



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."

Tenth Sunday After Pentecost

August 17, 2025

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.

OPENING SCRIPTURE

Colossians 1:15-18 {CEB}

The Son is the image of the invisible God, the one who is first over all creation, because all things were created by him: both in the heavens and on the earth, the things that are visible and the things that are invisible. Whether they are thrones or powers, or rulers or authorities, all things were created through him and for him.

He existed before all things, and all things are held together in him. He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the one who is firstborn from among the dead so that he might occupy the first place in everything.

Because all the fullness of God was pleased to live in him, and he reconciled all things to himself through him – whether things on earth or in the heavens. He brought peace through the blood of his cross.

Once you were alienated from God and you were enemies with him in your minds, which was shown by your evil actions. But now he has reconciled you by his physical body through death, to present you before God as a people who are holy, faultless, and without blame. But you need to remain well established and rooted in faith and not shift away from the hope given in the good news that you heard. This message has

been preached throughout all creation under heaven. And I, Paul, became a servant of this good news.

Now I'm happy to be suffering for you. I'm completing what is missing from Christ's sufferings with my own body. I'm doing this for the sake of his body, which is church. I became a servant of the church by God's commission, which was given to me for you, in order to complete God's word. I'm completing it with a secret plan that has been hidden for ages and generations but which has now been revealed to his holy people. God wanted to make the glorious riches of this secret plan known among the Gentiles, which is Christ living in you, the hope of glory. This is what we preach as we warn and teach every person with all wisdom so that we might present each one mature in Christ.

PRELUDE "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

DANA MOODY

PASSING OF THE PEACE

MESSAGE FOR GROWING CHRISTIANS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Lay Reader: Come, all who are burdened with many tasks.

People: God provides a space for rest and renewal.

Lay Reader: Come, all who have turned away from God.

People: God welcomes us with healing and forgiveness.

Lay Reader: Come, all who desire to know Christ.

People: Here we find unexpected grace and unconditional love. Thanks be to God!

OPENING PRAYER (in unison)

Creator of all, we come from many places. Some of us come with heavy hearts. Some of us come with questions and few answers. Some of us come with joys bursting from our souls. Some of us come with long "to do" lists. Help us lay aside all that we carry with us and focus on you – the source of our lives, the one who fills our days with joy and love, the one who provides answers to our questions.

Almighty God, we come this day to turn our minds and hearts toward you. In the name of Christ, we pray. Amen.

1. To God be the glory, great things he hath done!
So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,
Who yielded his life an atonement for sin,
And opened the lifegate that all may go in.

Refrain

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear his voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father thru Jesus the Son,
And give him the glory, great things he hath done.

2. O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,
To every believer the promise of God;
The vilest offender who truly believes,
That moment from Jesus a pardon receives.

Refrain

3. Great things he hath taught us, great things he hath done,
And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;
But purer, and higher, and greater will be
Our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see.

Refrain

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lay Reader: Let us open our hearts and minds to the truth of our lives, and let us offer that truth to God.

[Offer silent prayers of confession.]

Forgive us, O God, when we limit you – when we remake you in our image, when we claim our causes as your own, when we box you in, and explain you away, and in our attempts at understanding, whittle away all mystery.

Forgive us for our human impulses, and change us: Awaken us to your glory, confound us by your love, shower us with grace so that we will be made new, recreated in your image, grateful for all that we cannot know.

In the name of Christ, who brought us closer to you, we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Lay Reader: Friends, let us proclaim the Good News:

People: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!**

Lay Reader: Let us go out into the world as people made new by God.

People: Alleluia! Amen.

Written by Beth Merrill Neel on her blog, "Hold Fast to What Is Good." Used with permission.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Together let us pray the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples to pray.

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

"Rise Up"

CHANCEL CHOIR

GOSPEL READING

LUKE 10:38-42 {CEB}

While Jesus and his disciples were traveling, Jesus entered a village where a woman named Martha welcomed him as a guest. She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to his message. By contrast, Martha was preoccupied with getting everything ready for their meal. So Martha came to him and said, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to prepare the table all by myself? Tell her to help me."

The Lord answered, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things. One thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the better part. It won't be taken away from her."

LESSON

"The Good Part"

Rev. Ned Alderman

HYMN

"Come and Find the Quiet Center"

TFWS #2128

1. Come and find the quiet center
In the crowded life we lead,
Find the room for hope to enter,
Find the frame where we are freed:
Clear the chaos and the clutter,
Clear our eyes that we can see
All the things that really matter,
Be at peace and simply be.

2. Silence is a friend who claims us,
Cools the heat and slows the pace,
God it is who speaks and names us,
Knows our being, touches base,
Making space within our thinking,
Lifting shades to show the sun,
Raising courage when we're shrinking,
Finding scope for faith begun.

3. In the Spirit let us travel,
Open to each other's pain,
Let our loves and fears unravel,
Celebrate the space we gain:
There's a place for deepest dreaming,
There's a time for heart to care,
In the Spirit's lively scheming
There is always room to spare.

RESPONSE TO THE WORD/AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We belong to God, eternal and infinite, Creator of all things and all that is to come.

**We follow Christ, who comes to us from God, and reveals God to us. He heals people and transforms lives, and calls us to join in his ministry. He was crucified, died, and was raised by God, and reigns over all Creation; and he bids us to die and rise with him in the service of the healing of the world.
We live by the Spirit, together with the communion of saints, as members of the body of Christ, God's holy universal church.**

We are confident in the forgiveness of sin, the power of the resurrection and the reality of eternal life.

In all things it is our desire to follow Christ, by the grace of the Holy Spirit, for God's glory. 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

Sometimes the blessings in our lives overflow like a basket of summer fruit. Other times the blessings are not as abundant. Whether our basket is full or meager, let us offer to God what we can in order to show our thanksgiving and praise.

OFFERING PRAYER

Holy and Reconciling God, in Christ, you have made the invisible visible, bringing us home with love beyond measure. As we offer these gifts, may they reflect our gratitude for your presence in our lives. Use them to build your kingdom, to restore what is broken, and to remind the world of your grace. May our giving be an act of thanksgiving, a sign of the ordinary magic of your love at work among us. In all things, may we live to your glory. 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

“Christ Beside Me”

TFWS # 2166

1. Christ beside me, Christ before me,
Christ behind me – King of my heart;
Christ within me, Christ below me,
Christ above me – never to part.
2. Christ on my right hand, Christ on my left hand,
Christ all around me – shield in the strife;
Christ in my sleeping, Christ in my sitting,
Christ in my rising – light of my life.
3. Christ beside me,
Christ before me,
Christ behind me – King of my heart;
Christ within me,
Christ below me,
Christ above me – never to part.

BENEDICTION

Receive the blessing of God, whose mercy knows no end.

Receive the blessing of Christ, who is patient and eager to give us words of life.

Receive the blessing of the Holy Spirit who moves us and gives us power to do God's will.

Receive the blessing of the triune God, and share this blessing with others!

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

POSTLUDE

“Behold the Great Redeemer”

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

The flowers on the altar are presented to the glory of God by Don Moody in honor of his and Dana's 29th wedding anniversary. We are so grateful for God's blessings on our family through the years. "And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love." 1 Corinthians 13:13.



PARTNERS IN MINISTRY TODAY

Members of the Church

Nursery Care Providers: Brooks & Lisa Ryno

Prayer Partner: Brenda Swoope

Lay Reader – Debbie Rippard

Audio–Visual Operator – Julian Baker

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