

2. I heard about his healing, of his cleansing power revealing,  
How he made the lame to walk again and caused the blind to see;  
and then I cried, “Dear Jesus, come and heal my broken spirit,”  
and somehow Jesus came and brought to me the victory.

*Refrain*

3. I heard about a mansion he has built for me in glory,  
and I heard about the streets of gold beyond the crystal sea;  
about the angels singing and the old redemption story,  
and some sweet day I’ll sing up there the song of victory.

*Refrain*

**GOSPEL READING**

**Luke 14:1, 7-14 [NRSV]**

On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the Sabbath, they were watching him closely. When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. “When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host, and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, ‘Give this person your place,’ and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, ‘Friend, move up higher’; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

He said also to the one who had invited him, “When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers and sisters or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. And you will be blessed because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

**LESSON**                      **“WHEN YOU GIVE A BANQUET...”**                      **REV. NED ALDERMAN**

**HYMN**                                      **“COME, LET US DREAM”**                                      **W&S #3157**

1. Come, let us dream God’s dream again,  
come one and all, let us ascend the mountain top  
where those of old saw God’s new day on earth unfold.
2. The lame shall walk, the blind shall see,  
the doors swing wide, all prisoners free,  
the lowly raised, the proud brought low.  
This is God’s dream: let justice flow.
3. When hatred ends and war shall cease,  
to all may dwell in deepest peace,  
then be assured the time is near  
when perfect love casts out all fear.



**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.”*

**August 31, 2025**  
**Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost**

*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**                                      **Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16 [NRSV]**

Let mutual affection continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them, those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterers. Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have, for he himself has said, “I will never leave you or forsake you.” So we can say with confidence, “The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can anyone do to me?”

Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

**PRELUDE**                      **“BOUND FOR THE PROMISED LAND”**                      **DANA MOODY**

PASSING OF THE PEACE

MESSAGE FOR GROWING CHRISTIANS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Lay Reader: For rebirth and resilience,  
**People: blessed be God;**  
Lay Reader: for the spiritually humble,  
**People: glory to God, hallelujah;**  
Lay Reader: for all who are banned from speaking the truth,  
**People: blessed be God.**  
Lay Reader: for all who triumph over their bitter circumstance,  
**People: glory to God, hallelujah;**  
Lay Reader: for all who risk reputation, livelihood, and life itself for Christ’s sake and the gospel;  
**People: all praise and all glory; this is God’s kingdom; praise him and love him forever.**

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

OPENING PRAYER (ALL)

**I am no longer my own but yours. Put me to what you will, rank me with whom you will. Put me to doing, put me to suffering. Let me be employed for you or laid aside for you, exalted for you or brought low for you. Let me be full, let me be empty. Let me have all things, let me have nothing. I freely and wholeheartedly yield all things to your pleasure and disposal.**  
**And now, glorious and blessed God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, you are mine and I am yours. So be it. And the covenant now made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.**

<http://wesleyanleadership.wordpress.com/2011/01/07/the-wesley-covenant-prayer-as-a-declaration-of-missional-discipleship/>.

HYMN “Father, We Have Heard You Calling” W&S #3150

1. Father, we have heard you calling to your church in every age;  
for a sign of true devotion for a sacrifice of praise.  
In this place where you have brought us, may we always seek to be  
one in love and one in worship – children of eternity.
2. Jesus Christ, our faith’s perfecter, priest and advocate above.  
We would reach our broken nation with the truth of your great love.  
So transform our feeble witness, may we always live to be  
one in love and one in worship – children of eternity.
3. Holy Spirit, fire of heaven, fall upon us here today.  
Bring release, bring tears, bring passion, then transform your church, we pray.  
As you pour your grace upon us, may we always thirst to be  
one in love and one in worship – children of eternity.

4. Praise we bring to God the Father, praise we bring to God the Son,  
praise to God the Holy Spirit, praise to you, the three in one.  
Trinity of love inspire us, may we always strive to be,  
one in love and one in worship – children of eternity.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lay Reader: God invites us to mutual love. But to find that mutuality, we must release our need for honor, our desire for privilege.  
In humility let us seek forgiveness, trusting in the promises of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.  
**People: Merciful God, forgive us for we exalt ourselves and mock the humble. We choose to believe we are self-sufficient rather than trust in your strength.**  
**Open us to your spirit, that we might serve all people without regard to the outcome, devoting ourselves to your honor alone.**  
**We pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.**

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

God rejoices when we repent and return, offering us finest wheat and honey from the rock to sustain us in new life.  
Rejoice! For you have been reconciled to God and to one another.  
With joy, seek the honor of God’s service. Amen.

*Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year C, Volume 2 © 2012 Westminster John Knox Press*

Together, let us 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.**

HYMN SING (ending with “Victory in Jesus”) #370

1. I heard an old, old story, how a Savior came from glory,  
how he gave his life on Calvary to save a wretch like me;  
I heard about his groaning, of his precious blood’s atoning,  
then I repented of my sins and won the victory.
- Refrain*  
O victory in Jesus, my Savior forever!  
He sought me and bought me with his redeeming blood;  
He loved me ere I knew him, and all my love is due him;  
He plunged me to victory beneath the cleansing flood.

4. But know the cost of claiming sight  
of God's new day, of wrongs made right,  
for some have paid the highest price  
Their lives for us, a sacrifice.

5. Prophets are scorned in their own lands  
And martyrs slain by righteous hands;  
though dreamers die, the dream will live,  
For we have yet our lives to give.

## **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**UMH #886**

### **The World Methodist Council Social Affirmation**

We believe in God, creator of the world and of all people; and in Jesus Christ, incarnate among us, who died and rose again; and in the Holy Spirit, present with us to guide, strengthen, and comfort.

#### **We believe; God, help our unbelief.**

We rejoice in every sign of God's kingdom:

in the upholding of human dignity and community;

in every expression of love, justice, and reconciliation; in each act of self-giving on behalf of others; in the abundance of God's gifts entrusted to us that all may have enough; in all responsible use of the earth's resources.

#### **Glory be to God on high; and on earth, peace.**

We confess our sin, individual and collective, by silence or action: through the misuse of power in personal, communal, national, and international life; through the search for security by those military and economic forces that threaten human existence; through the abuse of technology which endangers the earth and all life upon it.

#### **Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.**

We commit ourselves individually and as a community to the way of Christ; to take up the cross; to seek abundant life for all humanity; to struggle for peace with justice and freedom; praying that God's kingdom may come.

**Thy kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven. 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 gives us more grace than we can ever earn and sustains us in ways we cannot imagine. With a spirit of generosity, let us freely offer ourselves and our gifts to the world.

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

**God of grace, we give thanks for your faithfulness to us, we give thanks for your hope in us, we rejoice in the knowledge of your unending grace.**

**In the light of your mercy, and confident in your love, we dedicate these offerings, and ourselves, to you. 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.**

## **BENEDICTION**

May the God of mystery take you to unexpected places, may the God of humility teach you to serve without pride, may the God of wisdom inspire your work in the kingdom; and the blessing of God, Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier, be with you now and always.

## **POSTLUDE**

**“AYRE”**

**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: Sandra Carraway**

**Lay Reader – Debbie Rippard**

**Audio-Visual Operator – Ericka Litten**

**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**