



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 30, 2025

Fourth Sunday of Lent



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:

2 Corinthians 5:16-6:1 [CEB]

So then, from this point on we won't recognize people by human standards. Even though we used to know Christ by human standards, that isn't how we know him now. So then, if anyone is in Christ, that person is part of the new creation. The old things have gone away, and look, new things have arrived!

All of these new things are from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and who gave us the ministry of reconciliation. In other words, God was reconciling the world to himself through Christ, by not counting people's sins against them. He has trusted us with this message of reconciliation.

So we are ambassadors who represent Christ. God is negotiating with you through us. We beg you as Christ's representatives, "Be reconciled to God!" God caused the one who didn't know sin to be sin for our sake so that through him we could become the righteousness of God.

PRELUDE

"Nothing But the Blood"

DANA MOODY

MESSAGE FOR GROWING CHRISTIANS

CALL TO WORSHIP:

When we struggle to live as you teach us, and we fail to answer your call...

God, your steadfast love surrounds us.

When the truth clogs up in our throat, and we fear what will happen if we speak and if we keep silent...

God, your steadfast love surrounds us.

When we open our hearts and let the truth of our sorrows, our sin, our joys, and our doubts flow freely...

God, your steadfast love surrounds us.

When our stubborn hearts encounter the grace that teaches and guides us into a life of trust and joyful obedience...

**God, your steadfast love surrounds us today and every day. Thanks be to God!
Amen.**

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

OPENING PRAYER

Almighty, creating God, you have called us to this place. You breathe life into us each day. You welcome us just as we are, with all of our hopes and fears, all of our faults and talents. As we worship, may we rest in your Spirit, and may we remember that you alone renew our lives. Help us shake off all that weighs down, that we may be free to hold fast to you, the One who fills our lives with unmerited grace and abounding love. In the name of Christ, your Son, we pray. Amen.

Beu, B.J.; Scifres, Mary. The Abingdon Worship Annual 2019: Worship Planning Resources for Every Sunday of the Year (pp. 70-71). Abingdon Press. Kindle Edition.

HYMN

“Come and Find the Quiet Center”

TFWS #2128

1. Come and find the quiet center in the crowded life we lead,
find the room for hope to enter, find the frame where we are freed:
clear the chaos and the clutter, clear our eyes that we can see
all the things that really matter, be at peace, and simply be.
2. Silence is a friend who claims us, cools the heat and slows the pace,
God it is who speaks and names us, knows our being, touches base,
making space within our thinking, lifting shades to show the sun,
raising courage when we're shrinking, finding scope for faith begun.

3. In the Spirit let us travel, open to each other's pain,
let our loves and fears unravel, celebrate the space we gain:
there's a place for deepest dreaming, there's a time for heart to care,
in the Spirit's lively scheming there is always room to spare.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

God, we admit that we are prone to try to hide our sins; to keep our mouths shut and hope we are not found out. But there is no place to hide from you. Our silence only makes us sick in body and spirit. But you delight in forgiving us and in covering our sin. You are glad when we confess our failings and our needs. Hide us, O God, from trouble; teach us the way we should go. Deliver us from our own stubbornness, and draw us near, we pray. Amen.

Written by Valerie Bridgeman Davis in The Africana Worship Book, Year C (Nashville: Discipleship Resources, 2008), 147.

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.

HYMN SING

Ending with "Victory in Jesus"

#370

1. I heard an old, old story, how a Savior came from glory,
how he gave his life on Calvary to save a wretch like me;
I heard about his groaning, of his precious blood's atoning,
then I repented of my sins and won the victory.

Refrain

O victory in Jesus, my Savior forever!
He sought me and bought me with his redeeming blood;
He loved me ere I knew him, and all my love is due him;
He plunged me to victory beneath the cleansing flood.

2. I heard about his healing, of his cleansing power revealing,
how he made the lame to walk again and caused the blind to see;
and then I cried, "Dear Jesus, come and heal my broken spirit,"
and somehow Jesus came and brought to me the victory.

Refrain

3. I heard about a mansion he has built for me in glory,
and I heard about the streets of gold beyond the crystal sea;
about the angels singing and the old redemption story,
and some sweet day I'll sing up there the song of victory.

Refrain

SCRIPTURE (responsively)

Psalm 32 [CEB]

The one whose wrongdoing is forgiven, whose sin is covered over, is truly happy!

The one the Lord doesn't consider guilty – in whose spirit there is no dishonesty – that one is truly happy!

When I kept quiet, my bones wore out; I was groaning all day long – every day, every night!

Because your hand was heavy upon me. My energy was sapped as if in a summer drought. *Selah*

So I admitted my sin to you; I didn't conceal my guilt.

"I'll confess my sins to the Lord," is what I said. Then you removed the guilt of my sin. *Selah*

That's why all the faithful should pray to you during troubled times,
so that a great flood of water won't reach them.

You are my secret hideout! You protect me from trouble. You surround me with songs of rescue! *Selah*

I will instruct you and teach you about the direction you should go. I'll advise you and keep my eye on you.

Don't be like some senseless horse or mule, whose movement must be controlled with a bit and a bridle. Don't be anything like that!

The pain of the wicked is severe, but faithful love surrounds the one who trusts the Lord.

You who are righteous, rejoice in the Lord and be glad!

All you whose hearts are right, sing out in joy!

SERMON

"Songs of Rescue!"

Rev. Ned Alderman

STATEMENT OF FAITH

We believe in the Most High God who strengthens us and repays us many more times than we expect. We believe in God who gives generously and who expects the same from all creatures God has made. We believe in God whose utmost, loving sacrifice is experienced through Jesus Christ, who paid it all. We believe that Jesus Christ consciously and lovingly emptied himself so that we may learn to make sacrifice and live joyfully before God. By Christ's impartial love we learn to

love all those on the margins. We believe in the Holy Spirit who enables us to represent Jesus to the world. We believe that by the power of the Holy Spirit a new community will be created without labels. We believe that all has been accomplished for deliverance and salvation and is now being lived in flesh even as God is glorified in heaven.

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

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.

HYMN

“By Grace We Have Been Saved”

W&S #3110

1. By grace we have been saved through faith and not by keeping law,
God’s saints believed by what they heard and not by what they saw,
and not by what they saw.
2. For all have sinned and fallen short. God’s plan not one obeyed.
Christ has for all fulfilled the law. Believe, confess, be saved;
believe, confess, be saved.
3. God gave to earth a perfect love through Jesus on the cross.
While we were foes, Christ died for us. We gained by God’s own loss,
we gained by God’s own loss.
4. We know the wage of sin is death; thank God we shall revive.
For just as Jesus rose again, we too are made alive,
we too are made alive.
5. Set free, we now have peace with God. Salvation is secured.
How beautiful the feet of those who share the gospel word,
who share the gospel word.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Our God provides for our bodies, our souls, and our minds. In thanksgiving and praise, let us bring our gifts to God.

Beu, B.J.; Scifres, Mary. The Abingdon Worship Annual 2019: Worship Planning Resources for Every Sunday of the Year (p. 72). Abingdon Press. Kindle Edition.

OFFERING PRAYER (in uniaon)

Gracious and loving God, we thank you for your faithfulness and provision in the midst of every storm. We thank you for organizations like UMCOR that reflect your love in the world. We offer our hearts, our hands and our resources to you, asking for your guidance as we walk with those who suffer. May we be vessels of your love, bringing hope where there is despair and restoration where there is brokenness. In Jesus' name, 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. Amen.

HYMN

“Lord, Be Glorified”

TFWS #2150

1. In our lives, Lord, be glorified, be glorified.
In our lives, Lord, be glorified today.
2. In our homes, Lord, be glorified, be glorified.
In our homes, Lord, be glorified today.
3. In your church, Lord, be glorified, be glorified.
In your church, Lord, be glorified today.
4. In your world, Lord, be glorified, be glorified,
In your world, Lord, be glorified today.

SENDING FORTH

May God's grace go ahead of you, trail behind you, and encircle you each and every moment, that with every move you make you would know with absolute assurance that God's steadfast love will never leave you alone. Amen.

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

GOING FROM VILLAGE TO VILLAGE

POSTLUDE

“The Love That Died For Me”

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.
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 – 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