

4. Will you love the “you” you hide if I but call your name?  
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?  
Will you use the faith you’ve found – to reshape the world around,  
through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me.
5. Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.  
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.  
In your company I’ll go – where your love and footsteps show.  
Thus I’ll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

**STATEMENT OF FAITH (Responsively) A Modern Affirmation, UMH #885**

Lay Reader: Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is the one true Church, apostolic and universal, whose holy faith let us now declare.

**People:** We believe in God the Father, infinite in wisdom, power and love, whose mercy is over all His works, and whose will is ever directed to His children’s good.

We believe in Jesus Christ, Son of God and Son of man, the Gift of the Father’s unfailing grace, the ground of our hope, and the promise of our deliverance from sin and death.

We believe in the Holy Spirit as the divine presence in our lives, whereby we are kept in perpetual remembrance of the truth of Christ, and find strength and help in time of need.

We believe that this faith should manifest itself in the service of love as set forth in the example of our blessed Lord, to the end that the kingdom of God may come upon the earth. Amen.

**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.

**INVITATION TO THE OFFERING**

Sing praises to God with the mighty firmament, for truly the heavens are telling the glory of God. As we sing our praises, let us share from our abundance, to the glory of God.

**OFFERING PRAYER**

Divine Source of Wisdom, we bring these offerings with hearts attuned to your call. As we gather in your presence, may our gifts reflect the wisdom and discernment you desire for us. Use these offerings to nurture understanding, compassion, and justice in our world. Guide us to listen and act with insight, spreading your love and grace. Transform our giving into actions that make a difference. Help us grow in our faith and commitment to your ways. In the holy name of Jesus, 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.



**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."*

**September 15, 2024**

**Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost**



**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**

**Proverbs 1:20-33 [CEB]**

Wisdom shouts in the street, in the public square she raises her voice. Above the noisy crowd, she calls out. At the entrances of the city gates, she has her say. “How long will you clueless people love your naiveté’, mockers hold their mocking dear, and fools hate knowledge? You should respond when I correct you. Look, I’ll pour out my spirit on you. I’ll reveal my words to you. I invited you, but you rejected me; I stretched out my hand to you, but you paid no attention. You ignored all my advice, and you didn’t want me to correct you. So I’ll laugh at your disaster; I’ll make fun of you when dread comes over you, when terror hits you like a hurricane, and your disaster comes in like a tornado, when distress and oppression overcome you. Then they will call me, but I won’t answer; they will seek me, but won’t find me because they hated knowledge and didn’t choose the fear of the Lord. They didn’t want my advice; they rejected all my corrections. They will eat from the fruit of their way, and they’ll be full of their own schemes. The immature will die because they turn away; smugness will destroy fools. Those who obey me will dwell securely, untroubled by the dread of harm.”

**PRELUDE**

**“Meditation No. 1 “**

**DANA MOODY**

**MESSAGE FOR GROWING CHRISTIANS**

**DEBBIE RIPPARD**

**CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)**

Lay Reader: Beloved, the voice of Wisdom calls to us from the street corner, the grocery store aisle, the noisy dinner table, and the quiet places of our hearts. Will you listen?

**People:** Yes, with God’s help, we will listen!

Lay Reader: Wisdom calls to us with hard truths, showing us where we’ve strayed in our hearts and as a community and urging us back onto God’s path. Will you follow?

**People:** Yes, with God’s help, we will follow!

Lay Reader: Wisdom’s call persists through the twists and turns, the rough patches, the barely discernible paths forward, and the moments we feel completely lost. Will you hold onto Wisdom wherever she takes you?

**People:** Yes, with God's help, we will hold onto Wisdom!

**Lay Reader:** Then Beloved, let us worship God together as we cling to wisdom on our journey along the path of salvation paved with God's love.

**People:** Yes! Let us worship God together! Amen.

**OPENING PRAYER (in unison)**

Gracious God, our hearts are restless for you. For you alone, our hearts wait.

[Silence]

Clear our hearts of anything that would keep us from you as we begin this day, this moment of worship. Keep us clinging to your word, your will, your kingdom. Amen.

**HYMN** "And Are We Yet Alive" #553

1. And are we yet alive, and see each other's face?  
Glory and thanks to Jesus give for his almighty grace!
2. Preserved by power divine to full salvation here,  
again in Jesus' praise we join, and in his sight appear.
3. What troubles have we seen, what mighty conflicts past,  
fightings without, and fears within, since we assembled last!
4. Yet out of all the Lord hath brought us by his love;  
and still he doth his help afford, and hides our life above.
5. Then let us make our boast of his redeeming power,  
which saves us to the uttermost, till we can sin no more.
6. Let us take up the cross till we the crown obtain,  
and gladly reckon all things loss so we may Jesus gain.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION (responsively)**

**Lay Reader:** The Lord listens to the cries of the people who turn with full hearts to the One who has mercy. Let our tongues now make confession in the presence of God and of this body.

**People:** Holy God, in the face of sin, our gravest enemy, we call to you for help. You know our fault before we speak. Forgive us for what we have done in opposition to your will. Forgive us for those things we have not undertaken and for which we know our wrong. We have not loved you and our neighbors as we ought. We have denied our dependence on you. Lead us away from this grief and sorrow. Save us so that we may fulfill our vows to you and attend to the needs of your people. Amen.

**Lay Reader:** God, who is gracious and merciful, knows the human desire to save our lives by avoiding Jesus' call to carry the cross. God, who is full of compassion, also knows that those who repent have set their minds and hearts on what endures for all time. Your sin is forgiven you. The Lord God is a very present help to those who seek to follow in the way of divine things. Go with God in joy as you take up your cross, in Jesus' name.

**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** "How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds" **Chancel Choir**

**SCRIPTURE** **Mark 8:27-38 [CEB]**

Jesus and his disciples went into the villages near Caesarea Philippi. On the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?"

They told him, "Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, and still others one of the prophets."

He asked them, "And what about you? Who do you say that I am?"

Peter answered, "You are the Christ." Jesus ordered them not to tell anyone about him. Then Jesus began to teach his disciples: "The Human One must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests, and the legal experts, and be killed, and then, after three days, rise from the dead." He said this plainly. But Peter took hold of Jesus and, scolding him, began to correct him. Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, then sternly corrected Peter: "Get behind me, Satan. You are not thinking God's thoughts but human thoughts."

After calling the crowd together with his disciples, Jesus said to them, "All who want to come after me must say no to themselves, take up their cross, and follow me. All who want to save their lives will lose them. But all who lose their lives because of me and because of the good news will save them. Why would people gain the whole world but lose their lives? What will people give in exchange for their lives? Whoever is ashamed of me and my words in this unfaithful and sinful generation, the Human One will be ashamed of that person when he comes in the Father's glory with the holy angels."

**SERMON** "Wisdom" **Rev. Ned Alderman**

**HYMN** "The Summons" **TFWS #2130**

1. Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?  
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?  
Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known,  
will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?
2. Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?  
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?  
Will you risk the hostile stare – should your life attract or scare?  
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?
3. Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?  
Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?  
Will you kiss the leper clean, and do such as this unseen,  
and admit to what I mean in you and you in me?

1. Take my life and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee.  
Take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise.  
Take my hands, and let them move at the impulse of thy love.  
Take my feet, and let them be swift and beautiful for thee.
2. Take my voice, and let me sing always, only, for my King.  
Take my lips, and let them be filled with messages from thee.  
Take my silver and my gold; not a mite would I withhold.  
Take my intellect, and use every power as thou shalt choose.
3. Take my will, and make it thine; it shall be no longer mine.  
Take my heart, it is thine own; it shall be thy royal throne.  
Take my love, my Lord, I pour at thy feet its treasurestore.  
Take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for thee.

**BENEDICTION**

May God, our Wisdom, pour out God’s thoughts in you and make God’s words known to you. May Jesus Christ, our Messiah, give you the strength to carry your cross and to follow him. And may the Holy Spirit, our Tongue of fire, guide our words and our actions, as we strive to bless the world with our witness.

**SENDING FORTH**

When people ask, Who is this Jesus? do not be ashamed of the gospel; share with them that he loved the world so much that he lived for us, suffered for us, died for us, and rose again for us, and invite them to follow him.

**GOING FROM VILLAGE TO VILLAGE****POSTLUDE**

“St. George’s Windsor“

DANA MOODY

**Welcome Rev. Joshua McCauley**

Joshua is a graduate of Shenandoah University where he majored in Religious Studies, and a graduate of Wesley Theological Seminary where he earned a Master of Divinity degree.

He is a provisional elder in the United Methodist Church and serves as the Director and Campus Minister for the Wesley Foundation at Old Dominion University. Joshua is in his third year of serving at ODU and is passionate about exploring faith with young adults.

When not on campus Joshua enjoys woodworking and spending time with his wife Liz, daughter Addie, and hound dog, Kali.

*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 by Ethel Hickman in memory of her daughter, Paula Hickman Lindsay and her husband, Bobby Hickman.*

**PARTNERS IN MINISTRY TODAY****Members of the Church**

Nursery Care Providers: Lisa &amp; Brooks Ryno

Organist/Director of Music: Dana Moody

Prayer Partner: Barbara Bennett

Lay Reader – Brenda Swoope

Audio–Visual Operator – Julian Baker

Facebook Live Recorder: Bright Tsevi

Greeter: Joanne Rooks

Pastor: Rev. Ned Alderman

Visiting Pastor: Rev. Joshua McCauley

Administrative Assistant: Eileen Ballance

Financial Secretary: Edna Bess

Coastal Virginia Dist. Superintendent: Rev. Beth Givens

Resident Bishop, Richmond Area: Bishop Sue Hauptert–Johnson