

Let us join your feast, partaking cup of blessing, living bread.
God, renew us, guide our footsteps; free from sin and all its snares,
one with Christ in living, dying, by your Spirit, children, heirs.

O how deep your holy wisdom! Unimagined, all your ways!
To your name be glory, honor! With our lives we worship, praise!
We your people stand before you, water-washed and Spirit-born.
By your grace, our lives we offer. Recreate us; God, transform!

POSTLUDE

“THE ROCK OF SALVATION”

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 Sunday afternoon.

The flowers on the altar are presented to the glory of God by Stella Price in honor of Dana Moody and the beautiful music that lifts our spirits. Thank you for the joy you bring into our lives.

PARTNERS IN MINISTRY TODAY

Members of the Church

Prayer Partner: Brenda Swoope

Lay Reader: Monica Whitehurst

Audio-Visual Operator: Julian Baker

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-Johnso



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.”

March 1, 2026

Second Sunday of Lent



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

JOYS AND CONCERNS AND WHERE WE SEE GOD WORKING IN THE WORLD

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

NUMBERS 21:4-9, NEW LIVING TRANSLATION

Then the people of Israel set out from Mount Hor, taking the road to the Red Sea to go around the land of Edom. But the people grew impatient with the long journey, and they began to speak against God and Moses. “Why have you brought us out of Egypt to die here in the wilderness?” they complained. “There is nothing to eat here and nothing to drink. And we hate this horrible manna!”

So, the Lord sent poisonous snakes among the people, and many were bitten and died. Then the people came to Moses and cried out, “We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you. Pray that the Lord will take away the snakes.” So Moses prayed for the people.

Then the Lord told him, “Make a replica of a poisonous snake and attach it to a pole. All who are bitten will live if they simply look at it!” So Moses made a snake out of bronze and attached it to a pole. Then anyone who was bitten by a snake could look at the bronze snake and be healed!

PRELUDE

“WORD OF GOD SPEAK”

DANA MOODY

PASSING OF THE PEACE

MESSAGE FOR GROWING CHRISTIANS

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)

Children of God, in Lent we remember that our salvation is an unearned gift, that new life is a matter of faith, not of works.

We gather to lay down the burden of trying to earn our salvation.

Like Nicodemus, who met Jesus in the dark of night, we struggle to accept that new life is not just possible but given as a free gift of grace.

We gather to bring our struggles into the light and embrace God's grace with open arms.

Like Paul writing to the Romans, we remember God's promise of new life has always rested on grace.

We gather to receive the promise of salvation by grace through faith.

Like the many who have followed, questioned, and grown in the faith, we submit ourselves to be formed by grace as we work out our salvation day by day.

We gather as people guided by the promise of new life, a promise fulfilled by Christ, whose path we follow.

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

OPENING PRAYER

Infinite Love, heart of all life, you loved this word into being with such love as to birth yourself among us, Love begotten as the Beloved.

Your presence does not separate but unites; love does not push away, but embraces; you do not condemn, but save.

Trusting this, we know we are loved, never rejected. Thanks be to God! Amen.

Adapted from Steve Garnaas-Holmes and posted on Unfolding Light, <https://www.unfoldinglight.net/>. Corporation. Kindle Edition.

HYMN

“TO GOD BE THE GLORY”

#98

To God be the glory, great things he hath done!
So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,
who yielded his life an atonement for sin,
and opened the lifegate that all may go in.

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear his voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father thru Jesus the Son,
And give him the glory, great things he hath done!

O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,
to every believer the promise of God;
the vilest offender who truly believes,
that moment from Jesus a pardon receives.

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear his voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father thru Jesus the Son,
And give him the glory, great things he hath done!

THE LORD'S PRAYER [sung responsively]

Our Father; **Our Father**

In Heaven; **In Heaven**

Holy is Your name; **Holy is Your name.**

Your kingdom come; **Your kingdom come,**

Your will be done; **Your will be done,**

On earth; **On earth,**

As in heaven; **As in heaven.**

Give us today; **Give us today,**

Our daily bread; **Our daily bread.**

And forgive those; **And forgive those,**

Who sin against us; **Who sin against us.**

Save us from the time; **Save us from the time,**

Of trials; **Of trials.**

And deliver us; **And deliver us,**

From evil; **From evil.**

For the kingdom and the power and the glory are Yours forever.

For the kingdom and the power and the glory are Yours forever.

Forever; **Forever,**

And ever; **And ever.**

Our Father; **Our Father**

In Heaven; **In Heaven,**

ALL: Holy is Your name.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

All that we have is a gift from God. In faith and gratitude, we return now a portion of what we have so abundantly received, as grateful heirs of the promises of God.

Long, Kimberly Bracken. Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year A, Volume 1 (p. 103). Presbyterian Publishing Corporation. Kindle Edition.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION

Jesus gave himself for us, God. We'll never equal that with our gifts. Our gifts will never pay you back, but they can say, "Thank you, God." And as we give our lives for others, we let you know that we understand. So, accept our gifts, God of grace, and use our lives however you choose. Amen.

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

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

“WASH, O GOD, OUR SONS AND DAUGHTERS”

#605

Wash, O God, our sons and daughters, where your cleansing waters flow.

Number them among your people; bless as Christ blessed long ago.

Weave them garments bright and sparkling; compass them with love and light.

Fill, anoint them; send your Spirit, holy dove and heart's delight.

We who bring them long for nurture; by your milk may we be fed.

Great things he hath taught us, great things he hath done,
and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;
but purer and higher, and greater will be
our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see.

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear his voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father thru Jesus the Son,
And give him the glory, great things he hath done!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We cannot earn God's grace or favor. It comes to us, not as something owed, but as a gift freely given. Confident in God's love for us, even when we are ungodly, we confess our sins in faith. **Gracious God, we come before you in need of forgiveness and grace. You call us to trust in you completely, but we do not. We are timid and fearful as we follow your lead. We justify our actions and words, though we know they are not what you require. We struggle to understand the new life Christ offers, preferring old habits to risky change. Forgive us, we pray. Help us to be born again into the life of Christ, trusting that you have included us by grace in the family of faith. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.** Friends, God is for us and not against us! For that very reason, God sent the Son into the world not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. Believe the good news, in Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

Long, Kimberly Bracken. Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year A, Volume 1 (pp. 100-101). Presbyterian Publishing Corporation. Kindle Edition.

ANTHEM

“HOW BEAUTIFUL”

CHANCEL CHOIR
KACY BAILEY, SOLOIST

GOSPEL READING

JOHN 3:1-17 CEV

There was a man named Nicodemus who was a Pharisee and a Jewish leader. One night he went to Jesus and said, “Rabbi, we know that God has sent you to teach us. You could not work these miracles, unless God were with you.” Jesus replied, “I tell you for certain that you must be born from above before you can see God's kingdom!”

Nicodemus asked, “How can a grown man ever be born a second time?”

Jesus answered: “I tell you for certain that before you can get into God's kingdom, you must be born not only by water, but by the Spirit. Humans give life to their children. Yet only God's Spirit can change you into a child of God. Don't be surprised when I say that you must be born from above. Only God's Spirit gives new life. The Spirit is like the wind that blows wherever it wants to. You can hear the wind, but you don't know where it comes from or where it is going.”

“How can this be?” Nicodemus asked.

Jesus replied: “How can you be a teacher of Israel and not know these things? I tell you for certain we know what we are talking about because we have seen it ourselves. But none of

you will accept what we say. If you don't believe when I talk to you about things on earth, how can you possibly believe if I talk to you about things in heaven? “No one has gone up to heaven except the Son of Man, who came down from there. And the Son of Man must be lifted up, just as the metal snake was lifted up by Moses in the desert. Then everyone who has faith in the Son of Man will have eternal life. “God loved the people of this world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who has faith in him will have eternal life and never really die. God did not send his Son into the world to condemn its people. He sent him to save them!”

LESSON

“THIS SAYS IT ALL”

Rev. Ned Alderman

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

The Lord's Supper

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Holy One, in this dry and weary land we give you thanks and praise. You provide for us in our need; you set a table for us in the wilderness. Even when we despair and complain against you, you feed us with bread from heaven. Even when we quarrel and question your grace, you give us water from a stone. How can we keep silent? Even dry bones in the valley of death stand to sing your praise:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

We give you thanks and praise for Jesus, our way in the wilderness, our companion in the desert. He knows our hunger and thirst; he gives us the bread of life to eat and living water to drink. He leads us beside still water and prepares this table for us, even in the presence of our enemies.

The cup of blessing overflows!

On the night he was betrayed, Jesus took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, This is my body, given for you.

On that same night he took the cup, saying, This is the new covenant, sealed in my blood. Do this in remembrance of me.

When we eat this bread and drink this cup we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Now pour out your Holy Spirit upon this bread, this cup, this dry and weary land. By the power of your Spirit, breathe life into our dust and hope into our bones. As we receive this bread and cup, make us one flesh and one blood, one in the body of Christ. Let us live to sing your praise and show your love to all, until our wilderness wandering is over, and we feast with you forever in the land that you have promised.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory is yours, O God, now and always. **Amen.**

Long, Kimberly Bracken. Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year A, Volume 1 (pp. 192-193). Presbyterian Publishing Corporation. Kindle Edition.