**"Be Thou My Vision"**1. Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart. Naught be all else to me, save that thou art. Thou my best thought, by day or night, waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

2. Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word, I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord; Thou and thou only, first in my heart, great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.

3. Great God of heaven, my victory won, may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun! Heart of my own heart, whatever befall, still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

## **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

A STATEMENT OF FAITH OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA #883 We are not alone, we live in God's world. We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, and who works in us and others by the Spirit. We trust in God. We are called to be the church: to celebrate God's presence, to live with respect in creation, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope. In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God. 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

"The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want." Trusting in divine care, let us present our tithes and offerings to God.

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#### **OFFERING PRAYER**

Gracious and loving God, all of your works, all that you have done for us, testify to your love. You gave everything to bring us the promise of eternal life. By the power of your Holy Spirit, may all that we do and all that we are testify to your amazing care and compassion. In gratitude and love, we offer ourselves to you. 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."

# May 11, 2025 Fourth Sunday of Easter

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

#### 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**

#### **Revelation 4:1**

After this I looked, and there in heaven a door stood open! And the first voice, which I had heard speaking to me like a trumpet, said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this."

# PRELUDE"Change My Heart, O God "DANA MOODY

PASSING OF THE PEACE

## MESSAGE FOR GROWING CHRISTIANS

## CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)

Lay Reader: We meet in different buildings, in different towns.

**<u>People</u>**: We speak different languages and sing different hymns.

Lay Reader: We wear different clothing and have different gifts and talents.

People: Yet, as we gather together for worship on Sundays, we become one body, one family in Christ.

Lay Reader: We join together on one journey,

# People: the journey to unite with the Risen Christ.

Lay Reader: We join together with God as the Kingdom of God comes and as God's will is done.

People: Let us join with all our brothers and sisters in worship and true communion with God this day. Amen.

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## **OPENING PRAYER (ALL)**

Holy God, you have called a people to be your family out of every tribe, language, and nation, to love and serve you daily in a world of beauty, complexity, and diversity. Help us to honor and respect the dignity of difference as we seek to be one with you and each other this day and always. Amen.

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HYMN

## "To God Be the Glory"

- 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

Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo. Forgive what our lips tremble to name, what our hearts can no longer bear, and what has become for us a consuming fire of judgment. Set us free from a past we cannot change; open us to a future in which we can be changed; and grant us grace to grow more and more in your likeness and image; through Jesus Christ, the light of the world.

As Jesus taught us to pray, we are bold 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 "My Lips Will Praise You" **CHANCEL CHOIR** 

#### GOSPEL

**#98** 

#### Revelation 7:9-17 [NRSV]

After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!" And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, singing, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen." Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?" I said to him, "Sir, you are the one that knows."

Then he said to me, "These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. For this reason they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them. They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat; for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

SERMON	"What Everybody is Saying"	Rev. Ned Alderman
HYMN	"Be Thou My Vision"	#451

## 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.

## HYMN

## "For the Healing of the Nations"

#428

 For the healing of the nations, Lord, we pray with one accord; for a just and equal sharing of the things that earth affords; to a life of love in action help us rise and pledge our word, help us rise and pledge our word.

2. Lead us forward, into freedom from despair your world release, that, redeemed from war and hatred, all may come and go in peace. Show us how through care and goodness fear will die and hope increase, fear will die and hope increase.

3. All that kills abundant living, let it from the earth be banned; pride of status, race, or schooling, dogmas that obscure your plan. In our common quest for justice may we hallow life's brief span, may we hallow life's brief span.

4. You Creator God, have written your great name on humankind; for our growing in your likeness bring the life of Christ to mind, that by our response and service earth its destiny may find, earth its destiny may find.

## BENEDICTION

May the God who made heaven and earth, whom death could not contain who lives to disturb and heal us, bless you with power to go forth and proclaim the gospel. The grace of God be with you all, now and always.

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POSTLUDE

"God is Love"

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 Pat Newbern in memory of Dugie Newbern, beloved husband of Pat.

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



Members of the Church 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 Financial Secretary: Edna Bess Coastal Virginia Dist. Superintendent: Rev. Beth Givens Resident Bishop, Richmond Area: Bishop Sue Haupert–Johnson