

LESSON “GETTING PERSONAL WITH GOD”

REV. NED ALDERMAN

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

FATHERS’ DAY PRAYER

For our fathers, who have given us life and love, that we may show them respect and love, we pray to the Lord . . .

For fathers who have lost a child through death, that their faith may give them hope, and their family and friends support and console them, we pray to the Lord . . .

For men, though without children of their own, who like fathers have nurtured and cared for us, we pray to the Lord . . .

For fathers, who have been unable to be a source of strength, who have not responded to their children and have not sustained their families, we pray to the Lord . . .

God our Father, in your wisdom and love you made all things. Bless these men, that they may be strengthened as Christian fathers. Let the example of their faith and love shine forth.

Grant that we, their sons and daughters, may honor them always with a spirit of profound respect. Grant this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

UMPH Methodist Publication. The United Methodist Book of Worship: Regular Edition Black (p. 511). United Methodist Publishing House. Kindle Edition.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Christ knows every breath we take: each one is a gift from the Spirit. God watches over, protects, and provides for us. Let us present our offerings of thanksgiving for the goodness of the triune God.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION

Holy One, incarnate One, dynamic One, God who is Trinity, we lift our voices in praise and thanksgiving for the life in Christ Jesus that we receive from you. You have shown that your mercy overcomes sin and evil and brings relief from oppression. We thank you for your steadfast love that keeps covenant with your people. In Christ we know the depth of your care for all that you create. We invite the Holy Spirit to help us so that we can praise you eternally in the name of our risen Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Long, Kimberly Bracken. Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year A, Volume 2: Trinity Sunday through Reign of Christ (pp. 69-69). 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

“JUST A CLOSER WALK WITH THEE”

TFWS #2158

I am weak, but thou art strong; Jesus, keep me from all wrong;
I’ll be satisfied as long as I walk, let me walk close to thee.



“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.”

June 21, 2026

“Fourth Sunday After Pentecost



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

WHAT HAS GOD PUT ON YOUR HEART: JOYS AND CONCERNS AND WHERE WE’VE SEEN INSPIRATION AND THE WORK OF GOD

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 10:24-39 CEB

“Disciples aren’t greater than their teacher, and slaves aren’t greater than their master. It’s enough for disciples to be like their teacher and slaves like their master. If they have called the head of the house Beelzebul, it’s certain that they will call the members of his household by even worse names.

“Therefore, don’t be afraid of those people because nothing is hidden that won’t be revealed, and nothing secret that won’t be brought out into the open. What I say to you in the darkness, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, announce from the rooftops. Don’t be afraid of those who kill the body but can’t kill the soul. Instead, be afraid of the one who can destroy both body and soul in hell. Aren’t two sparrows sold for a small coin? But not one of them will fall to the ground without your Father knowing about it already. Even the hairs of your head are all counted. Don’t be afraid. You are worth more than many sparrows.

“Therefore, everyone who acknowledges me before people, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven. But everyone who denies me before people, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven.

“Don’t think that I’ve come to bring peace to the earth. I haven’t come to bring peace but a sword. I’ve come to turn a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. People’s enemies are members of their own households.

“Those who love father or mother more than me aren’t worthy of me. Those who love son or daughter more than me aren’t worthy of me. Those who don’t pick up their crosses and follow me aren’t worthy of me. Those who find their lives will lose them, and those who lose their lives because of me will find them.”

PRELUDE “MAKE ME AN INSTRUMENT OF THY PEACE” DANA MOODY

PASSING OF THE PEACE

MESSAGE FOR GROWING CHRISTIANS

CALL TO WORSHIP

When we feel abandoned and alone, unable to find a way out of the wilderness that surrounds, we cry out to God...

And God listens to us.

When we feel discouraged and defeated, unsure we will ever really be able to make ends meet and worried that no matter how hard we work, it will never be enough, we cry out to God...

And God listens to us.

When we feel lost and forgotten, unable to find the words for the grief, isolation, and despair that we feel, our hearts cry out to God...

And God pays attention to us.

As we gather in this place and time, remember: You are not alone. God knows where you are, and God listens to the cries of our hearts.

May we also listen to one another as God guides us toward the cool, refreshing waters we need to continue on our journey as the family of God.

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

OPENING PRAYER

Eternal God, turn and be gracious to us, for the road is long and we are weary. We feel beaten down by the trials of life and need your strength to sustain us. Show us your favor, and offer us your blessing, that we may abide in faithfulness and not be put to shame. Comfort us, O God, and revive our souls. Grant us the endurance to take up our cross, and follow the difficult roads in life. Amen.

Scifres, Mary; Beu, B.J.. The Abingdon Worship Annual 2020: Worship Planning Resources for Every Sunday of the Year (pp. 136-137). Abingdon Press. Kindle Edition.

.HYMN “Precious Lord, Take My Hand” #474

Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on let me stand, I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;
through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light:
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

When my way grows drear, precious Lord, linger near, when my life is almost gone,
hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand lest I fall:
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

When the darkness appears and the night draws near,
and the day is past and gone,
at the river I stand, guide my feet, and hold my hand:
Take my hand precious Lord lead me home

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O Lord God, our lives seem never quite to be what we had hoped they would be or what we think God intends for them to be. We too often do the very things we know we should not do, and fail to do the good things we wish to do. We ask, O Lord, that you will forgive us our shortcomings and instill in us new life. Help us be alive to you, and to be fellow servants with Jesus Christ. Amen.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. Amen.

The Abingdon Preaching Annual 2008 copyright 2007 by Abingdon Press

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 “JUST A LITTLE TALK WITH JESUS” ,MEN’S CHOIR

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON PSALM 86:1-10, 16-17 CEB

LORD, listen closely to me and answer me, because I am poor and in need. Guard my life because I am faithful. Save your servant who trusts in you – you! My God!

Have mercy on me, Lord, because I cry out to you all day long. Make your servant’s life happy again because, my Lord, I offer my life to you, because, my Lord, you are good and forgiving, full of faithful love for all those who cry out to you.

Listen closely to my prayer, LORD; pay close attention to the sound of my requests for mercy. Whenever I am in trouble, I cry out to you, because you will answer me.

My Lord! There is no one like you among the gods! There is nothing that can compare to your works! All the nations that you’ve made will come and bow down before you, Lord; they will glorify your name, because you are awesome and a wonder-worker. You are God. Just you.

Come back to me! Have mercy on me! Give your servant your strength; save this child of your servant! Show me a sign of your goodness so that those who hate me will see it and be put to shame – show a sign that you, LORD, have helped me and comforted me.

Just a closer walk with thee, grant it, Jesus, is my plea,
daily walking close to thee; Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

Through this world of toil and snares, if I falter, Lord, who cares?
Who with me my burden shares? None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee.

Just a closer walk with thee, grant it, Jesus, is my plea,
daily walking close to thee; Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

When my feeble life is o'er, time for me will be no more;
Guide me gently, safely o'er to thy shore, dear Lord, to thy shore.

Just a closer walk with thee, grant it, Jesus, is my plea,
daily walking close to thee; Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

AN ORDER OF FAREWELL FOR A PASTOR

I thank you, the members and friends of Oaklette United Methodist Church, for the love and support you have shown me while I have ministered among you. I am grateful for the ways my leadership has been accepted. I ask forgiveness for the mistakes I have made. As I leave, I carry with me all that I have learned here.

We receive your thankfulness, offer forgiveness, and accept that you now leave to minister elsewhere. We express our gratitude for your time among us. We ask your forgiveness for our mistakes. Your influence on our faith and faithfulness will not leave us with your departure.

I accept your gratitude and forgiveness, and I forgive you, trusting that our time together and our parting are pleasing to God. I release you from turning to me and depending on me. I encourage your continuing ministry here and will pray for you and for your new pastor, Carla Warnock.

Let us pray.

Eternal God, whose steadfast love for us is from everlasting to everlasting, we give you thanks for cherished memories and commend one another into your care as we move in new directions. Keep us one in your love forever, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

UMPH Methodist Publication. The United Methodist Book of Worship: Regular Edition Black (pp. 643-644). United Methodist Publishing House. Kindle Edition.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“A MIGHTY FORTRESS”

DANA MOODY

Today's service is available 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.

The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God in honor of all Fathers.

PARTNERS IN MINISTRY TODAY

Members of the Church

Nursery Care Providers:

Lay Reader: Monica Whitehurst

Prayer partner: Brenda Swoope

Audio-Visual Operator: Kelly & Danny Castelow

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