

RESPONSE TO THE WORD-A STATEMENT OF FAITH OF THE KOREAN METHODIST CHURCH, #884

We believe in the one God, creator and sustainer of all things, Father of Nations, the source of all goodness and beauty, all truth and love.

We believe in Jesus Christ, God manifest in the flesh, our teacher, example, and Redeemer, the Savior of the world.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, God present with us for guidance, for comfort, and for strength.

We believe in the forgiveness of sins, in the life of love and prayer, and in grace equal to every need.

We believe in the Word of God contained in the Old and New Testaments as the sufficient rule both of faith and of practice.

We believe in the Church, those who are united in the living Lord for the purpose of worship and service.

We believe in the reign of God as the divine will realized in human society, and in the family of God, where we are all brothers and sisters.

We believe in the final triumph of righteousness, and in the life everlasting. 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

God is our chosen portion and our cup of blessing. Christ is our delight and our refuge from the storm. The Spirit has given us a goodly inheritance and blessed us with abundance. Let us share our gratitude for the grace we have received by giving freely to a world in need of Easter joy.

Scifres, Mary; Beu, B.J.. The Abingdon Worship Annual 2020: Worship Planning Resources for Every Sunday of the Year (p. 99). Abingdon Press. Kindle Edition

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION

Compassionate and faithful God, you meet us behind locked doors and in the doubts we dare not speak aloud. Like Thomas, we long to see, to touch, to know – and yet, by your grace, you call us blessed for believing without seeing. Accept now these gifts we bring, signs of our faith, acts of our trust. Use them to reach others still searching for hope, healing, and connection. Let our giving testify to your Resurrection power and shape us into a community where wounds are not hidden but held with love. In Christ, who breathes peace upon us, we pray. Amen.



"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."

April 12, 2026

Second 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.

GREETING**ANNOUNCEMENTS****JOYS AND CONCERNS AND WHERE WE'VE SEEN INSPIRATION AND THE WORK OF GOD THIS WEEK****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.

EPISTLE READING**1 PETER 1:3-9, NIV**

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.

In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith – of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire – may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

PRELUDE “I Know That My Redeemer Liveth” Choir, Shelley Castellow, Flute

PASSING OF THE PEACE

MESSAGE FOR GROWING CHRISTIANS

CALL TO WORSHIP [in unison]

We gather in joy to praise you, O Lord. You have called us friends, and we are being reconciled with you and one another. Break down any walls we have created and free us to receive and share your love with everyone we meet. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mosser, David. The Abingdon Preaching Annual 2011 (p. 151). Abingdon Press. Kindle Edition.

OPENING PRAYER

Loving Shepherd, you know our names; you care for us. When we face darkness and death, journey alongside us. When we hunger for your love, fill us with your presence. When we are fearful, feed us at your table. May we dwell in the house of goodness and mercy all the days of our lives. Amen.

Written by Mary Petrina Boyd and posted on Ministry Matters. <http://www.ministrymatters.com/>.

HYMN

“Christ is Alive”

#318

1. Christ is alive! Let Christians sing. His cross stands empty to the sky. Let streets and homes with praises ring. His love in death shall never die.
2. Christ is alive! No longer bound to distant years in Palestine, he comes to claim the here and now and dwell in every place and time.
3. Not throned afar, remotely high, untouched, unmoved by human pains, but daily, in the midst of life, our Savior in the God-head reigns.
4. In every insult, rift, and war, where color, scorn, or wealth divide, he suffers still, yet loves the more, and lives, though ever crucified.
5. Christ is alive, and comes to bring good news to this and every age, till earth and all creation ring with joy, with justice, love, and praise.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God’s mercy is deeper than the depths of the sea, and God’s grace is wider than the whole of the earth. Trusting in that mercy and that grace, let us make our confession, before God and each other, first in silent prayer.

Holy God, we open our hearts to you this day, and offer the truth of our lives:

The fear that stifles us, the prejudice that impedes us, the ignorance that hinders us, the doubt that plagues us. Help us, we pray, that we will find courage in unlikely places, move to those places where love is needed, and have faith that you are with us. This we pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.

Hear the Good News: we are forgiven! We are set free to go out into the world and be the loving, gracious, hopeful people of God!

Alleluia! Amen.

Written by Beth Merrill Neel on her blog, “Hold Fast to What Is Good,” <https://holdfasttowhatisgood.com/>. Used with permission.

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 “THERE IS A NAME” **CHOIR, SHELLEY CASTELLOW, FLUTE**

GOSPEL LESSON

John 20:19-31

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

Again Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.” And with that he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone’s sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.”

Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord!”

But he said to them, “Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.”

A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.”

Thomas said to him, “My Lord and my God!”

Then Jesus told him, “Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

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

“THE TREES OF THE FIELD”

TFWS #2279

You shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace;
the mountains and the hills will break forth before you;
there'll be shouts of joy, and all the trees of the field will clap,
will clap their hands.

And all the trees of the field will clap their hands,
the trees of the field will clap their hands,
the trees of the field will clap their hands while you go out with joy.

BENEDICTION

May God bless you with open hearts to recognize the resurrected Christ in our midst and with the courage to reach out and touch the wounds of our neighbors, believing that we will find Resurrection in the meeting of our vulnerability.

Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, September 2025.

POSTLUDE

“IN THE CROSS”

DANA MOODY

Today's service is available on Facebook Live at 11 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 are given to the glory of God by Sandra Carraway and in memory of Cookie. Fifteen years ago a small kitten ran into the church during a storm. She was going to be sent to the pound but I brought her home and named her Cookie the Church cat. God knew that I needed her during my bouts with cancer and heart conditions. She knew when I felt bad and would be by my side to comfort me. Miss you, Cookie.

PARTNERS IN MINISTRY TODAY

Members of the Church

Nursery Care Providers: Jerome Perry and Joanne Rooks

Lay Reader: Kelly Castellow

Prayer partner: Brenda Swoope

Audio-Visual Operator: Rob Castellow

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