



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."

Fourth Sunday After Pentecost

July 6, 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

LUKE 10:21-22 [NRSV]

At that very hour Jesus rejoiced in the Holy Spirit and said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows who the Son is except the Father or who the Father is except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him."

PRELUDE

"Suite in G Major"

MONICA WHITEHURST

PASSING OF THE PEACE

MESSAGE FOR GROWING CHRISTIANS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Lay Reader: What do we have to boast about?

People: The cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Lay Reader: And what does this cross mean for us?

People: Everything is a new creation.

OPENING PRAYER (in unison)

God of endings and beginnings, we thank you for always starting anew with us.

When we find ourselves at our wits' end, at the end of our rope, at the end of our

patience, or even at the end of our hope, you are there. You find us and bring us into your new beginning, again and again. Amen.

HYMN

“I Come with Joy”

#617

1. I come with joy to meet my Lord, forgiven, loved and free.
In awe and wonder to recall his life laid down for me,
His life laid down for me.
2. I come with Christians far and near to find, as all are fed,
The new community of love in Christ’s communion bread,
In Christ’s communion bread.
3. As Christ breaks bread and bids us share, each proud division ends.
The love that made us makes us one, and strangers now are friends,
And strangers now are friends.
4. And thus with joy we meet our Lord. His presence, always near,
Is in such friendship better known; we see and praise him here,
we see and praise him here.
5. Together met, together bound, we’ll go our different ways,
And as his people in the world, we’ll live and speak his praise,
We’ll live and speak his praise.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

People: Holy God, Fountain of all blessing and grace: we confess there are times when we look at our work, at our accomplishments, with prideful ambition as if we were the source of our abilities and gifts. At other times, we look at our efforts with disgust and regret, as if your gifts in us are not enough. Forgive our pride and our despair, Holy God. Renew in us a humble trust in your guiding hand and a hope that your grace is sufficient for every step. Give us the courage to begin again, to jump into a new start with you and one another. We ask in Jesus’ name. Amen.

Lay Reader: Beloved children: Hear and believe the good news, God’s mercy and peace are upon you now and always.

ANTHEM

“Indescribable”

MONICA WHITEHURST

GOSPEL

LUKE 10:1-11, 16-20 [NRSV]

After this the Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. He said to them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. Go on your way; I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves. Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals, and greet no one on the road. Whatever house you enter, first say, ‘Peace to this house!’ And if a person of peace is there, your peace will rest on that person, but if not, it will return to you. Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the laborer deserves to be paid. Do not move about from house to house. Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you; cure the sick who are there, and say to them, ‘The kingdom of God has come near to you.’ But whenever you enter a town and they do not welcome you, go out into its streets and say, ‘Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet, we wipe off in protest against you. Yet know this: the kingdom of God has come near.’”

“Whoever listens to you listens to me, and whoever rejects you rejects me, and whoever rejects me rejects the one who sent me.” The seventy returned with joy, saying, “Lord, in your name even the demons submit to us!” He said to them, “I watched Satan fall from heaven like a flash of lightning. Indeed, I have given you authority to tread on snakes and scorpions and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing will hurt you. Nevertheless, do not rejoice at this, that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.”

LESSON

“Way 2 Go”

Rev. Ned Alderman

HYMN

“Come Share the Lord

TFWS #2269

1. We gather here in Jesus' name,
His love is burning in our hearts like living flame;
For through the loving Son the Father makes us one:

Refrain

Come, take the bread; come, drink the wine; come, share the Lord.

2. No one is a stranger here, everyone belongs;
Finding our forgiveness here, we in turn forgive all wrongs.

Refrain

3. He joins us here, he breaks the bread,
The Lord who pours the cup is risen from the dead;
The one we love the most is now our gracious host.

Refrain

4. We are now a family of which the Lord is head
Though unseen he meets us here in the breaking of the bread.

Refrain

5. We'll gather soon where angels sing;
We'll see the glory of our Lord and coming King;
Now we anticipate the feast for which we wait:

Refrain

RESPONSE TO THE WORD THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pastor Have you heard the news that we have been set free?

People: We have all been emancipated!

Pastor: With mercy and grace we have been redeemed.

People: Our great trial of bondage has ended.

Pastor: Hallelujah! When the Lord has set us free, we are free indeed.

People: Hallelujah! Glory Hallelujah! We are truly free.

Pastor: Before we were even aware, we were already free.

Even while we were still living in bondage, we were already free.

The world kept this truth from us, but God declares that all are free.

God is the one who demands, "Let my people go!"

Unloose the bonds of sin.

Unloose the bonds of oppression.

Unloose the bonds of discrimination.

Unloose the bonds of racism.

Unloose all that keeps us from being truly free.

We are free today and we join our prayers with all the prayers of thanksgiving given
by all who have gone before us.

We are free today and we join our shouts with all the shouts of praise that arises before
the throne of heaven, saying:

People: We sing freedom's song

Giving God greatest honor

For Pharaoh's horses

And all their riders

Were thrown into the Red Sea

The Lord is my strength

The Lord is my song

The Lord has won my freedom

**The Lord has saved me
My ancestor's God
Source of Freedom is his name
I will honor him.**

Pastor: You are the Great Liberator, and we do worship you, but so is Jesus, your living presence upon the earth. Jesus left all the glories of heaven, selling himself into slavery, so that Christ might set the world free from bondage to sin and death. Jesus left the place of honor at the Passover to become as the lowest slave, to wash the feet of sinful people: betrayers, false friends, and deserters, to free us from bondage to privilege and honor.

Jesus sought to free the world from bondage when He took the bread of the oppressed, blessed it, broke it, and shared it saying:

“Take, eat, this is my body broken and given for you.” Remember the price paid for your freedom.

Jesus sought to free the world from bondage when He took the cup of God's anger against those who keep others in bondage, blessed it and shared it saying: “Drink with me this cup of my blood, poured out as a sacrifice to honor God's eternal covenant of grace, guaranteeing not only your freedom, but the freedom of the whole world from bondage to sin and death.” Remember the price paid for your freedom.

The price paid for our freedom has been high. It was paid freely, looking forward to the day when all would be free. We too are ready to pay any price for freedom as we follow Christ into this holy mystery:

People: Christ died for freedom.

Christ arose in freedom.

For freedom Christ comes again and again.

Pastor: Holy Sacrifice, Freedom's Promise pour yourself out freely upon these gifts of bread and wine, so that they may become for us the body and blood of Christ the price of freedom.

Holy Sacrifice, Freedom's Promise pour yourself out freely upon the gift of our own precious lives so that they may become for those in bondage, your church, the sacrificial body and spotless bride of Christ the price of freedom.

Holy Sacrifice, Freedom's Promise [on this Juneteenth] pour yourself out freely upon those present; empower them to speak out for those in bondage, those without a voice, those without power, those who this day live in slavery.

May every oppressor hear on this day the voice of Almighty God saying loud and clear, “Let my people go!”

With freedom's joy we praise the name of Jesus our Liberator.

With freedom's joy we praise the Holy Spirit our Comforter.

With freedom's joy we praise our Creator who made us free.

Receive our worship, our gratitude, and our thanksgiving, today and forever. Amen.

Now let us pray following the pattern of Christ:

People: Our Deliverer who bought our freedom, holy is your name.

Your freedom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us today the nourishment we need.

And forgive us when we harm others,

Just as we have forgiven those who have brought harm to our lives.

Keep us from returning evil with evil, but help us to always respond with good.

For you have set us free, empowering us to set others free, bringing you glory forever. Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

All: Thank you for sharing with us this holy mystery found in Jesus Christ. It has given us a sense of freedom from all that has held us in bondage. This gift of freedom excites us and we want to share it. Send us out into the world, where too many still struggle. We know the truth that once you have set them free, they are truly free. They just need to know that freedom is already theirs to enjoy. Use our lives to share this good news that is ours through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Communion Liturgy by Rev. Mary Johnson

Invitation to the Offering

God has given us healing, word, forgiveness. God has given us so much! Let us now take the time to respond in gratitude, by giving of what has been given to us.

Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year C, Volume 2 © 2012 Westminster John Knox Press

OFFERING PRAYER

Nurturing God, let us not grow weary in our task of making disciples of Jesus Christ. We thank you for this opportunity – the offering – to work for the good of all. We pray especially for this family of faith and for the family of the church universal. May these gifts of money strengthen our ministry in making and maturing disciples of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Worship & Song, Worship Resources Edition copyright 2011 by Abingdon Press

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.

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

BENEDICTION

Beloved children, you are blessed and sent out into the world to share God's good love with everyone you meet. Let us not grow weary of doing what is right. Go and work for the good of all. Go in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit to do all the good you can for all the people you can in all the ways you can for as long as you can. Amen.

POSTLUDE "This World is Not My Home" MONICA WHITEHURST

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 Joanne Rooks
in honor of our Church Family.*



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 – Ericka Litten

Facebook Live Recorder: Bright Tsevi

Greeter: Joanne Rooks

Pastor: Rev. Ned Alderman

Administrative Assistant: Eileen Ballance

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Resident Bishop, Richmond Area: Bishop Sue Hauptert–Johnson