"And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.'

"If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?"

When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, "Then God has given even to the gentiles the repentance that leads to life."

SERMON

"Unhindered"

Rev. Ned Alderman

HYMN

"Spirit Song"

#347

 O let the Son of God enfold you with his Spirit and his love. Let him fill your heart and satisfy your soul.
 O let him have the things that hold you, and his Spirit like a dove Will descend upon your life and make you whole. *Refrain*

Jesus, O Jesus, come and fill your lambs. Jesus, O Jesus, come and fill your lambs.
2. O come and sing this song with gladness as your hearts are filled with joy, Lift your hands in sweet surrender to his name. O give him all your tears and sadness; give him all your years of pain, And you'll enter into life in Jesus' name. *Refrain*

RESPONSE TO THE WORD/PRAYER FOR CHURCH STAFF

Heavenly Father, we give thanks for the dedicated staff who serve so faithfully in our church. We pray that they may be blessed in their work, their families, and their lives. Grant them strength, wisdom, and patience as they carry out their duties with love and compassion. May your spirit guide their decisions, and may they be a source of blessing to our congregation and to the world. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

"I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another." Let us with gladness offer to God the gifts of our labor, life, and love."

Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year C, Volume 1 © 2012 Westminster John Knox Press

OFFERING PRAYER

Loving God, we give you thanks for the ministry of reconciliation to which you call us in the name of Jesus Christ and his resurrection. Accept these gifts for your mission to heal all creation. May they be a testament to your love for us as we share them in love for you; through Jesus Christ we pray. 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."



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.

PRAISE MUSIC

SPIRIT OF TRUTH MINISTRIES

OPENING SCRIPTURE

John 13:31-35 [NRSV]

When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

PASSING OF THE PEACE

MESSAGE FOR GROWING CHRISTIANS

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)

Lay Reader: In the beginning was the Dream
People: And the Dream was with God and spoke for peace.
Lay Reader: In the beginning was the Dream
People: And the Dream was with God and spoke for justice.
Lay Reader: In the beginning was the Dream
People: And the Dream was with God and longed for love.
All: We come to worship the God of the Dream in a spirit of peace, justice, and love, longing to glimpse the promise of a holy dwelling place for all creation.

Written by Sally Johnson, United Methodist Creation Justice Movement

OPENING PRAYER (ALL)

Ever-dreaming God, come to us now, in this time, opening our imaginations to your promise for us, in us, and in all you have made. We pray in the name of your Dream made flesh, Jesus the Christ. Amen.

Written by Sally Johnson, United Methodist Creation Justice Movement

HYMN

"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"

 Joyful, joyful, we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love; Hearts unfold like flowers before thee, opening to the sun above. Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the dark of doubt away. Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.

 All thy works with joy surround thee, earth and heaven reflect thy rays, Stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise.
 Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea, Chanting bird and flowing fountain, call us to rejoice in thee.

 Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest, Wellspring of the joy of living, ocean depth of happy rest!
 Thou our Father, Christ our brother, all who live in love are thine; Teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine.

 Mortals, join the mighty chorus which the morning stars began; Love divine is reigning o'er us, binding all within its span. Ever singing, march we onward, victors in the midst of strife; Joyful music leads us sunward, in the triumph song of life.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lay Reader: Trusting in the love of God to make all things new, let us confess our sin to God and our neighbor.

<u>People</u>: God of mercy, your command to love one another across all differences opens us to new horizons, yet we often respond with fear and judgment that hinders your goal for humanity. Forgive our sins, we pray, and give us a true repentance that leads to life for all creation. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Lay Reader: God's promises are trustworthy and true; your sins are forgiven. Be at peace to serve the Lord, and may you always be known by your love.

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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 "Slow Me Down" CHANCEL CHOIR SOLOIST MONICA WHITEHURST

GOSPEL

#89

Acts 11:1-8 [NRSV]

Now the apostles and the brothers and sisters who were in Judea heard that the gentiles had also accepted the word of God. So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, saying, "Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?" Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, "I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance, I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners, and it came close to me. As I looked at it closely, I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.'

"But I replied, 'By no means, Lord, for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' But a second time the voice answered from heaven, 'What God has made clean, you must not call profane.' This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven.

"At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.'

DOXOLOGY

HYMN

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.

"The Gift of Love"

1. Though I may speak with bravest fire, and hace the gift to all inspire, And not have love, my words are vain, as sounding brass, and hopeless gain. 2. Though I may give all I possess, and striving so my love profess, But not be given by love within, the profit soon turns strangely thin. 3. Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control, our spirits long to be made whole, Let inward love guide every deed: by this we worship, and are freed. Here is the commandment...love one another! Here is the commandment...love the planet that sustains us.

Let this love flow through the ordinary and the miraculous as we help bring into being the kingdom of God, renewing the world.

So be it. Amen.

BENEDICTION

Written by Sally Johnson, United Methodist Creation Justice Movement

POSTLUDE

"Trumpet Tune"

DANA MOODY

#408

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 Dana Sanford in memory of her mother, Mary English. The Food Basket on the altar is presented to the glory of God.



Members of the Church **Praver Partner: Barbara Bennett** 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 Haupert-Johnson