

Today's service is being broadcast on Facebook Live at 11:00 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 today are presented to the glory of God.



PARTNERS IN MINISTRY TODAY

Members of the Church

Prayer Partner: Brenda Swoope

Children's Church – Linda Tandy & Jane Basnight

Lay Reader – Monica Whitehurst

Audio-Visual Operator – Rob 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



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 8, 2026

Third Sunday in Lent



GREETING

JOYS AND CONCERNS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BREAKTHROUGH PRAYER

Loving, sustaining God, like the mighty oak, may our braches 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.

FIRST GOSPEL READING

Matthew 9:35-38 CEB

Jesus traveled among all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, announcing the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and every sickness. Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he had compassion for them because they were troubled and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The size of the harvest is bigger than you can imagine, but there are few workers. Therefore, plead with the Lord of the harvest to send out workers for his harvest."

PRELUDE

"What a Beautiful Savior"

DANA MOODY

PASSING OF THE PEACE

MESSAGE FOR GROWING CHRISTIANS

CALL TO WORSHIP FROM PSALM 95: (responsively)

Come, let's sing out loud to the Lord!

Let's raise a joyful shout to the rock of our salvation!

Let's come before him with thanks!

Let's shout songs of joy to him!

The Lord is a great God, the great king over all other gods.

**The earth's depths are in his hands; the mountain heights belong to him;
the sea, which he made, is his along with the dry ground, which his own
hands formed.**

Come, let's worship and bow down! Let's kneel before the Lord, our maker!

He is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, the sheep in his hands.

OPENING PRAYER

**O God, you pour out your spirit of grace and love. Deliver us from cold
hearts and wandering thoughts, that with burning zeal and steady minds we
may worship you in spirit and truth. Amen.**

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

HYMN

“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”

#126

1. Joyful, joyful, we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love;
hearts unfold like flowers before thee, opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the dark of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.
2. All thy works with joy surround thee, earth and heaven reflect thy rays,
stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird and flowing fountain, call us to rejoice in thee.
3. Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest,
wellspring of the joy of living, ocean depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our brother, all who live in love are thine;
teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine.
4. Mortals, join the mighty chorus which the morning stars began;
love divine is reigning o'er us, binding all within its span.
Ever singing, march we onward, victors in the midst of strife;
joyful music leads us sunward, in the triumph song of life.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

See how the fields are ripe for harvest! Already, God is gathering fruit for eternal life. With rejoicing, let us offer our lives to the Lord.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION

O Lord, you are our God; we are the people of your pasture, the sheep of your hand. As you have fed us with your mercy, may it be our daily bread to do your will. 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.

HYMN “O FOR A HEART TO PRAISE MY GOD” #417
(To the tune of “O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing”)

O for a heart to praise my God, a heart from sin set free,
a heart that always feels thy blood so freely shed for me.

A heart resigned, submissive, meek, my great Redeemer’s throne,
where only Christ is heard to speak, where Jesus reigns alone.

A humble, lowly, contrite, heart, believing, true, and clean,
which neither life nor death can part from Christ who dwells within.

A heart in every thought renewed and full of love divine,
perfect and right and pure and good, a copy, Lord, of thine.

Thy nature, gracious Lord, impart; come quickly from above;
write thy new name upon my heart, thy new, best name of Love.

BENEDICTION

The hour is coming and now is here. Go forth to worship the Lord your God in spirit and in truth, in all that you say and do.

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

God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the gift of the Holy Spirit. Trusting in God’s overflowing grace, let us confess our sin.

Lord, you know who we are. You know everything we have done. We thirst for things that will never satisfy us. We commit ourselves to things that will never last. We worship things that will never bring salvation. Still, you offer us the gift of living water. Still, you offer us the gift of eternal life. Forgive us, O Lord, and give us this living water, so that we may never thirst again. Amen.

This is the good news of God’s grace: Though we were sinners, Christ died for us. Though we were enemies of God, God loved us. Once we were lost and dead – now Christ has become our life and salvation. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

Long, Kimberly Bracken. Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year A, Volume 1 (pp. 105-106). 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 “Carry Your Cross” CHANCEL CHOIR

GOSPEL LESSON John 4:5-42 CEB

He came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, which was near the land Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob’s well was there. Jesus was tired from his journey, so he sat down at the well. It was about noon.

A Samaritan woman came to the well to draw water. Jesus said to her, “Give me some water to drink.” His disciples had gone into the city to buy him some food.

The Samaritan woman asked, “Why do you, a Jewish man, ask for something to drink from me, a Samaritan woman?” (Jews and Samaritans didn’t associate with each other.)

Jesus responded, “If you recognized God’s gift and who is saying to you, ‘Give me some water to drink,’ you would be asking him and he would give you living water.”

The woman said to him, “Sir, you don’t have a bucket and the well is deep. Where would you get this living water? You aren’t greater than our father Jacob, are you? He gave this well to us, and he drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock.”

Jesus answered, “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks from the water that I will give will never be thirsty again. The water that I give will become in those who drink it a spring of water that bubbles up into eternal life.”

The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water, so that I will never be thirsty and will never need to come here to draw water!”

Jesus said to her, “Go, get your husband, and come back here.”

The woman replied, “I don’t have a husband.”

“You are right to say, ‘I don’t have a husband,’” Jesus answered.

“You’ve had five husbands, and the man you are with now isn’t your husband. You’ve spoken the truth.”

The woman said, “Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshipped on this mountain, but you and your people say that it is necessary to worship in Jerusalem.”

Jesus said to her, “Believe me, woman, the time is coming when you and your people will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You and your people worship what you don’t know; we worship what we know because salvation is from the Jews. But the time is coming – and is here! – when true worshippers will worship in spirit and truth. The Father looks for those who worship him this way. God is spirit, and it is necessary to worship God in spirit and truth.”

The woman said, “I know that the Messiah is coming, the one who is called the Christ. When he comes, he will teach everything to us.”

Jesus said to her, “I Am – the one who speaks with you.”

Just then, Jesus’ disciples arrived and were shocked that he was talking with a woman. But no one asked, “What do you want?” or “Why are you talking with her?” The woman put down her water jar and went into the city. She said to the people, “Come and see a man who has told me everything I’ve done! Could this man be the Christ?” They left the city and were on their way to see Jesus.

In the meantime, the disciples spoke to Jesus, saying, “Rabbi, eat.”

Jesus said to them, “I have food to eat that you don’t know about.”

The disciples asked each other, “Has someone brought him food?”

Jesus said to them, “I am fed by doing the will of the one who sent me and by completing his work. Don’t you have a saying, ‘Four more months and then it’s

time for harvest’? Look, I tell you: open your eyes and notice that the fields are already ripe for the harvest. Those who harvest are receiving their pay and gathering fruit for eternal life so that those who sow and those who harvest can celebrate together. This is a true saying, that one sows and another harvests. I have sent you to harvest what you didn’t work hard for; others worked hard, and you will share in their hard work.”

Many Samaritans in that city believed in Jesus because of the woman’s word when she testified, “He told me everything I’ve ever done.” So when the Samaritans came to Jesus, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. Many more believed because of his word, and they said to the woman, “We no longer believe because of what you said, for we have heard for ourselves and know that this one is truly the savior of the world.”

LESSON “‘Join Me in the Work,’ Jesus Says.” Rev. Ned Alderman

STATEMENT OF FAITH

In defiance of corruption and falsehood,

we commit to truth and integrity and we pray for honesty and uprightness to increase in our world.

In defiance of apathy and hatred,

we choose to be proactive in love and we pray for understanding and peace to increase in our world.

In defiance of skepticism and cynicism,

we embrace the mystery of faith and we pray for humility and wonder to increase in our world.

In defiance of self-interest and human arrogance,

we celebrate God’s salvation and we pray for compassion and faith to increase in our world.

In defiance of all that would oppose God’s purpose among us,

we choose again to follow Christ and we continue to pray, not just now but at all times.

Amen.

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GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.