



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 Joanne Rooks in honor of Eileen Ballance.

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

PARTNERS IN MINISTRY TODAY

Members of the Church

Nursery Care Providers: Randy Story & Barbara Bennett

Lay Reader: Monica Whitehurst

Organist/Director of Music: Dana Moody

Prayer Partner: 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. Dr. Cecelia R. Brooks

Resident Bishop, Richmond Area: Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson



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."

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September 10, 2023 ~ 11:00 A.M.



Welcome in the name of our Lord. A nurturing and well-supervised nursery is available for infants and young children. A Crying Room is also available. Please ask the greeter for further assistance and direction to these rooms.
[†] = Invites persons to stand as they are able.

PRELUDE

"Shades of Dawn"

- Dana Moody

THE MORNING WELCOME

Rev. Ned Alderman

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Rev. Ned Alderman

CENTERING PRAYER (in unison)

O God, make the door of this house wide enough to receive all who need human love and fellowship, narrow enough to shut out envy, pride, and strife. Make its threshold smooth enough to be no stumbling-block to children, nor to straying feet, but rugged and strong enough to turn back evil's power. God, make the door of this house the gateway to your eternal kingdom. Amen.

†OPENING HYMN

"The Gift of Love"

#408

1. Though I may speak with bravest fire,
and have the gift to all inspire,
and not have love, my words are vain,
as sounding brass, and hopeless gain.
2. Though I may give all I possess,
and striving so my love profess,
but not be given by love within,
the profit soon turns strangely thin.
3. Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control,
our spirits long to be made whole.
Let inward love guide every deed;
by this we worship, and are freed.

MORNING PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS (Responsively)

People: Merciful God, help us become the people you have created us to be. We yearn to build communities of love, but it is easier to tear down than to build up. We long for the healing of the nations, but it is easier to harm than to heal. We want to bear our grief with dignity, but it is satisfying to parade our wounds for all to see. Bind up our spirits, Gracious One, that we might reconcile with those who have caused us pain. Help us cast aside the things that chain our spirits, that we might be free to care for one another and fulfill your law of love. Amen.

Lay Reader: Hear the words of Jesus: “Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.” As we gather to fulfill the law of love, Christ is here to make us whole. Amen.

THE LORD’S PRAYER (in unison)

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.

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Offertory”

CHANCEL CHOIR

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 18:15-20 [CEB]

“If your brother or sister sins against you, go and correct them when you are alone together. If they listen to you, then you’ve won over your brother or sister. But if they won’t listen, take with you one or two others so that every word may be established by the mouth of two or three witnesses. But if they still won’t pay attention, report it to the church. If they won’t pay attention even to the church, treat them as you would a Gentile and tax collector. I assure you that whatever you fasten on earth will be fastened in heaven. And whatever you loosen on earth will be loosened in heaven. Again I assure you that if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, then my Father who is in heaven will do it for you. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I’m there with them.”

Lay Reader: This is the Word of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“The Rule of Christ”

- Rev. Ned Alderman

HYMN OF RESPONSE

“For the Healing of the Nations”

#428

1. For the healing of the nations, Lord, we pray with one accord;
for a just and equal sharing of the things that earth affords;
to a life of love in action help us rise and pledge our word,
help us rise and pledge our word.
2. Lead us forward, into freedom; from despair your world release,
that, redeemed from war and hatred, all may come and go in peace.
Show us how through care and goodness fear will die and hope increase,
fear will die and hope increase.
3. All that kills abundant living, let it from the earth be banned;
pride of status, race or schooling, dogmas that obscure your plan.
In our common quest for justice may we hallow life’s brief span,
may we hallow life’s brief span.
4. You, Creator God, have written your great name on humankind;
for our growing in your likeness bring the life of Christ to mind,
that by our response and service earth its destiny may find,
earth its destiny may find.

CLOSING PRAYER (in unison)

Put your sandals on your feet and take your staff in your hand. Walk away from darkness and enter the joy and love of God’s love. Follow God’s call, for Christ is with you. Go in peace and joy. Amen.

POSTLUDE

“Variation”

Dana Moody

