

Come to the table, you who are happy or sad.
Here our lives are embraced by God's grace.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

We give you thanks, our creator and liberator, for by your word you have called forth creation, you have created us in your image. You led us from slavery to freedom, going ever before us with cloud and fiery pillar. With burning coals, you gave utterance to the prophets, demanding that justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

In the fullness of time, your Spirit descended like a dove upon Jesus, anointing him to preach good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who were oppressed, and to declare the reign of God in our midst.

When Jesus gathered together with his beloved disciples, he was known to them in the breaking of the bread. Before feeding the multitudes, he broke bread and gave thanks. When two or three were gathered together, he broke bread and gave thanks. He sought the outcasts and broke bread with them, witnessing the fullness of your grace.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

On the night of his greatest trial, he gathered his friends together in an upper room, and said to them: "Tonight I am going to create a sustaining community among you. It will not require you to always be faithful or perfect or good or right or powerful or unblemished or pure. It will not require you to hold an advanced degree, or to have the proper wealth, skin color, sexual identity, gender, or religion. This community we are creating together tonight requires two things: your willingness to share with one another and your remembrance of me. These two are enough to bind you to one another and to your work on behalf of the world.

"Take this bread, the bread of life. It represents my physical presence, which has been with you on many adventures. It also represents the bodies of all who have tried to love mercy, create justice, and build the kingdom of God on earth. Whenever you eat this bread, remember this evening. Think on what we have tried to do for the poor and for those who are marginalized.

"Take this cup, the cup of salvation. It represents the covenant we make with each other to always be there for one another. It also represents my promise to be with you always. This cup and your thoughts of me will sustain you and restore your spirits."

As we break bread and drink this cup, we do so remembering a life lived in thanksgiving – a life of uncompromising commitment to justice and equality; a life that led to an unjust death on a cross. And in the darkness of night, when evil and betrayal seemed victorious, your creative power burst upon us in the glory of the resurrection. In remembering all he did and taught, we actively await with hope for the coming of God's reign to bring peace and justice.

God of love, send your Holy Spirit upon us. Bless what we do here this morning, that we and these gifts, touched by your Spirit, may be signs of life and love to each other and to all the world. Amen.

Take and eat. May you never cease to hunger for justice. Take and drink. May you never cease to thirst for mercy.



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."

October 6, 2024

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY



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

1 Corinthians 7:1-4

PRELUDE

"Bread of Heaven"

DANA MOODY

MESSAGE FOR GROWING CHRISTIANS

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)

Lay Reader: We gather to worship, celebrating the boundless love of our Lord Jesus Christ

People: **who shines as the radiance of God's glory.**

Lay Reader: From the rising of the sun to its setting, we lift our voices in praise.

People: **God reigns over all the earth.**

Lay Reader: We join with Christians from every corner of the globe,

People: **we unite in worship, giving thanks for the gift of Jesus by celebrating the bread and cup he shared.**

All: **Amen.**

OPENING PRAYER (responsively)

Peacemaking God, we pray for the peace of our world. A day does not go by when somewhere in the world Christians gather to eat, pray, serve, and worship you as a community. Whether it's around an altar or a kitchen table, your people gather as one Body in Christ. And yet, we know for many, those gatherings happen amidst war, famine, weather crises, political unrest, and communal fracturing. And so, we lift our siblings around the world, our communities, and all of creation to you, and we cry out for your peace to reign among us.

God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Loving God, we pray for the well-being of your creation. The lands are parched or flooded, the air is thick with imbalance, the waters are warming and rising. We have neglected our role as stewards of creation, and we feel powerless to make a difference. And so, we lift the earth to you, and we cry out for your love to inspire and empower us to tend your creation, our home.

God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Saving God, we pray for the liberation of all who are oppressed. Around the world, people are enslaved and trafficked, exploited for the gain of others. Laborers are underpaid and overworked to feed a bottom line they will never benefit from. People fear for their lives and well-being because of the color of their skin, the sound of their accent, their religious beliefs, or their address. And so, we lift the least and the last to you, and we cry out for your salvation to pour out of our hands and into all corners of the globe to free the oppressed and the forgotten.

God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Hope-bringing God, we pray for unity throughout creation. Where divisions reign, bring reconciliation. Where distrust has taken root, show us how to till the ground with mercy and grace. Where racism, patriarchy, classism, ableism, and homophobia tear us apart, sew us back together with your love as we seek forgiveness, accountability, and reconciliation together. Guide us, O God, as we lift ourselves, our community, and our world to you.

God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

HYMN

“Christ We Are Blessed”

W&S #3174

1. Christ, we are blest as we gather to dine, strengthened for love by the bread and the wine.
This is your body, now entering ours, strong with your loving, miraculous powers.

2. You laid your life down like sowing a seed; once dead and buried, from death you are freed.

Rising like wheat in the warmth of the sun! Christ, you are risen! New life has begun.

3. Christ, you are risen, but not far above: you live among us in each act of love,
In every deed of compassion you rise, living in flesh we can see with our eyes.

4. Jesus you feed us, then bid us to leave, sharing with others the love we receive.

We are your body, sent by your command, making love real as the bread in our hands.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (responsively)

Lay Reader: Whatever good we may have done is nothing compared to the righteousness of Christ. Whatever wrong we may have done is nothing compared to the grace of God. With faith in Christ’s righteousness and confidence in God’s grace, let us confess our sin.

People: Loving God, you have planted us like a vineyard on a fertile hill. You cleared away the stones, planted us with choice vines, and kept watch over us by night and day. But we have not yielded the good fruit that you expected or desired. We are overgrown with sin, choked with violence and injustice. Forgive us, we pray. Uproot our evil, prune away our sin, and shower upon us the gift of your grace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Lay Reader: Our salvation does not depend on anything we have done, but comes from the grace of God alone through faith in Jesus Christ. This is the good news: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

People: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

“Come to the Table”

CHANCEL CHOIR

SCRIPTURE

Mark 10:2-16 [NIV]

Some Pharisees came and tested him by asking, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?” “What did Moses command you?” he replied. They said, “Moses permitted a man to write a certificate of divorce and send her away.” “It was because your hearts were hard that Moses wrote you this law,” Jesus replied. “But at the beginning of creation God ‘made them male and female. For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.’ So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.”

When they were in the house again, the disciples asked Jesus about this. He answered, “Anyone who divorces his wife and marries another woman commits adultery against her. And if she divorces her husband and marries another man, she commits adultery.”

People were bringing little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.” And he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them.

SERMON

“A Life Lived in Thanksgiving”

Rev. Ned Alderman

HYMN

“You Feed Us Gentle Savior”

W&S #3169

1. You feed us, gentle Savior, the bread that makes us whole,
the wine of your compassion poured out into our soul.
The food of your own presence, your Spirit, strong, within,
the grace that heals us deeply and overcomes our sin.
2. You bind us, gentle Savior, and weave us into one,
one flesh and blood made holy, the Body of your Son.
We gather here in hunger, one hunger, all the same;
and with one grace you bless us together in his name.
3. You call us, gentle Savior, and send us in your name.
You teach and heal and show us how we can do the same.
So, strengthened by your Spirit and nourished by our grace,
we go to be your presence in love, in every place.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION (responsively)

Come to the table, you who are scattered and torn.

Here we find hope.

Come to the table, you who are scared and lonely.

Here we find rest for our souls, and food for our journey.

Come to the table, you who are lost and searching.

Here we discover guidance, and light for our darkness.

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

Without Christ, all that we have is nothing. With Christ, all that we have is everything. Let us offer all that we have to the Lord.

OFFERING PRAYER

We give you thanks and praise, O God, for all your good gifts, and above all, for the gift of knowing Christ our Savior. Strengthen us as we continue to strive for the heavenly prize that you offer: eternal and abundant life in Jesus Christ our Lord. 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 " Pues Si Vivimos [When We Are Living]" #356

1. When we are living, it is in Christ Jesus and when we're dying, it is in the Lord.
Both in our living and in our dying, we belong to God, we belong to God.
2. Through all our living, we our fruits must give. Good works of service are for offering.
When we are giving, or when receiving, we belong to God, we belong to God.
3. 'Mid times of sorrow and in times of pain, when sensing beauty or in love's embrace,
whether we suffer, or sing rejoicing, we belong to God, we belong to God.
4. Across this wide world, we shall always find those who are crying with no peace of mind,
but when we help them, or when we feed them, we belong to God, we belong to God.

SENDING FORTH

Lay Reader: As you have refreshed us at your table,

People: weave us together as one body, one people— a people of integrity in the midst of trials.

Lay Reader: As you have shared your sacred meal with us,

People: strengthen us, that we may be united in faith— a faith that spans the globe and the ages.

Lay Reader: As you have blessed us with your loving presence,

People: send us forth in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of your Spirit.

GOING FROM VILLAGE TO VILLAGE

POSTLUDE "Dedication" **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

Nursery Care Providers: Joanne Rooks & Barbara Bennett

Prayer Partner: Brenda Swoope

Lay Reader – Brenda Swoope

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