

If, then, you agree and give heed, you will eat the good things of the earth; but if you refuse and disobey, you will be devoured [by] the sword,” for it was GOD who spoke.

**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.

**RESPONSE TO THE WORD** [A period of silence follows each intercession.]

We pray for your world, wounded and scarred: heal earth's body, and lead us to care.  
We pray for your church, divided and angry: unite us in mission, and grow us in love.  
We pray for the lost, the forgotten, the lonely: gather them in, and show us how to love.  
We pray for the addicted: save them and strengthen them.  
We pray for those who have no hope: give them faith in you.



*“Oaklette United Methodist Church through worship, education, and outreach, seeks to make the gospel of Jesus Christ real, as we minister to all people.”*

*August 10, 2025*  
*Ninth Sunday After Pentecost*

A decorative horizontal border featuring a repeating pattern of stylized leaves and small flowers, rendered in a light gray color.

## GREETING

## JOYS AND CONCERNS

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## 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.**

## TODAY'S GOSPEL

## Luke 12:32-40

“Don’t be afraid, little flock, because your Father delights in giving you the kingdom. Sell your possessions and give to those in need. Make for yourselves wallets that don’t wear out – a treasure in heaven that never runs out. No thief comes near there, and no moth destroys. Where your treasure is, there your heart will be too.

“Be dressed for service and keep your lamps lit. Be like people waiting for their master to come home from a wedding celebration, who can immediately open the door for him when he arrives and knocks on the door. Happy are those servants whom the master finds waiting up when he arrives. I assure you that, when he arrives, he will dress himself to serve, seat them at the table as honored guests, and wait on them. Happy are those whom he finds alert, even if he comes at midnight or just before dawn. But know this, if the homeowner had known what time the thief was coming, he wouldn’t have allowed his home to be broken into. You also must be ready, because the Human One is coming at a time when you don’t expect him.”

# PRELUDE

## “Larghetto”

**DANA MOODY**

PASSING OF THE PEACE

MESSAGE FOR GROWING CHRISTIANS

CALL TO WORSHIP – Psalm 33:12-22 CEB (responsively)

Lay Reader: Happy is the nation whose God is the LORD, the people whom he has chosen as his heritage.

People: The LORD looks down from heaven; he sees all humankind.

Lay Reader: From where he sits enthroned he watches all the inhabitants of the earth – he who fashions the hearts of them all and observes all their deeds.

People: A king is not saved by his great army; a warrior is not delivered by his great strength.

Lay Reader: The war horse is a vain hope for victory, and by its great might it cannot save.

People: Truly the eye of the LORD is on those who fear him, on those who hope in his steadfast love, to deliver their soul from death and to keep them alive in famine.

Lay Reader: Our soul waits for the LORD; he is our help and shield. Our heart is glad in him because we trust in his holy name.

People: Let your steadfast love, O LORD, be upon us, even as we hope in you.

OPENING PRAYER (ALL)

Mighty God, dress us for action in a world that needs us to care. You promise that if we turn from our selfish ways, we shall eat of the good of the land, but if we refuse and rebel, we will reap what we sow.

Your care and compassion call to us. Your mercy and grace reach out to us. We know it is your good pleasure to give us the kingdom. As we light candles for worship, light your passion within us, that our true worship may be acts of justice and works of righteousness. Amen.

*Beu, B.J.; Scifres, Mary. The Abingdon Worship Annual 2019: Worship Planning Resources for Every Sunday of the Year (pp. 178-180). Abingdon Press. Kindle Edition.*

HYMN	“How Shall I Come Before the Lord”	#3124
	1.How shall I come before the Lord and bow myself with heart outpoured? And shall I come with offering? What shall I give? What shall I bring?	
	2.Will finest gifts bring God’s delight? Will wealth bring favor in God’s sight? What must we be? What must we do? What does the Lord require of you?	

3.Let justice shine in all your ways.  
Let loving kindness rule your days,  
that, as this earthly path you trod?  
You shall walk humbly with your God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: Forgive us, O God, when our prayers and devotions are divorced from works of love and justice. We long to be washed with your grace, and cleansed in your mercy. We yearn to store up treasure in heaven where no thief comes and no moth destroys, but we balk at the idea of selling our possessions and giving alms to the poor. We seek to remove the evil we harbor in our hearts, but it is a struggle to do good all the time. Transform our deeds of shame into acts of righteousness. that we might be instruments of your mercy and bearers of your compassion and grace. In your holy name, we pray. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Don’t be afraid, little flock, for God delights in giving us the kingdom. Through the Spirit of the living God, we are washed clean and made whole; we receive the treasure of God’s mercy and love!

*Beu, B.J.; Scifres, Mary. The Abingdon Worship Annual 2019: Worship Planning Resources for Every Sunday of the Year (pp. 178-180). Abingdon Press. Kindle Edition.*

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	“We Shall See the King”	CHANCEL CHOIR
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TODAY’S OLD TESTAMENT READING, ISAIAH 1:1, The New JPS Translation

The prophecies of Isaiah son of Amoz, who prophesied concerning Judah and Jerusalem in the reigns of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah.

Hear the word of GOD, you chieftains of Sodom; Give ear to our God’s instruction, you folk of Gomorrah!

“What need have I of all your sacrifices?” says GOD. “I am sated with burnt offerings of rams, and suet of fatlings, and blood of bulls; and I have no delight in lambs and he-goats. That you come to appear before Me – who asked that of you? Trample My courts no more; bringing oblations is futile, incense is offensive to Me. New moon and sabbath, proclaiming of solemnities, assemblies with iniquity I cannot abide. Your new moons and fixed seasons fill Me with loathing; they are become a burden to Me, I cannot endure them.

We pray for the greedy; make them generous.  
We pray for the poor; sustain them and give them hope.  
We pray for all those whose burdens we carry in our hearts, and offer them up to you: heal them, comfort them, guide them, make them whole.  
Now increase our faith, and amplify our hope, that by the power of your Spirit we might serve you well and be ready to greet you when Christ comes in glory. Amen.

Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year C, Volume 2 © 2013 Westminster John Knox Press

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

In obedience to Christ and with love for our neighbors, let us bring our offerings to God.

OFFERING PRAYER

Faithful and Gracious God, you have called us to be a people of hope, to trust in what we cannot see. As we bring these gifts before you, we offer not only our resources but also our faith – faith that you are at work in our giving, building a future of justice, mercy, and love. Bless these offerings, that they may be signs of our longing for your kingdom and our trust in your promises. May our generosity inspire others to live with courage and conviction, seeking that better country you have prepared for us. In Christ’s name, we pray. Amen.

DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise him all creatures here below. Praise him above ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

HYMN “As a Fire is Meant for Burning” #2237

- 1 As a fire is meant for burning with a bright and warming flame,  
so the church is meant for mission, giving glory to God’s name.  
Not to preach our creeds of customs, but to build a bridge of care,  
we join hands across the nations, finding neighbors everywhere.
2. We are learners; we are teachers; we are pilgrims on the way.  
We are seekers; we are givers; we are vessels made of clay.  
By our gentle, loving actions we would show that Christ is light.  
In a humble, listening Spirit we would live to God’s delight.
3. As a green bud in the springtime is a sign of life renewed,  
so may we be signs of oneness ‘mid earth’s peoples, many hued.  
As a rainbow lights the heavens when a storm is past and gone,  
may our lives reflect the radiance of God’s new and glorious dawn.

BENEDICTION

People get ready.  
We are dressed for love.  
People get ready.

We are dressed for service.  
People get ready.  
We are dressed for mercy and compassion.  
People get ready.  
We are dressed to shine the light of Christ.  
Go...for you are dressed as children of God.

Beu, B.J., Scifres, Mary. The Abingdon Worship Annual 2019: Worship Planning Resources for Every Sunday of the Year (p. 181).  
Abingdon Press. Kindle Edition.

POSTLUDE “Sortie” 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
- Prayer Partner: Brenda Swoope
- Lay Reader – Debbie Rippard
- 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