



# *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."*

## *November 3, 2024*

### *All Saints Sunday*



*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.*

#### **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: Mark 12:28-34 CEB**

One of the legal experts heard their dispute and saw how well Jesus answered them. He came over and asked him, "Which commandment is the most important of all?" Jesus replied, "The most important one is Israel, listen! Our God is the one Lord, and you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your being, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this, You will love your neighbor as yourself. No other commandment is greater than these." The legal expert said to him, "Well said, Teacher. You have truthfully said that God is one and there is no other besides him. And to love God with all of the heart, a full understanding, and all of one's strength, and to love one's neighbor as oneself is much more important than all kinds of entirely burned offerings and sacrifices." When Jesus saw that he had answered with wisdom, he said to him, "You aren't far from God's kingdom." After that, no one dared to ask him any more questions.

**PRELUDE**

**"Deep River"**

**DANA MOODY**

#### **MESSAGE FOR GROWING CHRISTIANS**

#### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Lay Reader: In the beginning, God called the world into being, saying,

**People:** "Let there be light!"

Lay Reader: In the fullness of time, Jesus came from God to us, saying,

**People:** "I am the Light of the world."

Lay Reader: In our everyday life, we see the work of the saints,

**People:** The ones in whom God's light shines.

Lay Reader: So let us give thanks for the saints this day.

**People: And let us worship God.**

Lay Reader: We gather this morning to remember our call:

**People: To do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with God.**

Lay Reader: We bring with us the events of the week in the world and in our lives,

**People: trying to know how to be just and loving and humble in the midst of it all.**

Lay Reader: We gather here, and see those who are doing justice, who are kind beyond measure,

**People: who set the example for humility.**

Lay Reader. With gratitude for living saints, with thankfulness for the purpose of faith,

**People: let us worship God.**

*Written by Beth Merrill Neel on her blog, "Hold Fast to What is Good." Used with permission.  
<https://holdfasttowhatisgood.com/liturgy/all-saints-liturgy/>*

## OPENING PRAYER

**Eternal God, hope of all who trust in you, in Christ you weep with those who mourn even as you cry out in triumph over the grave. Unbind us from sin, release us from captivity, and with Lazarus, raise us from death to life, so that we may join that great crowd of saints who forever sing praise to your holy name; through Christ, the resurrection and the life.**

*[https://www.pcusa.org/site\\_media/media/uploads/theologyandworship/pdfs/prayers\\_for\\_all\\_saints\\_day.pdf](https://www.pcusa.org/site_media/media/uploads/theologyandworship/pdfs/prayers_for_all_saints_day.pdf)*

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lay Reader: Our lives are full of mistakes and errors – places where we follow self-generated idols instead of the One True God. We are not alone in these mistakes – all of those who have come before us also were plagued with temptation and sin. Let us come before God, just as generations of believers have done, and pray for God's forgiveness and grace.

**People: Beloved God, who was known to our mothers and fathers, and even to our spiritual forebears, have mercy on us. We do not always love as you would have us love. We do not always do as you would have us do. In our stubbornness, we turn from you when we should turn toward you. Hold us, dear One – comfort us when we mourn the passing of friends and family, and help us to know that they are rejoicing in your presence. We praise you for the grace you shower on us, constantly forgiving our errors, especially the ones that we don't share with any but you. Hear now the silent fears and worries of our hearts.**

[A time of silence]

Lay Reader: Friends, hear the good news! Though thousands upon thousands of our ancestors did not follow God's ways perfectly, we have hope in the one who did! Jesus, a man of a particular people in a particular time, taught through his words and deeds that God has already forgiven us. Thus, we and all who have come before us are rightly known as saints – the holy ones of God! Thanks be to God for God's mercy, grace, and love! Amen!

**HYMN**

**“For All the Saints”**

**#711**

1. For all the saints, who from their labors rest,  
who thee by faith before the world confessed,  
thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest. Alleluia! Alleluia!
2. Thou wast their rock, their fortress, and their might;  
Thou, Lord, their captain in the well-fought fight;  
Thou, in the darkness drear, their one true light. Alleluia! Alleluia!
3. O may thy soldiers, faithful, true, and bold,  
Fight as the saints who nobly fought of old,  
And win with them the victor’s crown of gold. Alleluia! Alleluia!
4. O blest communion, fellowship divine!  
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;  
Yet all are one in thee, for all are thine. Alleluia! Alleluia!
5. And when the strife is fierce, the warfare long,  
Steals on the ear the distant triumph song,  
And hearts are brave again, and arms are strong. Alleluia! Alleluia!
6. From earth’s wide bounds, from ocean’s farthest coast,  
Through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,  
Singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost: Alleluia! Alleluia!

**A LITANY FOR ALL SAINTS DAY** (responsively) –

Ned Alderman (NA) & Debbie Rippard (LR)

NA: We remember the great ancestors of our faith, from Abraham and Sarah, to Paul and Phoebe:

**P: Ancestors of the faith, we remember you.**

LR: We remember the prophets and priests, the ministers and teachers who have taught us the way of God:

**P: Teachers of the faith, we remember you.**

NA: We remember our grandparents and parents, aunts and uncles, those who have gone before us in our lifetime:

**P: Family of our faith, we remember you.**

LR: We lift up the memories of children and grandchildren, brothers and sisters, husbands and wives and parents whose lives ended too soon:

**P: Those close in our heart, we remember you.**

NA: We lift up to You, O God, the names of those we have lost in this past year from our lives, knowing that they are with Your heart forever. As their names are read family and friends are invited to stand. We will pause after every name to remember, pray, and give thanks for their life:

Linda Riddick  
Linda Joyce Reynolds Williams  
Pat Bennett-Cruz  
Carolyn Smith  
Kay Newbern Sessor  
Clyde Nave  
Lawrence R. Ashley

LR: We celebrate the lives of those we have named, O God, and lift up many more names in our hearts.

**P: Family of God, we remember you, and we honor you. We know you are with us in the spirit of worship, and you will not be forgotten.**

NA: We give thanks, O God, for all who have gone on to join with You beyond this life. We trust in the hope of resurrection and the promise of new life in Christ, and know that in our grief and celebration, O God, You are with us through it all, and we are not left alone. In the name of Christ, in whom love lives forever, we pray.

**P: Amen.**

**ANTHEM**

**“He is Our Peace “**

**CHANCEL CHOIR**

**GOSPEL**

**John 11:32-44 [CEB]**

When Mary arrived where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother wouldn’t have died.” When Jesus saw her crying and the Jews who had come with her crying also, he was deeply disturbed and troubled. He asked, “Where have you laid him?” They replied, “Lord, come and see.” Jesus began to cry. The Jews said, “See how much he loved him!” But some of them said, “He healed the eyes of the man born blind. Couldn’t he have kept Lazarus from dying?” Jesus was deeply disturbed again when he came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone covered the entrance. Jesus said, “Remove the stone.” Martha, the sister of the dead man, said, “Lord, the smell will be awful! He’s been dead four days.” Jesus replied, “Didn’t I tell you that if you believe, you will see God’s glory?” So they removed the stone. Jesus looked up and said, “Father, thank you for hearing me. I know you always hear me. I say this for the benefit of the crowd standing here so that they will believe that you sent me.” Having said this, Jesus shouted with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” The dead man came out, his feet bound and his hands tied, and his face covered with a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Untie him and let him go.”

**SERMON**

**“Change Time”**

**Rev. Ned Alderman**

**HYMN**

**“For All The Saints**

**(TFWS) #2283**

1. For all the saints who've shown your love in how they live and where they move  
For mindful women, caring men, accept our gratitude again.
2. For all the saints who loved your name, whose faith increased the Savior's fame,  
Who sang your songs and shared your word, accept our gratitude, good Lord.
3. For all the saints who named your will, and showed the kingdom coming still  
Through selfless protest, prayer, and praise, accept the gratitude we raise.
4. Bless all whose will or name or love reflects the grace of heaven above.  
Though unacclaimed by earthly powers, your life through theirs has hallowed ours.

### **THE LORD'S SUPPER (responsively)**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you**

Lift up your hearts

**We lift them up to the lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth: God of Abraham and Sarah, God of Miriam and Moses, God of Joshua and Deborah, God of Ruth and David, God of the priests and the prophets, God of Mary and Joseph, God of the apostles and the martyrs, God of our mothers and our fathers, God of our children to all generations. And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**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.**

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

**Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and the cup. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ that we may be for the world the body of Christ,

redeemed by his blood. Renew our communion with all your saints, especially those whom we name before you in our hearts. Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, strengthen us to run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the Pioneer and Perfecter of our faith.

**By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet. Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and for 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. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

### **INVITATION TO THE OFFERING**

As Christ has given himself for us, let us, in turn, give of ourselves for the sake of others.

### **OFFERING PRAYER**

**Compassionate God, who weeps with us and offers us eternal hope, we present our gifts with grateful hearts. Just as you called Lazarus from the tomb, call us to new life and purpose through our giving. Use these offerings to build your kingdom and bring comfort to the grieving and light to those in darkness. May our contributions reflect your love and grace, transforming our community into a place of hope and renewal. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.**

### **DOXOLOGY**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

### **HYMN**

#### **“Rejoice in God's Saints”**

**#708**

1. Rejoice in God's saints, today and all days;  
a world without saints forgets how to praise.  
Their faith in acquiring the habit of prayer,  
their depth of adoring, Lord, help us to share
2. Some march with events to turn them God's way;  
Some need to withdraw, the better to pray.  
Some carry the gospel through fire and through flood;  
Our world is their parish; their purpose is God.

3. Rejoice in those saints, unpraised and unknown,  
Who bear someone's cross or shoulder their own.  
They shame our complaining, our comforts, our cares:  
What patience in caring, what courage, is theirs!
  
4. Rejoice in God's saints, today and all days;  
A world without saints forgets how to praise.  
In loving, in living, they prove it is true:  
The way of self-giving, Lord, leads us to you.

### **SENDING FORTH**

God invites us into his future, where the one who makes all things new has made his home among us. We are called and chosen, together embraced by the God in whom tears, mourning, crying, pain and even death will be no more.

Remember God's future, for this is our story. Our Lord says, "See, I am coming soon!" and we respond, "Come, Lord Jesus!" Amen.

<http://resources.mennonitechurch.ca/FileDownload/14014/Equip-116AssembluSunday.pdf>.

### **GOING FROM VILLAGE TO VILLAGE**

**POSTLUDE**

**"Lobe den Herren**

**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.*



**Members of the Church**

**Nursery Care Providers: Brooks & Lisa Ryno**

**Prayer Partner: Brenda Swoope**

**Lay Reader – Debbie Rippard**

**Audio–Visual Operator – Danny 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**