



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 9, 2025

First 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 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.

PRELUDE

"Meditation"

DANA MOODY

MESSAGE FOR GROWING CHRISTIANS

OPENING SCRIPTURE:

Psalm 91

- ¹ You who live in the shelter of the Most High,
who abide in the shadow of the Almighty,^[a]
² will say to the Lord, "My refuge and my fortress;
my God, in whom I trust."
³ For he will deliver you from the snare of the hunter
and from the deadly pestilence;
⁴ he will cover you with his pinions,
and under his wings you will find refuge;
his faithfulness is a shield and defense.

⁵ You will not fear the terror of the night
or the arrow that flies by day
⁶ or the pestilence that stalks in darkness
or the destruction that wastes at noonday.
⁷ A thousand may fall at your side,
ten thousand at your right hand,
but it will not come near you.
⁸ You will only look with your eyes
and see the punishment of the wicked.
⁹ Because you have made the Lord your refuge, ^[b]
the Most High your dwelling place,
¹⁰ no evil shall befall you,
no scourge come near your tent.
¹¹ For he will command his angels concerning you
to guard you in all your ways.
¹² On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.
¹³ You will tread on the lion and the adder;
the young lion and the serpent you will trample under foot.
¹⁴ Those who love me, I will deliver;
I will protect those who know my name.
¹⁵ When they call to me, I will answer them;
I will be with them in trouble;
I will rescue them and honor them.
¹⁶ With long life I will satisfy them
and show them my salvation.

OPENING PRAYER

**God,
As we take this journey
That draws us ever closer to you
Walk with us
Sustain us,
Nurture us.**

**God, as we go through
The wilderness of
Lent and of our lives,
Send your manna to us,**

**give us wisdom to turn from temptation
And your grace to turn to.**

**God, as we walk through the pot holes of life,
The valleys, the pits of life,
Guide us with your hand
Keep our feet steady,
And our vision on you.**

**God, whether we choose to give up something for Lent
Or do something positive,
Let us not do it out of obligation
Or the tyranny of oughtness,
But out of love for you.**

**Keep us in your paths of love, mercy and grace.
Lord help us to remember we are not alone
but that we are walking with our fellow/sister travelers . Amen
— written by Rev. Abi**

HYMN

“God Will Take Care of You”

#130

1. Be not dismayed whate'er betide, God will take care of you;
Beneath his wings of love abide, God will take care of you.

Refrain

God will take care of you, through every day, o'er all the way;
He will take care of you, God will take care of you.

2. Through days of toil when heart doth fail, God will take care of you;
When dangers fierce your path assail, God will take care of you.

Refrain

3. All you may need he will provide, God will take care of you;
Nothing you ask will be denied, God will take care of you.

Refrain

4. No matter what may be the test, God will take care of you;
Lean, weary one, upon his breast, God will take care of you.

Refrain

PRAYER OF CONFESSION [in unison]

Jesus,

We confess that when we read about your temptations, we excuse ourselves. After all, we reason, we are not you. Of course, you passed the test, we say. You're God, right? But we mere mortals have no expectation that we can withstand evil like you did. But we are reminded that you are not only Savior; you are example. You faced the temptation to prove yourself, to be spectacular, and to have consuming power. And you walked away, resisting. Forgive us when we have not resisted; when we have yielded to temptation. Forgive us for loving power and prestige more than God. Help us to choose a life rooted in God's word and grace. Amen.

Written by Valerie Bridgeman Davis

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

"Lonesome Valley"

CHANCEL CHOIR

SCRIPTURE

Luke 4:1-13 NRSV

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, ² where for forty days he was tested by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over he was famished. ³ The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread." ⁴ Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone.'"

Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And the devil said to him, "To you I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours." Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'"

Then the devil led him to Jerusalem and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it

is written, ‘He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you,’ and ‘on their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’”

Jesus answered him, “It is said, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’” When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

SERMON

“Friday”

Don Moody

OFFERING

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

“Lord Who Throughout These Forty Days”

#269

1. Lord, who throughout these forty days for us didst fast and pray,
teach us with thee to mourn our sins and close by thee to stay.
2. As thou with Satan didst contend, and didst the victory win,
O give us strength in thee to fight, in thee to conquer sin.
3. As thou didst hunger bear, and thirst, so teach us, gracious Lord,
to die to self, and chiefly live by thy most holy word.
4. And through these days of penitence, and through thy passiontide,
Yea, evermore in life and death, Jesus, with us abide.
5. Abide with us, that so, this life of suffering over past,
an Easter of unending joy we may attain at last.

SENDING FORTH

Jesus, as we enter our own forty days of Lent, help us to remember all the sacrifices you made for us. Help us to remember how you faced temptations. Like you, help us to call on God and His Word to resist temptation in our world today. Help us in our own desert to grow in wisdom through prayer and relying on God. Amen.

GOING FROM VILLAGE TO VILLAGE

POSTLUDE

“Behold the Great Redeemer”

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: 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 Hupert–Johnson