

Today’s service is being broadcast 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.

PARTNERS IN MINISTRY TODAY

Members of the Church

Lay Reader: Debbie Rippard

Prayer partner: Brenda Swoope

Audio-Visual Operator: Julian Baker

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



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.”

February 1, 2026

Fourth Sunday of Epiphany



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

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

ISAIAH 29:13-16 AND JEREMIAH 9:24 CEB

The Lord says: Since these people turn toward me with their mouths, and honor me with lip service while their heart is distant from me, and their fear of me is just a human command that has been memorized, I will go on doing amazing things to these people, shocking and startling things.

The wisdom of their wise will perish, and the discernment of their discerning will be hidden. Doom to those who hide their plan deep, away from the Lord, whose deeds are in the dark, who say, “Who sees us? Who knows us?” You have everything backward!

Should the potter be thought of as clay? Should what is made say of its maker, “He didn’t make me”? Should what is shaped say of the one who shaped it, “He doesn’t understand”?

No, those who boast should boast in this: that they understand and know me. I am the Lord who acts with kindness, justice, and righteousness in the world, and I delight in these things, declares the Lord.

PRELUDE

“COMMUNION PRAYER”

DANA MOODY

PASSING OF THE PEACE

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)

Our souls are nourished by God's hope and grace.

We are blessed when we become God's fools,
willing to do what is right and good, not what is easy.

As the sun rises, so does our prayer, loving God. With each new dawn, renew our trust in you, our delight to do justice, and our gladness to be in your presence. Amen.

TFWS #2268

teach us through this holy banquet how to make Love's victory known.

Give us, Christ, your great compassion to forgive as you forgave;
may we still behold your image in the world you died to save.

There no more will envy blind us nor will pride our peace destroy,
as we join with saints and angels to repeat the sounding joy.

Forgive us, God of hope, and bless us with your mercy. By your peace, we can do justice. By your love, we can act kindly. By your grace, we can walk with you as humbly, and hopefully, as did our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

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Come, Christians, follow this triumphant sign.
The hosts of God in unity combine.

Each newborn servant of the Crucified
bears on the brow the seal of him who died.

O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
as thou hast promised, draw the world to thee.

So shall our song of triumph ever be:
Praise to the crucified for victory!

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name.

DANA MOODY

It is through foolishness that God makes us wise; it is through weakness that God strengthens us to serve; it is through forgiveness that God makes us whole.

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Look at your situation when you were called, brothers and sisters! By ordinary human standards not many were wise, not many were powerful, not many were from the upper class. But God chose what the world considers foolish to shame the wise. God chose what the world considers weak to shame the strong. And God chose what the world considers low-class and low-life – what is considered to be nothing – to reduce what is considered to be something to nothing. So no human being can brag in God’s presence. It is because of God that you are in Christ Jesus. He became wisdom from God for us. This means that he made us righteous and holy, and he delivered us. This is consistent with what was written: The one who brags should brag in the Lord!

Rising Sun, Soaring Spirit, Radiant Lord, you are there in shining glory, overcoming death and welcoming us to life. You meet us in the breaking of bread, you pour out the wine of salvation; you feed us with grace and overwhelm us with love. By your Spirit, make these gifts your body and your blood. By your Spirit, make us one with you and with each other.

Long, Kimberly Bracken. *Easting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year A, Volume 1* (pp. 184-185) Presbyterian Publishing Corporation Kindle Edition

ALL: Holy is Your name.

God of Justice and Mercy, you do not ask for thousands of offerings or rivers of oil, only that we live with love, humility, and a hunger for what is right. Accept these gifts we bring – not as bargaining chips, but as signs of our desire to follow you. Use them and us to pour out kindness where the world is aching, to walk alongside the weary, and to bring your healing presence into troubled places. May our giving be our “yes” to your