

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 uploaded to our website.

The flowers on the altar are presented to the glory of God.

PARTNERS IN MINISTRY TODAY

Members of the Church

Nursery Care Providers: Lisa and Brooks Ryno

Prayer Partner: Brenda Swoope

Lay Reader: Kelly Castellow

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 Haupert-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."

January 11, 2026

Baptism of the Lord

33Welcome 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

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

Matthew 2:13-3:5, selected verses; CEB

When the magi had departed, an angel from the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up. Take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod will soon search for the child in order to kill him." Joseph got up and, during the night, took the child and his mother to Egypt. He stayed there until Herod died. This fulfilled what the Lord had spoken through the prophet: I have called my son out of Egypt.

After King Herod died, an angel from the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt. "Get up," the angel said, "and take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel. Those who were trying to kill the child are dead." Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus ruled over Judea in place of his father Herod, Joseph was afraid to go there. Having been warned in a dream, he went to the area of Galilee. He settled in a city called Nazareth so that what was spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled: He will be called a Nazarene.

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the desert of Judea announcing, "Change your hearts and lives! Here comes the kingdom of heaven!" He was the one of whom Isaiah the

prophet spoke when he said: The voice of one shouting in the wilderness, "Prepare the way for the Lord; make his paths straight."

People from Jerusalem, throughout Judea, and all around the Jordan River came to him.

PRELUDE

"Breathe" with "Feed Me Now"

PASSING OF THE PEACE

MESSAGE FOR GROWING CHRISTIANS

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)

Come! Let us follow Jesus to the edge of the Jordan River to be baptized.

We come to be cleansed and made whole.

Come! Let us witness John's confusion and Jesus' insistence that John baptize God Incarnate.

We come to join Jesus in choosing life in the kingdom of God.

Come! Let us hear God declare the truth of Jesus' identity and the truth of our identity as baptized people.

We come to remember and embody who we are as beloved children of God.

Come! Let us worship God who leads us into the baptismal waters and salvation life.

We come to worship God who empowers us through divine presence to live together as the family of God.

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

OPENING PRAYER

Creator God, our soul's delight, your voice thunders over the waters, liberating the future from the past. In the Spirit's power and the waters of rebirth, Jesus was declared your blessed and beloved Son; may we recall our baptism and be disciples of the Anointed One.

Amen.

HYMN

"Down to the River to Pray"

W&S #3164

As I went down to the river to pray, studyin' about that good ole way
and who shall wear the starry crown, good Lord, show me the way.

 O sisters, let's go down, let's go down, come on down.

 Come on, sisters, let's go down, down to the river to pray.

As I went down to the river to pray, studyin' about that good ole way
and who shall wear the starry crown, good Lord, show me the way.

 O brothers, let's go down, let's go down, come on down.

 Come on, brothers, let's go down, down to the river to pray.

As I went down to the river to pray, studyin' about that good ole way
and who shall wear the starry crown, good Lord, show me the way.

 O fathers, let's go down, let's go down, come on down.

 Come on, fathers, let's go down, down to the river to pray.

POSTLUDE

"Baptized in Water"

DANA MOODY

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

“Wade in the Water”

TFWS #2107

Wade in the water, wade in the water, children, wade in the water,
God's a-gon-na trouble the water.

Leader: See that host all dressed in white,
All: God's a-gon-na trouble the water.
Leader: The leader looks like the Israelite,
All: God's a-gon-na trouble the water.

Wade in the water, wade in the water, children, wade in the water,
God's a-gon-na trouble the water.

Leader: See that band all dressed in red,
All: God's a-gon-na trouble the water.
Leader: Looks like the band that Moses led,
All: God's a-gon-na trouble the water.

Wade in the water, wade in the water, children, wade in the water,
God's a-gon-na trouble the water.

Leader: Look over yonder, what do I see?
All: God's a-gon-na trouble the water.
Leader: The Holy Ghost a-coming on me,
All: God's a-gon-na trouble the water.

Wade in the water, wade in the water, children, wade in the water,
God's a-gon-na trouble the water.

Leader: If you don't believe I've been redeemed,
All: God's a-gon-na trouble the water.
Leader: Just follow me down to Jordan's stream,
All: God's a-gon-na trouble the water.

Wade in the water, wade in the water, children, wade in the water,
God's a-gon-na trouble the water.

BENEDICTION

Go in peace; love and care for one another in the name of Christ; and may the Spirit of God, which filled John and Jesus, fill your hearts, souls, and minds; may the power of God, which upheld them, strengthen you for each day; and may the love of God, which directed their every action, be your guiding light and your shining star, both now and forevermore. Amen.

Written by Rev. Richard Fairchild and posted on his Kir-salmon website

As I went down to the river to pray, studyin' about that good ole way
and who shall wear the starry crown, good Lord, show me the way.

O mothers, let's go down, let's go down, come on down.
Come on, mothers, let's go down, down to the river to pray.

As I went down to the river to pray, studyin' about that good ole way
and who shall wear the starry crown, good Lord, show me the way.

O sinners, let's go down, let's go down, come on down.
Come on, sinners, let's go down, down to the river to pray.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: Beloved One, when we forget that we are your beloved children, draw us ever closer to you. When we fail to hear your voice of love, whisper your words of reassurance. When we don't reflect the divine image within us, forgive us. Wash over us with your mercy and grace, and bathe us in your abundant love, that we may remember who we are and whose we are. In your holy name, we pray. Amen.

Leader: Don't fear – God is with us. Christ has redeemed us and claims us as God's own – children named and honored with compassion and love.

*Beu, B.J.; Scifres, Mary. *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2019: Worship Planning Resources for Every Sunday of the Year*(pp. 131-14) Abingdon Press. Kindle Edition.*

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 glory and the power forever. Amen.

ANTHEM

“LIKE A RIVER GLORIOUS”

CHANCEL CHOIR

Isaiah 42:1-4a, CEB

But here is my servant, the one I uphold; my chosen, who brings me delight. I've put my spirit upon him; he will bring justice to the nations. He won't cry out or shout aloud or make his voice heard in public. He won't break a bruised reed; he won't extinguish a faint wick, but he will surely bring justice. He won't be extinguished or broken until he has established justice in the land.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 3:13-17, CEB

At that time Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan River so that John would baptize him. John tried to stop him and said, “I need to be baptized by you, yet you come to me?” Jesus answered, “Allow me to be baptized now. This is necessary to fulfill all righteousness.” So John agreed to baptize Jesus.

When Jesus was baptized, he immediately came out of the water. Heaven was opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God coming down like a dove and resting on him. A voice from heaven said, “This is my Son whom I dearly love; I find happiness in him.”

LESSON

“This Was Done for Us”

Rev. Ned Alderman

REAFFIRMATION OF THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT

Brothers and sisters in Christ: Through the Sacrament of Baptism we are initiated into Christ's holy Church. We are incorporated into God's mighty acts of salvation and given new birth through water and the Spirit. All this is God's gift, offered to us without price.

Through the reaffirmation of our faith, we renew the covenant declared at our baptism, acknowledge what God is doing for us, and affirm our commitment to Christ's holy Church.

On behalf of the whole Church, I ask you: Do you renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of this world, and repent of your sin?

I do.

Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves?

I do.

Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Savior, put your whole trust in his grace, and promise to serve him as your Lord, in union with the Church, which Christ has opened to people of all ages, nations, and races?

I do.

According to the grace given to you, will you remain faithful members of Christ's holy Church and serve as Christ's representatives in the world?

I will.

Let us join together in professing the Christian faith as contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments.

Do you believe in God the Father?

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, is seated at the right hand of the Father, and will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Eternal Father: When nothing existed but chaos, you swept across the dark waters and brought forth light. In the days of Noah, you saved those on the ark through water. After the flood you set in the clouds a rainbow. When you saw your people as slaves in Egypt, you led them

to freedom through the sea. Their children you brought through the Jordan to the land which you promised.

Sing to the Lord, all the earth. Tell of God's mercy each day.

In the fullness of time you sent Jesus, nurtured in the water of a womb. He was baptized by John and anointed by your Spirit. He called his disciples to share in the baptism of his death and resurrection and to make disciples of all nations.

Declare Christ's works to the nations, his glory among all the people.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, and by this gift of water call to our remembrance the grace declared to us in our baptism. For you have washed away our sins, and you clothe us with righteousness throughout our lives, that dying and rising with Christ we may share in his final victory.

All praise to you, Eternal Father, through your Son Jesus Christ, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns for ever. **Amen.**

REAFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Remember your baptism and be thankful. **Amen.**

THANKSGIVING

Let us rejoice in the faithfulness of our covenant God.

We give thanks for all that God has already given us. As members of the body of Christ and in this congregation of The United Methodist Church, we will faithfully participate in the ministries of the Church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service and our witness that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.

The God of all grace, who has called us to eternal glory in Christ, establish and strengthen you by the power of the Holy Spirit, that you may live in grace and peace.

"The Services of the Baptismal Covenant of The United Methodist Church as Revised to Align with the 2008 Book of Discipline and Book of Resolutions," Copyright © 2009, The United Methodist Publishing House. Published by The General Board of Discipleship with permission of The United Methodist Publishing House.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

God gives us not only genesis life but the new life born of repentance, forgiveness, and resurrection. Therefore, with generous hearts, let us give back a portion of what has already been given to us in our baptismal covenant with God and each other.

Long, Kimberly Bracken. Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year A, Volume 1 (p. 47). Presbyterian Publishing Corporation. Kindle Edition.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION

Faithful and Calling God, continue to draw us into community, into covenant, and into new life through waters of grace and acts of justice. Just as Jesus stepped into the river to stand with us and for us, we bring these gifts today to stand with others – to serve, to uplift, and to proclaim your kingdom. Use these offerings to fulfill your righteousness among us. Help us, your baptized people, to be instruments of healing, hope, and holy change in a world longing for good news. **In Christ's name we pray, Amen.**

DOXOLOGY