†CLOSING PRAYER (in unison)

Loving God, we give you thanks for the blessings of this holy Advent season. You are the source of life, of hope, and of all good things. We look forward to the coming of the light of Christ at Christmas. Help us to turn toward that light in our lives. We rejoice at the gift of your Son who taught us to love in your name. May we be people of peace and justice all the days of our lives. Your kingdom come and your will be done now and forever. Amen.

BENEDICTION (to be sung) "In the Bleak Midwinter" #221 (Verse 4)

If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb; if I were a Wise Man, I would do my part; yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

†POSTLUDE

"For All of Creation"

- 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 must be a member of that group page to see it however. Please send Dr. Tim a Facebook request to join the group if you are not already a member of the group. 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 Brenda Swoope in memory of Charlie Swoope.

The Food Basket on the altar is presented to the glory of God by Edna Bess in honor of all the Counters and their good work.



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."

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Parsonage: (757) 494-9369

November 20, 2022 ~ 11:00 A.M.
Thanksgiving Sunday
"Be Born in Us Today"



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.

PRELUDE

"For the Beauty of the Earth"

- Dana Moody

THE MORNING WELCOME

- Dr. Tim Hazlett

CENTERING PRAYER (in unison)

Lord of bounty and blessing, we come to you this day in gratitude for all that we have been given. We are grateful for the blessings and for the opportunities to be of service to others in your holy Name. Bless each of us here, that we may become truly blessings to others. For we ask this in Jesus' Name. Amen.

OPENING HYMN

"We Gather Together"

#130

- We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing; he chastens and hastens his will to make known.
 The wicked oppressing now cease from distressing. Sing praises to his name, he forgets not his own.
- 2. Beside us to guide us, our God with us joining, ordaining, maintaining his kingdom divine; so from the beginning the fight we were winning; thou, Lord, wast at our side, all glory be thine!

3. We all do extol thee, our leader triumphant, and pray that thou still our defender wilt be.

Let thy congregation escape tribulation: thy name be ever praised! O Lord, make us free!

A CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER FOR ADVENT (responsively)

<u>Lay Reader:</u> Lord and Savior, have mercy on those who are suffering through illness

and loss. Watch over them and comfort them through the promises of your holy Word. Lead us as we seek ways to help and serve those in need so that we might share our blessings with them. Holy Child of

Bethlehem,

People: Be born in us today. As we have been blessed through your birth,

help us to bless others in your name.

<u>Lay Reader:</u> Lord and Savior, you were born among us in fulfillment of the promise

to Abraham, that one of his descendants would be a blessing to people of all nations. By your suffering and death, you atoned for the sins of

the world. Holy Child of Bethlehem,

People: Be born in us today. Like Abraham, we too are blessed to be a

blessing to others. Guide and protect the pastors, teachers, missionaries and other workers who carry the good news of Jesus

to every nation. Help us to support them with our gifts and

prayers.

<u>Lay Reader:</u> Lord and Savior, Abraham believed your promise and his faith was

counted as righteousness. Through faith in your name, we too are counted righteous. Through your suffering, death and resurrection, we have received the blessings of forgiveness, life and salvation. Holy

Child of Bethlehem.

People: Be born in us today. We pray that the Holy Spirit will work

through our acts of love and our words of witness so that others will come to know and worship you as Lord. We pray this prayer and all our prayers in the name of Jesus Christ who taught us to

pray...

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.

ANTHEM "We Thank You God" - Chancel Choir

SCRIPTURE READING

- Genesis 12:1-8 (CEV)

The LORD said to Abram: Leave your country, your family, and your relatives and go to the land that I will show you. ²I will bless you and make your descendants into a great nation. You will become famous and be a blessing to others. ³I will bless those who bless you, but I will put a curse on anyone who puts a curse on you. Everyone on earth will be blessed because of you.

⁴⁻⁵ Abram was 75 years old when the LORD told him to leave the city of Haran. He obeyed and left with his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, and all the possessions and slaves they had acquired while in Haran.

When they came to the land of Canaan, ⁶ Abram went as far as the sacred tree of Moreh in a place called Shechem. The Canaanites were still living in the land at that time, ⁷ but the LORD appeared to Abram and promised, "I will give this land to your family forever." Abram then built an altar there for the LORD.

⁸ Abram traveled to the hill country east of Bethel and camped between Bethel and Ai, where he built another altar and worshiped the LORD.

THE SUNG RESPONSE TO THE SCRIPTURE READING

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray; Cast out our sin and enter in. Be born in us today. We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell; O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!

SERMON

"Bringing Blessing"

- Dr. Tim Hazlett

COMMUNION HYMN

"Take Our Bread"

#640

[REFRAIN]: Take our bread, we ask you; take our hearts, we love you.

Take our lives, O Father, we are yours, we are yours.

1. Yours as we stand at the table you set; yours as we eat the bread our hearts can't forget.

We are the sign of your life with us yet, we are yours, we are yours.

[REFRAIN]: Take our bread, we ask you; take our hearts, we love you.

Take our lives, O Father, we are yours, we are yours.

2. Your holy people standing washed in your blood, Spirit-filled yet hungry we await your food.

We are poor, but we've brought ourselves the best we could; we are yours, we are yours.

[REFRAIN]: Take our bread, we ask you; take our hearts, we love you.

Take our lives, O Father, we are yours, we are yours.

THE CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

(As the music begins you are invited to come forward to receive the elements.

Baskets have been placed in the front to receive your CAP offering.)

[Paul Baloche's music video "Christmas Offering."]

PARTNERS IN MINISTRY TODAY

Members of the Church

Nursery Care Providers: Joanne Rooks & Barbara Bennett

Lay Reader: Debbie Rippard

Organist/Director of Music: Dana Moody

Prayer Partner: Brenda Swoope

Audio-Visual Operator: Scott Weifert

Facebook Live Recorder: Bright Tsevi

Greeter: Joanne Rooks

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Timothy D. Hazlett

Administrative Assistant: Eileen Ballance

Financial Secretary: Edna Bess

Costal Virginia Dist. Superintendent: Rev. Dr. Cecelia R. Brooks

Resident Bishop, Richmond Area: Bishop Sharma D. Lewis