

2. We look at earthly rulers and see what they command;
We note their years of power, the borders of their land.
Yet, Lord, you are not bounded by things like time and space;
Your reign is never ending, you rule in every place.

3. We're tempted, Lord, to leave you in stories nicely told;
sometimes we don't believe you and say your ways are old.
Sometimes we feel so lonely and live in doubt and fear.
but your ascension means, Lord, you're present with us here.

4. It's often quite a challenge to follow in your way;
we're easily distracted! It's hard, Lord, to obey.
Sometimes we give you Sundays, an hour, maybe two.
but your ascension means, Lord, all life belongs to you.

5. One day, O Lord, we'll know you, as we are fully known;
one day this world of sinners will bow before your throne.
One day, God's whole creation will sing and praise your name;
on earth as now in heaven, we'll celebrate your reign.

RESPONSE TO THE WORD AN AFFIRMATION FOR ASCENSION DAY

I believe in God, the Father of glory, who by great power resurrected Jesus from the dead, giving us hope in the high calling of a heavenly inheritance, and who is revealed in the immeasurable greatness of Jesus Christ; allowing us to know God's own self through the Lord Jesus Christ.

I believe in Jesus Christ, who suffered and died for our sins, who rose from the dead and rose up into heaven, who sits at the right hand of the Father, whose name is above every name, whose authority is above all authority, whose power and dominion are above all power and dominion, who reigns now and throughout every age.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, who gives us wisdom and the ability to love one another, who enables us to believe and empowers us to be the church, the body of Christ, indwelling and filling us with power, and with the fullness of him who fills all in all. 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

For the gifts of Jesus' life, death, resurrection, and ascension, and for the privilege of offering the fruits of our hands, let us give thanks to God with what we have this day.



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 25, 2025

Ascension Sunday



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 (responsively)

Psalm 47 [NRSV]

Lay Reader: Clap your hands, all you peoples;

People: shout to God with loud songs of joy.

Lay Reader: For the LORD, the Most High, is awesome,

People: a great king over all the earth.

Lay Reader: He subdued peoples under us and nations under our feet.

People: He chose our heritage for us, the pride of Jacob whom he loves. *Selah*

Lay Reader: God has gone up with a shout,

People: the LORD with the sound of a trumpet.

Lay Reader: Sing praises to God, sing praises;

People: sing praises to our King, sing praises.

Lay Reader: For God is the king of all the earth;

People: sing praises with a psalm.

Lay Reader: God is king over the nations;

People: God sits on his holy throne.

Lay Reader: The princes of the peoples gather as the people of the God of Abraham.

People: For the shields of the earth belong to God; he is highly exalted.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

MESSAGE FOR GROWING CHRISTIANS

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)

Lay Reader: Let us gather as they gathered on the Mount of Olivet. Let us remember the teachings of the law, psalms, and prophets.

People: Ride on King Jesus, no one can hinder you!

Lay Reader: Let us gather as they gathered when Jesus rose into heaven. Let us remember that every sin has been forgiven.

People: Ride on King Jesus, no one can hinder you!

Lay Reader: Let us gather as they gathered when Jesus rode upon the clouds. Let us remember how he promised that we’d be clothed in power.

People: Ride on King Jesus, no one can hinder you!

Lay Reader: Let us gather as they gathered upon a hill so high. Let us remember the ascension of our Messiah.

People: Ride on King Jesus, no one can hinder you!

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.

The Rev. Marilyn E. Thornton

OPENING PRAYER (ALL)

Lord, as you ascended into heaven, you left the disciples overwhelmed with joy. Allow our words to fill your people with that same joy, the joy that comes from knowing you and discovering you anew. Amen.

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HYMN

“Hail the Day That Sees Him Rise”

#312

1.

Hail the day that sees him rise, Alleluia! To his throne above the skies, Alleluia! Christ, awhile to mortals given, Alleluia! Reascends his native heaven, Alleluia!
2.

There the glorious triumph waits, Alleluia! Lift your heads, eternal gates, Alleluia! Christ hath conquered death and sin, Alleluia! Take the King of glory in, Alleluia!
3.

See! The heaven its Lord receives, Alleluia! Yet he loves the earth he leaves, Alleluia! Though returning to his throne, Alleluia! Still he calls the world his own, Alleluia!
4.

See! He lifts his hands above, Alleluia! See! He shows the prints of love, Alleluia! Hark! His gracious lips bestow, Alleluia! Blessings on his church below, Alleluia!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lay Reader: Let us come before God with contrite hearts, acknowledging our sin and trusting in forgiveness.

People: Merciful God, day by day we have failed to believe in your presence and your promised forgiveness. We have not trusted in your power to give the riches we cannot see. We have not honored our sisters and brothers as heirs of your desired peace. We have not forgiven others or ourselves. Give us the wisdom and faith to be your body on earth, that we may rejoice in the presence of your saving bounty, to the glory of your ascended Son. Amen.

Lay Reader: By the power of the Holy Spirit, as a witness to the death and resurrection of Christ Jesus and the assurance of pardon in Jesus’ name, I proclaim to you the forgiveness of all your sins, that with renewed life you may serve this creation and the people of God in peace and strength. God is with you.

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

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

“O For a Thousand Tongues ”

CHANCEL CHOIR

GOSPEL

Luke 24:44-53 [CEV and NRSV]

Jesus said to them, “While I was still with you, I told you that everything written about me in the Law of Moses, the Books of the Prophets, and in the Psalms had to happen.” Then he helped them understand the Scriptures. He told them: The Scriptures say that the Messiah must suffer, then three days later he will rise from death. They also say that all people of every nation must be told in my name to turn to God, in order to be forgiven. So beginning in Jerusalem, you must tell everything that has happened. I will send you the one my Father has promised, but you must stay in the city until you are given power from heaven.

Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

SERMON

“The Urgent Work of the Church Begins Here”

Rev. Ned Alderman

HYMN

‘O Christ, When You Ascended

#3087

1.

O Christ, when you ascended you took your rightful throne;
Your time on earth had ended, yet we weren’t left alone.
You reign o’er earth and heaven; your Spirit guides our way.
Your prayers uphold your people; you lead your church each day.

OFFERING PRAYER

Gracious and giving God, you are the One who first has given to us all that we need for life. Guide us to use what we now gather for the well-being of your church, for those in need of shelter and food, for all who suffer for want of your Word, and for nurturing faith in your people. In the name of Christ Jesus, our Lord. 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

- “Go to the World”

#3158
1. Go to the world! Go into all the earth.
Go preach the cross where Christ renews life’s worth,
baptizing as the sign of our rebirth.

2. Go to the world! Go into every place.
Go live the Word of God’s redeeming grace.
Go seek God’s presence in each time and space.

3. Go to the world! Go struggle, bless and pray;
the nights of tears give way to joyous day.
As servant Church, you follow Christ’s own way.

4. Go to the world! Go as the ones I send,
for I am with you ‘til the age shall end,
when all the hosts of glory cry “Amen!”

BENEDICTION

May your hearts be filled with the hope of God’s work in you. May your minds be filled with the knowledge of God’s love for you. And may your souls be filled with the fullness of God’s plan for you.

POSTLUDE

“Postlude in C”

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



PARTNERS IN MINISTRY TODAY

- Members of the Church

Prayer Partner: Brenda Swoope

Lay Reader – Monica Whitehurst

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