through elementary schools, let it not be said that your disciples could not cast the devil out. When violence threatens to engulf our communities, let it not be said that your disciples cowered in fear or walked on the other side of the road.

When there is peril or fire or flood, let it not be said that your disciples cleared the unwanted junk from their garages and called it charity...

Lord of the Mountaintop, God of dazzling clothes, show us how to be. Change us; transfigure us so that this world might see what we have just seen, and worship you. Amen.

Written by Safiyah Fosua in The Africana Worship Book, Year C (Nashville: Discipleship Resources, 2008), 30.

HYMN

“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”

#89

1. Joyful, joyful, we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love;
hearts unfold like flowers before thee, opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive the dark of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day!
2. All thy works with joy surround thee, earth and heaven reflect thy rays,
stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird and flowing fountain, call us to rejoice in Thee.
3. Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest,
wellspring of the joy of living, ocean depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our brother, all who live in love are thine;
teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine.
4. Mortals, join the mighty chorus which the morning stars began;
love divine is reigning o'er us, binding all within its span.
Ever singing, march we onward, victors in the midst of strife;
joyful music leads us sunward, in the triumph song of life.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

People: Mighty, tender, and forgiving God, talk of your radiant glory sometimes leaves us feeling lackluster. We face daily challenges that can dull the shine of our lives. When we figure these challenges out, we feel good at our success, but when we are unable, we feel unsure, afraid, and confused. We sometimes wonder if we have the capacity to shine with your light in a world full of darkness. Polish the mirror

of our lives, that we might reflect your light more each day, even in times of fear and uncertainty. Amen.

Lay Reader: Our sovereign God answers our failings with forgiveness and renewal. We are all being transformed, day by day, from one degree of glory to another. Let us praise God's great and awesome name.

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ANTHEM

“I Saw the Light”

CHANCEL CHOIR

SCRIPTURE

Luke 9:28-43a [HCSB]

About eight days after these words, He took along Peter, John, and James and went up on the mountain to pray. As He was praying, the appearance of His face changed, and His clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly, two men were talking with Him – Moses and Elijah. They appeared in glory and were speaking of His death, which He was about to accomplish in Jerusalem.

Peter and those with him were in a deep sleep, and when they became fully awake, they saw His glory and the two men who were standing with Him. As the two men were departing from Him, Peter said to Jesus, “Master, it’s good for us to be here! Let us make three tabernacles: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah” – not knowing what he said.

While he was saying this, a cloud appeared and overshadowed them. They became afraid as they entered the cloud. Then a voice came from the cloud, saying:

This is My Son, the Chosen One; listen to Him!

After the voice had spoken, only Jesus was found. They kept silent, and in those days told no one what they had seen.

The next day, when they came down from the mountain, a large crowd met Him. Just then a man from the crowd cried out, “Teacher, I beg You to look at my son, because he’s my only child. Often a spirit seizes him; suddenly he shrieks, and it throws him into convulsions until he foams at the mouth; wounding him, it hardly ever leaves him. I begged Your disciples to drive it out, but they couldn’t.”

Jesus replied, “You unbelieving and rebellious generation! How long will I be with you and put up with you? Bring your son here.”

As the boy was still approaching, the demon knocked him down and threw him into severe convulsions. But Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, cured the boy, and gave him back to his father. And they were all astonished at the greatness of God.

SERMON

“Drive it Out!”

Rev. Ned Alderman

HYMN

“Swiftly Pass the Clouds of Glory”

TFWS #2102

1. Swiftly pass the clouds of glory, heaven’s voice, the dazzling light;
Moses and Elijah vanish; Christ alone commands the height!
Peter, James, and John fall silent, turning from the summit’s rise
downward toward the shadowed valley where their Lord has fixed his eyes.

2. Glimpsed and gone the revelation, they shall gain and keep its truth,
not by building on the mountain any shrine or sacred booth,
but by following the Savior through the valley to the cross
and by testing faith's resilience through betrayal, pain, and loss.

3. Lord, transfigure our perception with the purest light that shines
and recast our life's intentions to the shape of your designs,
til we seek no other glory than what lies past Calvary's hill
and our living and our dying and our rising by your will.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Christ 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 truly right to glorify you, Father, and to give you thanks, for you alone are God, living and true, dwelling in light inaccessible from before time and for ever.

Fountain of life and source of all goodness, you made all things and fill them with your blessing; you created them to rejoice in the splendor of your radiance.

Countless throngs of angels stand before you to serve you day and night; and, beholding the glory of your presence, they offer you unceasing praise. Joining with them, and giving voice to every creature under heaven, we acclaim you and glorify your name, as we say:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

We acclaim you, Holy Lord, glorious in power; your mighty works reveal your wisdom and love. You formed us in your image, giving the whole world into our care, so that, in obedience to you, our Creator, we might rule and serve all your creatures. When our disobedience took us far from you, you did not abandon us to the power of death. In your mercy you came to our help so that in seeking you we might find you. Again and again you called us into covenant with you, as the prophets taught us to hope for salvation.

Father, you loved the world so much that in the fullness of time you sent your only Son to be our Savior. Incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, he lived as one of us, yet without sin. To the poor he proclaimed the good news of salvation; to prisoners, freedom; to the sorrowful, joy.

To fulfill your purpose he gave himself up to death; and, rising from the grave, destroyed death and made the whole creation new. And that we might live no longer for ourselves but for him who died and rose for us, he sent the Holy Spirit, his own first gift for those who believe, to complete his work in the world, and to bring to fulfillment the sanctification of all.

When the hour had come for him to be glorified by you, his heavenly Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end: at supper with them, he took bread, and after giving you thanks, he broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you."

When the supper was over, he took the cup. Again he returned thanks to you, gave the cup to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is the cup of my new covenant in my blood, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins." When we eat this bread and drink this cup, we experience anew the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ and look forward to his coming in final victory.

Father, we now celebrate our redemption. Recalling Christ's death and his descent among the dead, proclaiming his resurrection and ascension to your right hand, awaiting his coming in glory; and offering to you from the gifts you have given us this and this cup, we praise you and we bless you.

We praise you, we bless you, we give thanks to you, and we pray to you, Lord our God.

Lord, we pray that in your goodness and mercy your Holy Spirit may descend upon us, and upon these gifts, sanctifying them and showing them to be holy gifts of your holy people, the bread of life and the cup of salvation, the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Grant that all who share this bread and cup may become one body and one spirit, a living sacrifice in Christ to the praise of your name.

Remember, Lord, your one holy catholic and apostolic church, redeemed by the blood of your Christ. Reserve its unity, guard its faith, and preserve it in peace. Remember all who minister in your church. Remember all your people, and those who seek your truth. Remember all who have died in the peace of Christ, and those whose faith is known to you alone; bring them into the place of eternal joy and light.

And grant that we may find our inheritance with patriarchs, prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all the saints who have found favor with you in ages past. We praise you in union with them and give you glory through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God and Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. 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. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

We serve the Lord with freedom; we worship God with joy. In freedom and in joy, let us present the offerings of our lives to the Lord.

OFFERING PRAYER

Holy are you, O Lord! We praise your great and awesome name. Use us, and these our gifts, in your service, to establish justice, righteousness, and equity, all for the good of your people and the glory of your eternal realm. Amen.

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

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

“I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”

#206

1. I want to walk as a child of the light, I want to follow Jesus.
God set the stars to give light to the world. The star of my life is Jesus.

Refrain

In him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

2. I want to see the brightness of God. I want to look at Jesus.

Clear Sun of Righteousness, shine on my path
and show me the way to the Father.

Refrain

3. I'm looking for the coming of Christ. I want to be with Jesus.
When we have run with patience the race, we shall know the joy of Jesus.

Refrain

SENDING FORTH

Beloved, may God bless you with hearts ready to listen to Christ's voice that calls us from mountaintop to valley that you may be astounded by glory wherever you go.

Amen.

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

GOING FROM VILLAGE TO VILLAGE

POSTLUDE

“O Lord All Glorious”

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 Dana Sanford in memory of her father, Harry English.

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



PARTNERS IN MINISTRY TODAY

Members of the Church

Prayer Partner: Brenda Swoope

Lay Reader – Kelly Castellow

Audio–Visual Operator – Rob Castellow

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