

*Today's service is being broadcast on Facebook Live at 11 am. You can access the service through the Oaklette Church Group on Facebook or 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 uploaded to our website Sunday afternoon.*

**PARTNERS IN MINISTRY TODAY**

**Members of the Church**

**Nursery Care Providers: Judy Carter & Joanne Rooks**

**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 8, 2026***

***Fifth Sunday after the 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**

**MATTHEW 5:1-12 CEB**

Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up a mountain. He sat down and his disciples came to him. He taught them, saying: "Happy are people who are hopeless, because the kingdom of heaven is theirs. Happy are people who grieve, because they will be made glad. Happy are people who are humble, because they will inherit the earth. Happy are people who are hungry and thirsty for righteousness, because they will be fed until they are full. Happy are people who show mercy, because they will receive mercy. Happy are people who have pure hearts, because they will see God.

"Happy are people who make peace, because they will be called God's children. Happy are people whose lives are harassed because they are righteous, because the kingdom of heaven is theirs.

"Happy are you when people insult you and harass you and speak all kinds of bad and false things about you, all because of me. Be full of joy and be glad, because you have a great reward in heaven. In the same way, people harassed the prophets who came before you."

**PRELUDE**

**"COMMUNION PRAYER"**

**DANA MOODY**

PASSING OF THE PEACE

MESSAGE FOR GROWING CHRISTIANS

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)

Through the testimony of those who know your love, Almighty God,  
**you have guided us to ask for what we need.**  
Our Lord Jesus called his disciples to live as a city on a hill and a lamp on a stand, that all  
may see the glory of God.  
**Grant that we, who claim the name of Christ, may shine as light into our dark world.**  
Blessed are those who honor your commandments, O Lord.  
**You teach us to offer food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted.**  
Let your church minister to those in distress and bear witness to your abiding compassion for  
all who suffer.  
**To you, O God, we pray, through Christ, with Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

*Long, Kimberly Bracken. Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year A, Volume 1 (p. 62-3). Presbyterian Publishing Corporation. Kindle Edition.*

OPENING PRAYER

**Lord, set your blessing on us as we begin this day together. Confirm in us the truth by  
which we rightly live; confront us with the truth from which we wrongly turn. We ask  
not for what we want but for what you know we need, as we offer this day and ourselves  
for you and to you through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

HYMN “I COME WITH JOY” #617

I come with joy to meet my Lord, forgiven, loved and free,  
in awe and wonder to recall his life laid down for me,  
his life laid down for me.

I come with Christians far and near to find, as all are fed,  
the new community of love in Christ’s communion bread,  
in Christ’s communion bread.

As Christ breaks bread and bids us share, each proud division ends.  
The love that made us makes us one, and strangers now are friends,  
and strangers now are friends.

And thus with joy we meet our Lord. His presence, always near,  
is in such friendship better known; we see and praise him here,  
we see and praise him here.

Together met, together bound, we’ll go our different ways  
And as his people in the world, we’ll live and speak his praise,

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

God provides abundantly for us and calls us to give generously to those in need. With  
gratitude for the blessings we have received, let us offer our gifts so that others may be  
blessed.  
*Scifres, Mary; Beu, B.J. The Abingdon Worship Annual 2020: Worship Planning Resources for Every Sunday of the Year (p. 31). Abingdon Press. Kindle Edition.*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION

**Loving God, we give thanks for all you have given to us and praise you for your  
astounding goodness. Receive the dedication of our hearts, minds, and bodies for the  
ministry of your church. Bless our offering for the work of your kingdom, and give us  
wisdom for the right use of all you have provided, through Christ our Lord. Amen.**  
*Long, Kimberly Bracken. Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year A, Volume 1 (pp. 63-64). Presbyterian Publishing Corporation. Kindle Edition.*

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 “I WANT TO WALK AS A CHILD OF THE LIGHT” #206

I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to follow Jesus.  
God set the stars to give light to the world. The star of my life is Jesus.

In him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.  
The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

I want to see the brightness of God. I want to look at Jesus.  
Clear Sun of Righteousness, shine on my path, and show me the way to the Father.

In him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.  
The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

I’m looking for the coming of Christ. I want to be with Jesus.  
When we have run with patience the race, we shall know the joy of Jesus.

In him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.  
The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

BENEDICTION

You are the light of the world! Now take that light into all the places that need the light and  
love of God. Take that light into all the places that need the light and grace of Jesus Christ.  
Take that light into all the places that need the light and inspiration of the Holy Spirit. Go and  
*be* the light of the world!

*The Abingdon Preaching Annual 2017 copyright 2016 by Abingdon Press*

POSTLUDE “BECOME TO US THE LIVING BREAD” DANA MOODY

we’ll live and speak his praise

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**All: Loving Creator, you have placed within us the spark of your Divine Light. As people of your justice and mercy you cause us to shine. We long to grow closer to you and to walk in your ways. And yet, we usually do whatever we want. We point fingers at others and serve our own interests. We satisfy ourselves with an hour in worship each week when there is so much more you ask of us. When we fail to heal your world, forgive us. Give us hearts that are open, generous, and unafraid, that your divine spark might ignite within us and make us shine as beacons of your kindness and your love. Amen.**

Even when we stray,  
**God continues to guide us.**  
Even when our souls are parched,  
**God provides for us.**  
Even when we call for help,  
**God says, “I’m here.” Praise God!**

*Scifres, Mary; Beu, B.J.. The Abingdon Worship Annual 2020: Worship Planning Resources for Every Sunday of the Year (pp. 29-30). Abingdon Press. Kindle Edition.*

ANTHEM “THE PRAYER” CHANCEL CHOIR

GOSPEL READING MATTHEW 5:13-20

“You are the salt of the earth. But if salt loses its saltiness, how will it become salty again? It’s good for nothing except to be thrown away and trampled under people’s feet.  
“You are the light of the world. A city on top of a hill can’t be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a basket. Instead, they put it on top of a lampstand, and it shines on all who are in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before people, so they can see the good things you do and praise your Father who is in heaven.  
“Don’t even begin to think that I have come to do away with the Law and the Prophets. I haven’t come to do away with them but to fulfill them. I say to you very seriously that as long as heaven and earth exist, neither the smallest letter nor even the smallest stroke of a pen will be erased from the Law until everything there becomes a reality. Therefore, whoever ignores one of the least of these commands and teaches others to do the same will be called the lowest in the kingdom of heaven. But whoever keeps these commands and teaches people to keep them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.  
“I say to you that unless your righteousness is greater than the righteousness of the legal experts and the Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

LESSON “NEW TEACHER, FIRST DAY” REV. NED ALDERMAN

RESPONSE TO THE WORD THE LORD’S SUPPER

Creator of the cosmos, Breath of heaven, Lover of us all, you are our praise, our life, our joy. You are there through desert wanderings and willful murmurings, rebellious running and tears of complaint. You are there when sorrow becomes our daily food; you rescue us from ruin and anoint us with blessing. You are there in stable and temple, river and hillside, cross and tomb and even beyond the grave.  
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. By your Spirit, make us strong that we might share your love with your blessed and broken world.  
Fount of mercy, Fire of justice, Dearest friend, bind us to you and send us out to seek and serve and sing your praise, until you gather us up in glory and bright, unending song. **Amen.**

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

THE LORD’S PRAYER [sung]

Our Father; **Our Father**  
In Heaven; **In Heaven**  
Holy is Your name; **Holy is Your name.**  
Your kingdom come; **Your kingdom come,**  
Your will be done; **Your will be done,**  
On earth; **On earth,**  
As in heaven; **As in heaven.**  
Give us today; **Give us today,**  
Our daily bread; **Our daily bread.**  
And forgive those; **And forgive those,**  
Who sin against us; **Who sin against us.**  
Save us from the time; **Save us from the time,**  
Of trials; **Of trials.**  
And deliver us; **and deliver us,**  
From evil; **from evil.**  
For the kingdom and the power and the glory are Yours forever.  
**For the kingdom and the power and the glory are Yours forever.**  
Forever; **Forever,**  
And ever; **And ever.**  
Our Father; **Our Father**  
In heaven; **In heaven,**  
**ALL: Holy is your name.**