

⁵ Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. ⁶ But when the sun rose, they were scorched, and since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷ Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸ Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹ If you have ears,^[a] hear!"

SERMON

“THE SEED OR THE SOIL?”

DON MOODY

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

LEADER: The seed of God’s Word has been sown in our hearing today. The Farmer has been generous; the seed is perfect. Now, the harvest depends on the soil. Let us respond by examining our hearts.

PEOPLE: Lord, we hear Your Word. Do not let it sit on the surface of our lives. Break up the hardened paths of our routines, our cynicism, and our pride.

LEADER: Look beneath the surface. Examine the shallow places where enthusiasm hides unconfessed sin, unresolved bitterness, or secret doubts.

PEOPLE: Lord, we hear Your Word. Dig deep into our rocky places. Give us the courage to pull out the hidden stones so that our faith may take deep, lasting root.

LEADER: Look at the crowded spaces. Identify the anxieties, the chasing after wealth, and the digital noise that compete for your time and devotion.

PEOPLE: Lord, we hear Your Word. Give us the strength to weed our hearts. Cut back the distractions that threaten to choke out Your life in us.

LEADER: May our hearts be good soil – plowed by repentance, watered by the Spirit, and open to the truth.

ALL: We receive Your Word, Lord. We commit to the daily work of preparing our hearts, so that Your grace may yield a harvest of revival – thirty, sixty, and a hundredfold. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Jesus said: The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore we ask the Lord to send us out as laborers for the harvest. Let us offer the gifts of our lives to the Lord.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION

Good and holy God, for your steadfast love and faithfulness we give you thanks and bless your name. Let our whole lives become songs of gratitude, joy, and praise so that all the earth may know that we are your people and you are our God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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.



"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 28, 2026

Fifth 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.

PSALM READING

PSALM 65

¹ Praise is due to you,

O God, in Zion,

and to you shall vows be performed,

² O you who answer prayer!

To you all flesh shall come.

³ When deeds of iniquity overwhelm us,

you forgive our transgressions.

⁴ Happy are those whom you choose and bring near

to live in your courts.

We shall be satisfied with the goodness of your house,

your holy temple.

⁵ By awesome deeds you answer us with deliverance,

O God of our salvation;

you are the hope of all the ends of the earth

and of the farthest seas.

⁶ By your^[a] strength you established the mountains;

you are girded with might.

⁷ You silence the roaring of the seas,
the roaring of their waves,
the tumult of the peoples.

⁸ Those who live at earth's farthest bounds are awed by your signs;
you make the gateways of the morning and the evening shout for joy.

⁹ You visit the earth and water it;
you greatly enrich it;

the river of God is full of water;
you provide the people with grain,
for so you have prepared it.

¹⁰ You water its furrows abundantly,
settling its ridges,
softening it with showers,
and blessing its growth.

¹¹ You crown the year with your bounty;
your wagon tracks overflow with richness.

¹² The pastures of the wilderness overflow;
the hills gird themselves with joy;

¹³ the meadows clothe themselves with flocks;
the valleys deck themselves with grain;
they shout and sing together for joy

PASSING OF THE PEACE

MESSAGE FOR GROWING CHRISTIANS

PRELUDE "WE HAVE COME TO WORSHIP"

DANA MOODY

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The Sower goes forth to scatter seeds of grace,

People: Casting them freely in every time and place.

Leader: Let us check the soil of our hearts today,

People: Brushing aside the hardened paths and worries that stray.

Leader: Open our ears to hear and our spirits to receive,

People: That the Word of God may take root and believe.

Leader: Come, let us worship the Lord of the harvest,

People: Whose seeds of love yield a hundredfold!

OPENING PRAYER

"Generous God, you scatter the seeds of Your truth lavishly across our lives. We confess that the soil of our hearts is not always ready. Sometimes we are hardened by the world, sometimes too shallow, and sometimes distracted by the thorns of daily life. Soften our hearts today, Lord. Send Your Holy Spirit to till the ground of our spirits so that Your

Word may take deep root, grow abundantly, and produce a harvest of love, justice, and peace. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen."

.HYMN

"COME THOU FOUNT OF EVERY BLESSING"

#400

1. Come, thou Fount of every blessing; tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above;
praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of God's unchanging love!
2. Here I raise my Ebenezer; hither by thy help I'm come;
and I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.
3. O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be!
Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;
here's my heart; O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Assurance of Pardon)

"Hear the good news: the Sower does not give up on the field. God is patient, continually tilling, watering, and tending to us with unrelenting grace. In Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven, and your hearts are made new. Step forward as good soil, ready to grow in His love. Amen."

PASTORAL PRAYER

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

"REVIVE US AGAIN"

CHANCEL CHOIR

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 9:35-10:8 NRSV

13 That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ² Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³ And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. ⁴ And as he sowed, some seeds fell on a path, and the birds came and ate them up.

I am the church! You are the church! We are the church together!
All who follow Jesus, all around the world! Yes, we're the church together!

1. The church is not a building, the church is not a steeple,
The church is not a resting place, the church is a people.

I am the church! You are the church! We are the church together!
All who follow Jesus, all around the world! Yes, we're the church together!

2. We're many kinds of people, with many kinds of faces,
All colors and all ages, too, from all times and places.

I am the church! You are the church! We are the church together!
All who follow Jesus, all around the world! Yes, we're the church together!

3. Sometimes the church is marching, sometimes it's bravely burning,
Sometimes it's riding, sometimes hiding, always it's learning.

I am the church! You are the church! We are the church together!
All who follow Jesus, all around the world! Yes, we're the church together!

4. And when the people gather, there's singing and there's praying,
There's laughing and there's crying sometimes, all of it saying.

I am the church! You are the church! We are the church together!
All who follow Jesus, all around the world! Yes, we're the church together!

5. At Pentecost some people received the Holy Spirit
And told the Good News through the world to all who would hear it.

I am the church! We are the church! We are the church together!
All who follow Jesus, all around the world! Yes, we're the church together!

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.

PARTNERS IN MINISTRY TODAY

Members of the Church

Nursery Care Providers:

Lay Reader: Monica Whitehurst

Prayer partner: Brenda Swoope

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 Hauptert-Johnson

BENEDICTION

Thank you God for giving us the perfect seed to generate a 100-fold harvest. Thank you for providing the Holy Spirit to help us prepare our soil. Help us to get our hands dirty and our hearts softened to do the work of taking your seed and growing your harvest.