

Lay Reader: You come, reminding us to welcome the stranger.

**People: And by doing so, we welcome angels.**

Lay Reader: You come, reminding us to welcome the least, the last, and the lost.

**People: And by doing so, we welcome your kingdom.**

Lay Reader: When the last are first, and the lowly are lifted; when the persecuted are blessed, and the weak are strengthened; when we lose our lives and give them away to love:

**People: you come among us, welcoming One, embracing us with open arms.**

Lay Reader: When we welcome a child and see the face of God,

**People: you come among us, welcoming One, teaching us to be servants of all.**

### INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Like the child Jesus held, we live and move and have our being inside the circle of his arms. Let us open our hearts so that our tithes and offerings bring others, as well, into that circle.

### OFFERING PRAYER

**We thank you for the wealth you shower on us daily, O Lord, and we witness the marvelous goodness that comes from you. Transform these gifts into signs of welcome for all who are touched by their use. Transform us into people who bless others throughout each day, 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

**"Praise the Source of Faith and Learning"**

**TFWS #2004**

1. Praise the source of faith and learning that has sparked and stoked the mind with a passion for discerning how the world has been designed.  
Let the sense of wonder flowing from the wonders we survey  
keep our faith forever growing and renew our need to pray.
2. God of wisdom, we acknowledge that our science and our art  
and the breadth of human knowledge only partial truth impart.  
Far beyond our calculation lies a depth we cannot sound  
where your purpose for creation and the pulse of life are found.
3. May our faith redeem the blunder of believing that our thought  
has displaced the grounds for wonder which the ancient prophets taught.  
May our learning curb the error which unthinking faith can breed  
lest we justify some terror with an antiquated creed.
4. As two currents in a river fight each other's undertow  
till converging they deliver one coherent steady flow.  
Blend, O God, our faith and learning till they carve a single course,  
till they join as one, returning praise and thanks to you, their Source.



## 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 22, 2024**

***Eighteenth 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

**Luke 14:1, 7-14 [NRSV]**

On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the sabbath.

When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. "When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host; and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, "Give this person your place," and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher;' then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

Then Jesus said to his host, "When you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your friends, your brothers or sisters, your relatives, or your rich neighbors; if you do, they may invite you back and so you will be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

**PRELUDE "Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee with I Worship You Almighty God"**

**DANA MOODY**

### MESSAGE FOR GROWING CHRISTIANS

#### CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)

Lay Reader: Happy are the people

**People: who do not follow the advice of the wicked or take the path that they follow, or sit in the seat of people who make fun of others.**

Lay Reader: Their delight is in the law of the Lord,

**People: and they meditate on God's law day and night.**

Lay Reader: The Lord watches over the way of the righteous,

**People: but the way of the wicked will perish.**

### OPENING PRAYER (in unison)

God of the first and the last, give us strength of mind, that we might walk the path of obedience and discipleship without wasting our time thinking about who is more important. Instead, guide our thoughts and our emotions that we may be like children, totally dependent on you, welcoming all with hospitality and love. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

Long, Kim; Long, Kim. *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: 2* (p. 173). Presbyterian Publishing Corporation. Kindle Edition.

### HYMN "It's Me, It's Me, O Lord" #352

#### Refrain

It's me, it's me, O Lord, standing in the need of prayer.

It's me, it's me, O Lord, standing in the need of prayer.

1. Not my brother, not my sister, but it's me, O Lord standing in the need of prayer.

Not my brother, not my sister, but it's me, O Lord standing in the need of prayer.

#### Refrain

2. Not the preacher, not the deacon, but it's me, O Lord standing in the need of prayer

Not the preacher, not the deacon, but it's me, O Lord standing in the need of prayer.

#### Refrain

3. Not my father, not my mother, but it's me, O Lord standing in the need of prayer.

Not my father, not my mother, but it's me, O Lord standing in the need of prayer.

#### Refrain

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION (responsively)

Lay Reader: O God,

**People: we live our lives as best we can – dealing with difficult relationships and situations, putting failures and disappointments behind us, and moving into each new day with as much energy, goodwill, and optimism as we can muster. But here, right now, we seldom have the right answers, we seldom seek your higher wisdom in our lives, we just move ahead. Forgive us for not asking for your insight. Fill us with your wisdom, that we may live lives of goodness and peace. Amen.**

Lay Reader: When we come before God in humility and honesty, God draws near to us with forgiveness and renewed blessing. Thanks be to God!

*Adapted from the Abingdon Worship Annual 2009, © 2008 Abingdon Press*

Lay Reader: Together may we pray the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples to pray:

### 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 "Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus" Chancel Choir

### SCRIPTURE Mark 9:30-37 NRSV

They went on from there and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again." But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the way?" But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another about who was the greatest. He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all." Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, "Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me."

### SERMON "The Body of a Radical Messiah" Rev. Ned Alderman

### HYMN "O Spirit of the Living God" #539

1. O Spirit of the living God, thou light and fire divine,  
descend upon thy church once more, and make it truly thine.  
Fill it with love and joy and power, with righteousness and peace;  
till Christ shall dwell in human hearts, and sin and sorrow cease.
2. Blow, wind of God! With wisdom blow until our minds are free  
from mists of error, clouds of doubt, which blind our eyes to thee.  
Burn, winged fire! Inspire our lips with flaming love and zeal,  
to preach to all thy great good news, God's glorious commonweal.
3. Teach us to utter living words of truth which all may hear,  
the language all may understand when love speaks loud and clear;  
till every age and race and clime shall blend their creeds in one,  
and earth shall form one family by whom thy will is done.
4. So shall we know the power of Christ who came this world to save;  
so shall we rise with him to life which soars beyond the grave;  
and earth shall win true holiness, which makes thy children whole;  
till, perfected by thee, we reach creation's glorious goal!

### LITANY

Lay Reader: Into our lives littered with distraction; into our bickering, pointless and petty, you come among us, welcoming One, lifting up the littlest and least of us with open arms. You come, reminding us to welcome the child.

**People: And by doing so, we welcome God.**

## **SENDING FORTH**

Go out into the world; endeavoring to be the last of all and the servant of all. Welcome the children, for in doing so, you welcome Jesus. Submit yourselves to God, resist all evil; draw near to God, and God will draw near to you.

*Long, Kim; Long, Kim. Feasting on the Word Worship Companion. 2 (p. 175). Presbyterian Publishing Corporation. Kindle Edition.*

## **GOING FROM VILLAGE TO VILLAGE**

### **POSTLUDE**

**“O Splendor of God’s Glory Bright“**

**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 by Arte Jones  
in memory of his mother Connie Jones.*

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



### **PARTNERS IN MINISTRY TODAY**

#### **Members of the Church**

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

**Organist/Director of Music: Dana Moody**

**Prayer Partner: Brenda Swoope**

**Lay Reader – Brenda Swoope**

**Audio–Visual Operator – Rob 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**