

## INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Without the breath of life, we are dry bones, and without the word of God, we are dust. With gratitude, let us offer our lives to the lord of all life.

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

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION

**Life-Giving Spirit, you breathe hope into our valleys of despair and call forth life where we saw only dry bones. We come today not out of habit, but out of longing to be part of your work that restores, renews, and redeems. Take these gifts and use them to roll away the stones that keep your people bound. Let them be signs of trust, symbols of resurrection, and tools of transformation in a weary world. May our offering, like our living, lean into your Spirit and testify that life – abundant, eternal, and holy – is possible in you. In Christ, who calls us out of the grave and into your grace, we pray. Amen.**

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

## 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.**

## LENTEN CANTATA

**“THE DAY HE WORE MY CROWN”**

**Director: Dana Moody**

**Narrator: Dr. Daniel Etheridge**

**“CORNERSTONE”**

**Choir**

**“THE DAY HE WORE MY CROWN”**

**Choir**

**“HOSANNA!”**

**Choir**

**ALL GLORY, LAUD AND HONOR”**

**Choir**

**“THERE’S SOMETHING THAT’S DIFFERENT ABOUT HIM”**

**Choir**

**Solo: Debbie Rippard**



***“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 22, 2026***

***Fifth Sunday in 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

## ANOUNCEMENTS

## SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS, INSPIRATION, AND WHERE WE’VE SEEN GOD AT WORK THIS WEEK

## 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

**JOHN 11, selected verses, NRSV**

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. But when Jesus heard it, he said, “This illness does not lead to death; rather, it is for God’s glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.” Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.” Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.” Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?” She said to

him, “Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.”

When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary and told her privately, “The Teacher is here and is calling for you.” And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The Jews who were with her in the house consoling her saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.” When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.” Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, “See how he loved him!” But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?”

Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, “Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days.” Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?” So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, “Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.” When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.”

## PRELUDE

“GETHSEMANE”

DANA MOODY

## MESSAGE FOR GROWING CHRISTIANS

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Some of us come to worship today, weary and worn, heavy with all the circumstances that are too much to bear alone.

**We gather to travel God’s redemption road together.**

Some of us come to worship today, dry and thirsty, longing for relief and peace from the troubles that surround us.

**We gather to travel God’s redemption road together.**

Some of us come to worship today with stories to tell of little resurrections, moments of new life that sprang up when we least expected them.

**We gather to travel God’s redemption road together.**

Beloved, whatever we bring with us to worship today, God welcomes us and calls us to work together as we travel God’s redemption road together.

**We gather to be truth-tellers and life-bringers as we travel God’s redemption road together. Amen.**

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

## OPENING PRAYER

**God of mercy, we come to you dry and lifeless, seeking your breath of life. Lead us to the place where our hopes lie buried and call us out from the tombs of despair. Call forth our faith that we, with Mary, may know you to be the resurrection and the life, in this world and the world to come. Amen.**

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## HYMN

“Lord, Be Glorified”

TFWS #2150

In our lives, Lord, be glorified, be glorified.

In our lives, Lord, be glorified today.

In our homes, Lord, be glorified, be glorified.

In our homes, Lord, be glorified today.

In your church, Lord, be glorified, be glorified.

In your church, Lord, be glorified today.

In your world, Lord, be glorified, be glorified.

In your world, Lord, be glorified today.

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Out of the depths of despair, we cry to you, O God. We are lost in a world of pain and suffering. When we put our trust in weapons of war, we find no peace. When we put our faith in our own resources, we feel the ache of our true needs. When we put our hope in the health of our bodies, we suffer pain and find no healing. Come to us, O God. Forgive our doubts and fears. Heal our brokenness, that we may rejoice in your steadfast love. Amen.**

There is forgiveness and healing with God. God’s steadfast love has the power to redeem our brokenness and make us whole. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

**Glory to God! Amen.**

*Adapted from The Abingdon Worship Annual 2009, © 2008 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.**

**“DO YOU BELIEVE IN ME?”**

**Solo: Julian Baker**

**“SEE HIM THERE”**

**Women’s Choir**

**“MIDNIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE DAY”**

**Men’s Choir**

**Soloists: Jimmy Lee, Ned Alderman**

**“CALVARY”**

**Duet: Kacy Bailey, Grayson Bailey**

**“BEHOLD THE LAMB OF GOD”**

**Choir**

**“THE DAY HE WORE MY CROWN”**

**Choir**

**Solo: Monica Whitehurst**

### **SENDING FORTH**

Beloved, the journey does not end here. As you travel God’s redemption road, go in the blessing of God who persistently breathes new life into dry and weary places, and watch for resurrection to happen when you least expect it. Amen.

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

*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.*

*Today’s flowers 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**