

POSTLUDE

“ADAGIO”

DANA MOODY

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 anonymously to the glory of God and in honor of Judy Litten.

PARTNERS IN MINISTRY TODAY

Members of the Church

Nursery Care Providers: Barbara Bennett & Nancy Helsel

Prayer Partner: Brenda Swoope

Lay Reader: Kelly Castellow

Audio-Visual Operator: Ericka Litten

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 18, 2026

Second 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

Isaiah 49:1-7, NRSV

Listen to me, coastlands; pay attention, peoples far away. The Lord called me before my birth, called my name when I was in my mother’s womb. He made my mouth like a sharp sword and hid me in the shadow of God’s own hand. He made me a sharpened arrow, and concealed me in God’s quiver, saying to me, “You are my servant, Israel, in whom I show my glory.”

But I said, “I have wearied myself in vain. I have used up my strength for nothing.” Nevertheless, the Lord will grant me justice; my reward is with my God.

And now the Lord has decided – the one who formed me from the womb as his servant – to restore Jacob to God, so that Israel might return to him. Moreover, I’m honored in the Lord’s eyes; my God has become my strength. He said: It is not enough, since you are my servant, to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to bring back the survivors of Israel. Hence, I will also appoint you as light to the nations so that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.

The Lord, redeemer of Israel and its holy one, says to one despised, rejected by nations, to the slave of rulers: Kings will see and stand up; commanders will bow down on account of the Lord, who is faithful, the holy one of Israel, who has chosen you.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

MESSAGE FOR GROWING CHRISTIANS

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)

Children of God, who has God called you to be?

A light to all the nations!

When confusion, disunity, and misinformation threaten to undo us, who are you called to be?

A light to all the nations!

When wars and rumors of wars in our communities and around the world overwhelm us, who are you called to be?

A light to all the nations!

When the vulnerable are left without care or hope for flourishing, who are you called to be?

A light to all the nations!

Come! Let us worship God, who gives us as a light of good news to all the nations!

We come to worship God, who calls us and equips us to reflect God’s glory and abundant life into all the world. Amen.

OPENING PRAYER

From Bethlehem to Nazareth, from Jordan to Jericho, from Bethany to Jerusalem, from then to now,

come, Lord Jesus.

To heal the sick, to mend the brokenhearted, to comfort the disturbed, to disturb the comfortable, to cleanse the temple, to liberate faith from convention,

come, Lord Jesus.

To carry the cross, to lead the way, to shoulder the sin of the world and take it away,

come, Lord Jesus.

Today, to this place, to us,

come, Lord Jesus. Amen.

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

HYMN

“Hail to the Lord’s Anointed”

#203

Hail to the Lord’s Anointed, great David’s greater Son!

Hail, in the time appointed, his reign on earth begun!

He comes to break oppression, to set the captive free;
to take away transgressions, and rule in equity.

He comes, with succor speedy to those who suffer wrong;
to help the poor and needy, and bid the weak be strong;
to give them songs for singing, their darkness turned to light,
whose souls, condemned and dying, are precious in his sight.

He shall come down like showers upon the fruitful earth;
love, joy, and hope, like flowers, spring in his path to birth.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Our God has done wondrous things, too numerous to count. Through steadfast love and faithful care, God enriches us in every way. Therefore, do not delay! Let us offer to God ourselves this day, all that we have and all that we are, in praise and love of Christ.

Long, Kimberly Bracken. Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year A, Volume 1 (p. 51). Presbyterian Publishing Corporation. Kindle Edition.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION

Ever-Present and Calling God, knowing us from the beginning, naming us as your own, you have entrusted us with the holy work of bearing your light to the world. Though we often feel unworthy or uncertain, you remind us that your grace goes before us, and your strength works through us. Receive these gifts, offered with gratitude and hope. Use them – and us – to proclaim your justice, to shine your love to the ends of the earth, and to glorify your name. In the name of Christ, your Servant and our Savior, we pray. 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. Amen.

HYMN

“I HAVE DECIDED TO FOLLOW JESUS”

TFWS #2129

I have decided to follow Jesus,
I have decided to follow Jesus,
I have decided to follow Jesus –
no turning back, no turning back.

The world behind me, the cross before me,
the world behind me, the cross before me,
the world behind me, the cross before me –
no turning back, no turning back.

Though none go with me, still I will follow,
though none go with me, still I will follow,
though none go with me, still I will follow –
no turning back, no turning back.

BENEDICTION

As we leave this place, remember: God, who chose you before your birth, who calls you and knows you by name, now sends you out into the world – to bring light to those in darkness, comfort to those who grieve, hope to those who despair.

And may the blessing of God, the love of Jesus Christ, and the presence of the Holy Spirit be among you and within you as you seek to do God’s will. Amen.

Posted on the re:Worship blog at https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2014/01/benediction-isaiah-49-1-7_4.html.

Before Him, on the mountains, shall peace the herald go,
and righteousness, in fountains, from hill to valley flow.

To him shall prayer unceasing and daily vows ascend;
his kingdom still increasing, a kingdom without end.
The tide of time shall never his covenant remove;
His name shall stand for ever; that name to us is love.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

And so we live our lives imperfectly, for we are flawed. But we are also loved by the God in whose image we were created. Let us remake ourselves toward that image as we make our confession before God and each other, first in silent prayer.

Silent confession

Gracious and loving God, hear our prayer.

We know we do not always live as we ought: We turn away from you, from our neighbor, and from our true selves. We know we dim your light within us, with our pride, our self-righteousness, and our need for control. We know that you love us, that you do not abandon us, and that again and again you call us back to you, back to love, back to grace, back to your light. Forgive us, we pray, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Friends, hear the good news: the mercy of God is from everlasting to everlasting. Let us proclaim the good news: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.
Alleluia! Amen.

*Written by Beth Merrill Neel on her blog, “Hold Fast to What Is Good.” Used with permission.
Posted at <https://holdfasttowhatisgood.com/liturgy/prayer-of-confession>*

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 “Where Still Waters Flow” CHANCEL CHOIR

GOSPEL READING JOHN 1:29-42

The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, “Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.’ I myself did not know him, but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel.”

And John testified, “I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Chosen One.”

The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by he exclaimed, “Look, here is the Lamb of God!” The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus.

When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, “What are you looking for?” They said to him, “Rabbi” (which translated means Teacher), “where are you staying?” He said to them, “Come and see.” They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o’clock in the afternoon.

One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. He first found his brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated Anointed).

He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, “You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas” (which is translated Peter).

LESSON “This Was Done For Us, Too” REV. NED ALDERMAN

PRAYER FOR HUMAN RELATIONS SUNDAY

Holy and loving God, you call us by name and draw us into a wide, welcoming mercy. You hear the honest confession of our souls, the ache of compassion fatigue and the weight of justice delayed. Incline to us and lift us again. Set our feet on solid ground and put a new song in our mouths.

Today we remember that your vision is never small. Expand our imagination beyond comfort and convenience. Where we have settled for silence, give us truthful words. Where we have been timid, give us steady courage. Where we have been hardened by headlines, soften us with holy anger and holy love. Make our baptismal promises real in us, that we will resist evil, injustice, and oppression in any form they present, and that we will live as people of grace in every relationship.

Spirit of Christ, you say, “Come and see.” Open our eyes to your work in sanctuaries and shelters, classrooms and clinics, kitchens and street corners. Strengthen every gift you have already placed within this body. Knit us together across differences. Let those who have been ignored be heard, those who have been harmed be healed, and those who have been isolated be gathered into community.

Teach us a discipleship that is joyful and durable. Let our joy be defiant against despair, our service be faithful when progress feels slow, and our love be generous enough to cross every barrier. Form us into neighbors who show up, tell the truth, share our resources, and keep singing until justice and mercy meet.

We pray for our city and for the world, for leaders and laborers, for families under strain and youth who carry heavy stories, for those who hunger and those who hunger for meaning. Use us, O God, for generational transformation, that all your beloved children may flourish.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, who invites us still to come and see, and who sends us to love. **Amen.**