

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ, whom you sent in the fullness of time to be a light to the nations. You scatter the proud in the imagination of their hearts and have mercy on those who fear you from generation to generation. You put down the mighty from their thrones and exalt those of low degree. You fill the hungry with good things, and the rich you send empty away. Your own Son came among us as a servant to be Emmanuel, your presence with us. He humbled himself in obedience to your will and freely accepted death on a cross.

By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: “Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

When the supper was over he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: “Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ’s offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

**Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.
Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet.**

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever.

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.”

December 3, 2023 ~ 11:00 A.M.

First Sunday of Advent



*Welcome in the name of our Lord. A nurturing and well-supervised nursery is available for infants and young children. A Crying Room is also available. Please ask the greeter for further assistance and direction to these rooms.
[†] = Invites persons to stand as they are able.*

THE MORNING WELCOME

-Rev. Ned Alderman

PRELUDE

“One Small Child”

- Dana Moody

MESSAGE FOR GROWING CHRISTIANS

CENTERING PRAYER (in unison)

Days pass and the years vanish, and we walk sightless among miracles. Lord, fill our eyes with seeing and our minds with knowing; there be moments when your presence, like lightning, illumines the darkness in which we walk. Help us to see, wherever we gaze, that the bush burns unconsumed. And we, clay touched by God, will reach out for holiness, and exclaim in wonder: How filled with awe is this place, and we did not know it: “Blessed is the Eternal One, the Holy God!” Amen.

OPENING HYMN

“Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”

#216

- 1. Lo, how a Rose e’er blooming from tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse’s lineage coming, as those of old have sung.
It came, a floweret bright, amid the cold of winter,
when half spent was the night.**
- 2. Isaiah ‘twas foretold it, the Rose I have in mind;
with Mary we behold it, the Virgin Mother kind.
To show God’s love aright, she bore to us a Savior,
when half spent was the night.**
- 3. O Flower, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air,
dispel in glorious splendor the darkness everywhere.**

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH - Candle #1

MORNING PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS:

ANTHEM “Carol of the Advent” - Chancel Choir

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

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THE LORD’S PRAYER (in unison)

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.

†HYMN OF RESPONSE

“Hail to the Lord’s Anointed”

#203

- 1. Hail to the Lord’s Anointed, great David’s greater Son!
Hail in the time appointed, his reign on earth begun!
He comes to break oppression, to set the captive free;
To take away transgression, and rule in equity.**
- 2. He comes with succor speedy to those who suffer wrong;
To help the poor and needy, and bid the weak be strong;
To give them songs for sighing, their darkness turn to light,
Whose souls, condemned and dying, are precious in his sight.**
- 3. He shall come down like showers upon the fruitful earth;
Love, joy, and hope, like flowers, spring in his path to birth.
Before him, on the mountains, shall peace, the herald, go,
And righteousness, in fountains, from hill to valley flow.**
- 4. To him shall prayer unceasing and daily vows ascend;
His kingdom still increasing, a kingdom without end.
The tide of time shall never his covenant remove;
His name shall stand forever; that name to us is love.**

CLOSING PRAYER (in unison)

Beloved of God, keep awake! Stay alert! Pay attention to God at work all around you. And now, go from this place blessed to be bowled over by hope and shocked out of our complacency to watch and wait and join in the work of bringing God’s dream for all creation to life. Amen.

POSTLUDE

“Word Made Flesh”

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 Food Basket on the altar is presented to the glory of God by Joe Peele in memory of his wife, Sylvia.

A joyful heart is hard to find.

That is why I want to keep yours close to mine.

When the heart is broken, it brings big tears.

But the memories we have from over the years

Make us smile and hold back the tears.

When a beautiful heart is taken away

It hurts where pills cannot take pain away,

But the joy of knowing you is a blessing to my soul.

The life we live is full of crooks and turns.

With love we can make it

Even though sometimes it burns.

Love ya, Joe

PARTNERS IN MINISTRY TODAY

Members of the Church

Nursery Care Providers: Randy Story & Ericka Litten

Lay Reader: Brenda Swoope

Organist/Director of Music: Dana Moody

Prayer Partner: 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. Dr. Cecelia R. Brooks

Resident Bishop, Richmond Area: Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson