

LESSON “UNDER THE LORDSHIP OF JESUS CHRIST” REV. NED ALDERMAN

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

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 Good Shepherd provides for our needs; we lack nothing. We come now to share from the abundance that we have received.

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PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION

Faithful Shepherd, who calls us by name, you invite us into a life that is rich in meaning, deep in joy, and bold in compassion. You speak, and we long to follow – although the world is noisy and the path unclear. In this moment of offering, we quiet our hearts to listen again. Receive these gifts as signs of our trust in you. May they be used to bring abundance to others, to feed the hungry, to strengthen the lost, and to proclaim your voice of love. In coming and going, in worship and service, make us more like Christ, in whose name we give and pray. Amen.

DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise Him all creatures here below. Praise God above ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

HYMN

“Now Praise the Hidden God of Love”

TFWS #2027

Now praise the hidden God of love, in whom we all must live and move,
who shepherds us at ev’ry stage, through youth, maturity, and age:

Who challenged us, when we were young, to storm the citadels of wrong;
in care for others taught us how God’s true community must grow.

Who bids us never lose our zest, though age is urging us to rest,
but proves to us that we have still a work to do, a place to fill.



“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 26 2026

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.

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.

GOSPEL READING

John 10:1-10, CEB

I assure you that whoever doesn’t enter into the sheep pen through the gate but climbs over the wall is a thief and an outlaw. The one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The guard at the gate opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. Whenever he has gathered all of his sheep, he goes before them and they follow him, because they know his voice. They won’t follow a stranger but will run away because they don’t know the stranger’s voice.” Those who heard Jesus use this analogy didn’t understand what he was saying.

So Jesus spoke again, “I assure you that I am the gate of the sheep. All who came before me were thieves and outlaws, but the sheep didn’t listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief enters only to steal, kill, and destroy. I came so that they could have life – indeed, so that they could live life to the fullest.

PRELUDE

“PRELUDE NO. 20”

MONICA WHITEHURST

PASSING OF THE PEACE

MESSAGE FOR GROWING CHRISTIANS

CALL TO WORSHIP

All your gifts are welcome here, God.

Set your Spirit free in your people.

Let no one hold back their gifts.

They are given for the good of all!

Pour forth your wisdom and knowledge!

Let faith soar like an eagle!

Bind your broken children with healing!

Let the working of miracles begin!

Loose the tongues of your prophets!

Free your children to discern the spirit!

Set our tongues singing your praise,

and our interpreters the meanings!

All your gifts are welcome here, God!

Strengthen our Lord's body, we pray. Amen.

Worship & Song, Worship Resources Edition, copyright 2011 by Abingdon Press

OPENING PRAYER

The early disciples devoted themselves to prayer, the teachings of the apostles, and sharing the bread of life. They were a people of prayer, who shared their joys and concerns, their passions and sorrows, with one another and with the Lord. For burdens shared are burdens lessened, and joys shared are joys enriched. Come, let us follow their example and lift up our prayers to God.

Loving Shepherd, we feel the wolves close at hand. Gather us to yourself, that we might dwell secure in your ways. Deliver us from evil, that we might build a community where all may dwell secure. Mark our fellowship with study, prayer, communion, and the sharing of our possessions with those in need. Amen.

Scifres, Mary; Beu, B.J.. The Abingdon Worship Annual 2020: Worship Planning Resources for Every Sunday of the Year (pp. 107-109). Abingdon Press. Kindle Edition.

HYMN

“Tell Out, My Soul”

#200

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord! Unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice;
tender to me the promise of God's word; in God my Savior shall my heart rejoice.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of God's name! Make known God's might,
who wondrous deeds has done;

God's mercy sure, from age to age the same; God's holy name, the Lord, the mighty One.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of God's might! Powers and dominions lay their glory by;
proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight, the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.

Tell out, my soul, the glories of His Word! Firm is the promise and God's mercy sure.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord! To children's children and forevermore.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

God of wisdom, we confess the foolishness of our ways, and our failure to follow you in your paths of right relationships – with you and with others. We have gone astray; we feel lost. We have upheld our own interests first, to the detriment of others. We have failed to be generous with the poor and abandoned our efforts to bring about justice. We feel the stains of our sins, God; have mercy on us according to your steadfast love. Wash the sinfulness out of us and help us to live more faithfully as your servants. We seek your unfailing Lordship and ask for your guiding hand on our lives. You are the immortal, invisible One; to you be honour and glory forever; amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Merciful and loving God, we thank you for never losing hope for us. When we are lost, you are there on the lookout for us, bringing us back to you like the good shepherd that you are. Your Word tells us of the joy in heaven that awaits us. May this joy flow into our lives each day and be faithfully reflected into the world around us. Thanks be to God, our Great Shepherd.

Posted on the Presbyterian Church in Canada website, <http://presbyterian.ca/worship/>.

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 “BEFORE THE THRONE OF GOD ABOVE” MONICA WHITEHURST

EPISTLE LESSON

Acts 2:42-47, CEB

The believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, to the community, to their shared meals, and to their prayers. A sense of awe came over everyone. God performed many wonders and signs through the apostles. All the believers were united and shared everything. They would sell pieces of property and possessions and distribute the proceeds to everyone who needed them. Every day, they met together in the temple and ate in their homes. They shared food with gladness and simplicity. They praised God and demonstrated God's goodness to everyone. The Lord added daily to the community those who were being saved.

BENEDICTION

Dear God, today we came to praise your holy name, to worship you, and to rejoice in your presence. In your love, you have blessed us with the spirit of your Son, Jesus, resurrected from the dead. Now, send us forth to share the good news of true and abundant life in the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Abingdon Preaching Annual 2008, copyright 2007 by Abingdon Press

POSTLUDE

“HE IS LORD”

MONICA WHITEHURST

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 Phyllis Wolfe in honor of Barbara Buchanan for her 90th birthday on May 1st.

PARTNERS IN MINISTRY TODAY

Members of the Church

Nursery Care Providers: Shellene Castellow & Kay Hill

Lay Reader: Kelly Castellow

Prayer partner: Brenda Swoope

Audio-Visual Operator: Danny 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