

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
Monica Whitehurst*

PARTNERS IN MINISTRY TODAY

Members of the Church

Nursery Care Providers: Lisa & Brooks Ryno

Prayer Partner: Brenda Swoope

Lay Reader: Kelly Castellow

Audio-Visual Operator: Danny 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 25, 2026
Third 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.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 4:12-23, CEB

Now when Jesus heard that John was arrested, he went to Galilee. He left Nazareth and settled in Capernaum, which lies alongside the sea in the area of Zebulun and Naphtali. This fulfilled what Isaiah the prophet said: Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali, alongside the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles, the people who lived in the dark have seen a great light, and a light has come upon those who lived in the region and in shadow of death.

From that time Jesus began to announce, "Change your hearts and lives! Here comes the kingdom of heaven!"

As Jesus walked alongside the Galilee Sea, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew, throwing fishing nets into the sea, because they were fishermen. "Come, follow me," he said, "and I'll show you how to fish for people." Right away, they left their nets and followed him. Continuing on, he saw another set of brothers, James the son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with Zebedee their father repairing their nets. Jesus called them and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

Jesus traveled throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues. He announced the good news of the kingdom and healed every disease and sickness among the people.

PRELUDE **“BRETHREN, WE HAVE MET TO WORSHIP” DANA MOODY**
PASSING OF THE JOY

MESSAGE FOR GROWING CHRISTIANS

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)

Come together, people of God, out of the gloom and shadow of a troubled world.

We come with joy to the great light that God has given us in Jesus Christ.

Come away, people of God, from all that would mar your days.

We come in the spirit of repentance to confront and overcome all that divides us.

Come to worship, people of God, leaving behind all else that compels your attention.

We come to refocus our priorities and to become alert to God’s actions among us. Amen!

The Abingdon Preaching Annual 2008 copyright 2007 by Abingdon Press

OPENING PRAYER

God, our light and our salvation, Jesus announced the nearness of your kingdom and called his disciples to be fishers of women and men. Give us courage to follow in the way of Jesus, that our lives may bear witness to the good news of the kingdom at hand and our vocation serve to draw people to your salvation; through your Son, Jesus Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Long, Kimberly Bracken. Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year A, Volume 1 (p. 54). Presbyterian Publishing Corporation. Kindle Edition.

HYMN

“LIFT HIGH THE CROSS”

#159

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

HYMN

“BE THOU MY VISION”

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art.

Thou my best thought, by day or night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
thou and thou only, first in my heart,
great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.

Great God of heaven, my victory won,
may I reach heaven’s joys, O bright heaven’s Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

BENEDICTION

Christ calls us to be fishers of women and men for the sake of his beloved kingdom. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Long, Kimberly Bracken. Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year A, Volume 1 (p. 56). Presbyterian Publishing Corporation. Kindle Edition.

POSTLUDE

“FATHER, WE PRAISE THEE”

DANA MOODY

#451

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.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Let us confess our sins before God, the source of freedom and forgiveness.

Almighty God, we confess that we have not been faithful to you in our thoughts and actions. We have been selfish in our desires and quarrelsome in our relationships. We have allowed fear to divide us from those who seem different and let distrust separate us from our brothers and sisters. Shine your light into our darkened hearts. Save us from our divisive ways. Unite us in the same mind as Jesus Christ who dwells with you and the Holy Spirit in perfect harmony. Amen.

God offers forgiveness to those who turn to God in true repentance. Therefore, trust in God, who breaks the bonds of our oppression and covers us in mercy.

Long, Kimberly Bracken. Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year A, Volume 1 (pp. 53-54). Presbyterian Publishing Corporation. 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 power and the glory forever. Amen.

ANTHEM “SURELY THE PRESECE OF THE LORD IS IN THIS PLACE” SOPRANOS AND ALTOS

EPISTLE READING

1 CORINTHIANS 1:10-18 CEB

Now I encourage you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ: Agree with each other and don't be divided into rival groups. Instead, be restored with the same mind and the same purpose. My brothers and sisters, Chloe's people gave me some information about you, that you're fighting with each other. What I mean is this: that each one of you says, “I belong to Paul,” “I belong to Apollos,” “I belong to Cephas,” “I belong to Christ.” Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you, or were you baptized in Paul's name? Thank God that I didn't baptize any of you, except Crispus and Gaius, so that nobody can say that you were baptized in my name! Oh, I baptized the house of Stephanas, too. Otherwise, I don't know if I baptized anyone else. Christ didn't send me to baptize but to preach the good news. And Christ didn't send me to preach the good news with clever words so that Christ's cross won't be emptied of its meaning.

The message of the cross is foolishness to those who are being destroyed. But it is the power of God for those of us who are being saved.

LESSON

“THE MESSAGE OF THE CROSS” REV. NED ALDERMAN

PASTORAL PRAYER

God of all creation, who called every being into life, who is mindful of humankind in all its diversity, who embodies us with dignity, granting different gifts and talents to shape life in this world, we ask for your Spirit to unite us where we face lack of understanding and disunity in our churches, in our communities, in our countries. And in silence, we lay before you the burdens of our hearts.

(Silence)

We ask for your Spirit to unite us in the face of the conflicts, hatred, and violation of life experienced in so many regions of the earth and, in silence, we bring to you the pain of the victims.

(Silence)

We ask for your Spirit to unite us wherever fear prevents us from caring for our neighbor, from meeting people of different ethnicities, cultures, and faith communities with respect and, in silence, we bring to you the brokenness of human relationships.

(Silence)

God of all creation, in Christ, we are reconciled, and so we ask for your uniting Spirit to help us overcome all our divisions that we may live in peace. **Amen.**

Posted on the Monthly Prayers page of the Christian Aid website, <http://www.christianaid.org.uk/>. Re-posted on the re:Worship blog at <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2017/09/prayer-for-unity-amidst-diversity.html>.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

God, the source of all good things, has given us what we need. In joyful response, let us offer our gifts, the fruit of our labors, and the dedication of our hearts for loving service in the name of Christ.

Long, Kimberly Bracken. Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year A, Volume 1 (p. 55). Presbyterian Publishing Corporation. Kindle Edition.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION

Steadfast Light of our salvation, in a world that trembles with uncertainty and teaches us to fear, you shine with unwavering hope. You call us to seek your face and trust in your presence more than in our own strength. Receive these gifts, given not out of fear but in joyful confidence that your love casts out fear and your grace makes us bold. Use our offerings to build a world where your light leads, your justice reigns, and your people – unafraid – become living testimonies of your goodness. In the name of Christ, our rock and redeemer, 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.**