

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Lay Reader: Let us pray to the God of mercy, through our savior, Jesus Christ, saying, O Lord, plead our cause. Your name is good.

God our maker, you surround your people with favor and goodness. You have chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to inherit your promised kingdom through our Lord Jesus Christ, who heals the afflicted and sets the oppressed free. In your mercy, open our mouths in intercession as we bow at your feet on behalf of the church, the creation, and all those in need. O Lord, plead our cause.

People: Your name is good.

Lay Reader: Open your church to welcome and honor the poor, meeting their needs with faith-filled deeds of love and generosity. O Lord, plead our cause.

People: Your name is good.

Lay Reader: Uphold the land and those who labor to cultivate it, that both crops and people may be sustained by your love and overflow with the blessings of your generous provision. O Lord, plead our cause.

People: Your name is good.

Lay Reader: Establish justice for the poor, relief for the afflicted, and compassionate care for the physically and mentally ill. O Lord, plead our cause.

People: Your name is good.

Lay Reader: May we respect the dignity of all who struggle, showing your kindness to those in need. O Lord, plead our cause.

People: Your name is good.

Lay Reader: Open our ears to hear the cry of the poor. Open our mouths to advocate for the afflicted. Open our hands to lift up those who are pressed down. Open our hearts to share generously with those who lack, especially those we remember now aloud and in our hearts.

[Names may be called forth from the assembly.] O Lord, plead our cause.

People: Your name is good.

Lay Reader: Bless the faithful poor and afflicted who have passed into your presence today to receive the rich inheritance you have prepared for them in your kingdom. O Lord, plead our cause.

People: Your name is good.

Lay Reader: We trust in you to do us good through the excellent name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

People: Amen.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Those who are generous are blessed; through the good name of Jesus Christ our Savior, by whom we have received the favor of our God – better than silver or gold. From the riches of God's grace, let us present our gifts of gratitude to bless those in need.



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 8, 2024

Sixteenth 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 (responsively)

[Psalm 146 UMH 858]

Lay Reader: Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul.

People: I will praise the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God while I have being.

Lay Reader: Put not your trust in princes, in mortals, in whom there is no help.

People: Their breath departs, they return to the earth; on that very day their plans perish.

Lay Reader: Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,

People: whose hope is in the Lord their God,

Lay Reader: who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them;

People: who keeps faith for ever; who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry.

Lay Reader: The Lord sets the prisoners free;

People: the Lord opens the eyes of the blind.

Lay Reader: The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;

People: the Lord loves the righteous.

Lay Reader: The Lord watches over the sojourners;

People: And upholds the widow and the orphan, but the Lord brings the way of the wicked to ruin.

Lay Reader: The Lord will reign for ever, your God, O Zion, from generation to generation.

People: Praise the Lord!

PRELUDE

"My Jesus I Love Thee"

DANA MOODY

MESSAGE FOR GROWING CHRISTIANS

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)

Lay Reader: The rich and poor have this in common:

People: The Creator is Maker of them all.

Lay Reader: A good name is to be chosen over riches, and favor is better than silver or gold.

The rich and poor have this in common:

People: The Holy One is Maker of them all.

Lay Reader: The rich rule over the poor and borrowers are slave to lenders. The rich and poor have this in common:

People: The Sovereign is Maker of them all.

Lay Reader: Those who are generous are blessed, for they share bread with the poor. The rich and poor have this in common:

People: The Creator is Maker of them all.

Lay Reader: Oppressing the poor in order to become rich; and giving to the rich, will lead only to loss. The rich and poor have this in common:

People: The Holy One is Maker of them all.

Lay Reader: May you know that your trust should be in God – yes, your trust, in the God of heaven. The rich and poor have this in common:

People: The Sovereign is Maker of them all.

Lay Reader: Do not rob the poor because they are poor or crush the afflicted at the gate. For God pleads their cause and despoils of life those who despoil them.

People: The rich and poor have this in common: The Generous One is Maker of them all.

OPENING PRAYER (in unison)

Good and generous God, you have blessed us with favor and counted us as your people through our glorious Lord Jesus Christ. Freed by your grace, let us extend your generosity to others, sharing our bread with the poor, pleading the cause of the afflicted, and receiving all who assemble in your name with the warmth of your love and the richness of your hospitality; in the good name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

HYMN

“When Morning Gilds the Skies”

#185

1. When morning gilds the skies my heart awaking cries: May Jesus Christ be praised!
Alike at work and prayer, to Jesus I repair: May Jesus Christ be praised!
2. The night becomes as day when from the heart we say: May Jesus Christ be praised!
The powers of darkness fear when this sweet chant they hear: May Jesus Christ be praised!
3. Let all the earth around ring joyous with the sound: May Jesus Christ be praised!
In heaven’s eternal bliss the loveliest strain is this: May Jesus Christ be praised!
4. Be this, while life is mine, my canticle divine: May Jesus Christ be praised!
Be this th’ eternal song through all the ages long, May Jesus Christ be praised!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God,

we come before you today knowing that we often fall short of your call to love one another well. We allow ourselves to be blinded by wealth and power. We ignore those

around us who suffer injustice, poverty, and rejection. We tune out the cries of the poor and those on the edges of our communities.

Help us to see your great generosity, hear your word of mercy, and feel your great love for all who need your redemptive grace. Strengthen us to reach out in service to those who are in need. Make us aware of those outside our own communities, that we may see them as your precious children and serve them in humility and joy.

May we continue to grow in grace as we learn how to serve you in the name of the great Servant, even Jesus Christ. 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.

ANTHEM

“No Matter What the Cost”

Chancel Choir

SCRIPTURE

Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23 [CEB]

A good reputation is better than much wealth; high esteem is better than silver and gold. The rich and the poor have this in common: the Lord made them both. Those who sow injustice will harvest evil; the rod of their fury will come to an end. Happy are generous people, because they give some of their food to the poor. Don’t steal from the poor, because they are poor. Don’t oppress the needy in the gate. The Lord will take up their case and press the life out of those who oppress them.

SERMON

“When Your Boyfriend is Engaged to God”

Rev. Ned Alderman

HYMN

“O God of Every Nation”

#435

1. O God of every nation, of every race and land,
redeem your whole creation with your almighty hand;
where hate and fear divide us, and bitter threats are hurled,
in love and mercy guide us, and heal our strife-torn world.
2. From search for wealth and power and scorn of truth and right,
from trust in bombs that shower destruction through the night,
from pride of race and station and blindness to your way,
deliver every nation, eternal God, we pray.
3. Lord, strengthen all who labor that all may find release
from fear of rattling saber, from dread of war’s increase;
when hope and courage falter, Lord, let your voice be heard;
with faith that none can alter, your servants undergird.
4. Keep bright in us the vision of days when war shall cease,
when hatred and division give way to love and peace,
till dawns the morning glorious when truth and justice reign,
and Christ shall rule victorious o’er all the world’s domain.

OFFERING PRAYER

Loving Creator, we dedicate these offerings with hearts guided by your wisdom and grace. As we gather on this September Sunday, may our gifts embody the teachings of Proverbs, spreading honor, kindness, and justice to all. Use these offerings to uplift those in need, fostering hope and peace in our community. May we live out your wisdom in our actions and generosity. This we pray in Christ's name. 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

“God Made From One Blood”

TFWS #2170

1. God made from one blood all the families of earth, the circles of nurture that raised us from birth, companions who join us to walk through each stage of childhood and youth and adulthood and age.
2. We turn to you, God, with our thanks and our tears for all of the families we've known through the years, the intimate networks on whom we depend of parent and partner and roommate and friend.
3. We learn through our families how closeness and trust increase when our actions are loving and just. Yet families have also distorted their roles mistreating their members and bruising their souls.
4. Give, Lord, to each family in conflict and storm a sense of your wisdom and grace that transform sharp anger to insight which strengthens the heart and makes clear the place where rebuilding can start.
5. Then widen that wisdom and grace to include the races and viewpoints our families exclude till peace in each home bears and nurtures the bud of peace shared by all you have made from one blood.

BENEDICTION

Beloved, may God bless you today and all days with wisdom that guides you to notice the needs all around you and to share in the work of nurturing abundant life for all of God's creation. Amen.

SENDING FORTH

Favored by the excellent name of Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord, share your bread with the poor, advocate for the afflicted, show your faith in acts of kindness, love your neighbor as yourself.

GOING FROM VILLAGE TO VILLAGE

POSTLUDE

“Gigue“

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 Brenda Hodsdon.

The Food Basket on the altar is presented to the glory of God by Ethel Hickman in honor of her 2 sons-in-law..



PARTNERS IN MINISTRY TODAY

Members of the Church

Nursery Care Providers: Jane Basnight & Linda Tandy

Organist/Director of Music: Dana Moody

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