



"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."

May 3, 2026
Fifth Sunday of Easter



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

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

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.

FIRST GOSPEL READING

John 14:15-21, CEB

"If you love me, you will keep my commandments. I will ask the Father, and he will send another Companion, who will be with you forever. This Companion is the Spirit of Truth, whom the world can't receive because it neither sees him nor recognizes him. You know him, because he lives with you and will be with you.

"I won't leave you as orphans. I will come to you. Soon the world will no longer see me, but you will see me. Because I live, you will live too. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, you are in me, and I am in you. Whoever has my commandments and keeps them loves me. Whoever loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

PRELUDE

"I WAITED FOR THE LORD"

DANA MOODY

PASSING OF THE PEACE

MESSAGE FOR GROWING CHRISTIANS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Easter people, in the midst of our questions and doubts, Jesus answers:

I am the way, the truth, and the life.

In the midst of our worry and distress, Jesus assures us:

I am the way, the truth, and the life.

In the midst of misinformation, confusion, and distrust, Jesus reminds us:

I am the way, the truth, and the life.

In the midst of dead ends and impossible challenges, Jesus shows us:

I am the way, the truth, and the life.

Come, let us worship as we learn to follow Christ, our way, our truth, and our life.

Come, let us worship! Thanks be to God! Amen.

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

OPENING PRAYER

Ever-gracious, Way-Making God, we celebrate the gifts of your Spirit. You have not fed us a diet of shame or shrinking, but with the milk of your truth, you have made us strong and faithful servants of Christ.

You call us to take up the mantle of justice and to follow wherever faith leads us. You fill us with strength and hope, and you invite us to share in the cost and joys of discipleship. You promise us splendor and beauty in this life and in the world to come.

Meet us here, we pray, that your word will be fulfilled in our hearing and that your Spirit will fill us with courage. Amen.

Written by Rev. Elizabeth Dilley on the Worship Ways (United Church of Christ) website at https://www.ucc.org/worship-way/easter_5_may_10/.

HYMN

"I COME WITH JOY"

#617

I come with joy to meet my Lord, forgiven, loved and free,
in awe and wonder to recall his life laid down for me,
his life laid down for me.

I come with Christians far and near to find, as all are fed,
the new community of love in Christ's communion bread,
in Christ's communion bread.

As Christ breaks bread and bids us share, each proud division ends.
The love that made us makes us one, and strangers now are friends,
and strangers now are friends.

And thus with joy we meet our Lord. His presence, always near,
is in such friendship better known; we see and praise him here,
we see and praise him here.

Together met, together bound, we'll go our different ways,
and as his people in the world, we'll live and speak his praise,
we'll live and speak his praise.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God: We claim that you sent Jesus to us to take away the sin of the world and to say that we are part of that sin. Maybe our small errors add up; or maybe there is no degree to sin, that one is as hurtful as another.

Help us not to dwell on vocabulary. Help us not to focus on what sin means but to acknowledge that we do things that hurt other people, and the creation, and ourselves, and you. Come into our hearts, then, and give us strength and courage to be less hurtful and more loving. These things we pray in the name of Jesus, who showed us how this is done. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Friends, hear the good news: Jesus came not to condemn us, but to love us and save us and show us the way. Know that we are forgiven and be at peace.

Alleluia! Amen.

Written by Beth Merrill Neel on her blog, "Hold Fast to What Is Good."

ANTHEM "THIS IS THE TABLE SET FOR YOU" CHANCEL CHOIR

GOSPEL READING JOHN 14:1-14 CEB

"Don't be troubled. Trust in God. Trust also in me. My Father's house has room to spare. If that weren't the case, would I have told you that I'm going to prepare a place for you? When I go to prepare a place for you, I will return and take you to be with me so that where I am you will be too. You know the way to the place I'm going."

Thomas asked, "Lord, we don't know where you are going. How can we know the way?"

Jesus answered, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you have really known me, you will also know the Father. From now on you know him and have seen him.”

Philip said, “Lord, show us the Father; that will be enough for us.”

Jesus replied, “Don’t you know me, Philip, even after I have been with you all this time? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Don’t you believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words I have spoken to you I don’t speak on my own. The Father who dwells in me does his works. Trust me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or at least believe on account of the works themselves. I assure you that whoever believes in me will do the works that I do. They will do even greater works than these because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask for in my name, so that the Father can be glorified in the Son. When you ask me for anything in my name, I will do it.”

LESSON

“EXHORTED”

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.

It is right, it is good, and it is joyful to give thanks to you, God of mystery and miracle.

When there was only darkness, you made light. When we cried out to you from captivity, you claimed us as your own. When we forgot our love for you, you did not forget us, sending your prophets to turn us around and renewing your promises with a bow in the sky, the parting of the sea, your own Son.

And so we praise you, tuning our voices to the angels’ songs, joining all those who sing on earth and in heaven:

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

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Thank you for Jesus – for his teaching and healing, his challenging and feeding, his living and dying and rising, that we might be raised with him, and all the world made new.

We thank you that on the night before he died, he took bread, gave thanks, and broke it,

and shared it with his friends, saying, take, eat – my body broken for you.
Thank you for the way he took the cup, the new covenant sealed in his blood, shed for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you eat and drink, he said, do it in remembrance of me.
With thanksgiving we take this bread and wine, gifts of the good earth, offering ourselves as a living sacrifice dedicated to your service.

Dying, you destroyed our death; rising, you restored our life. Lord Jesus, come in glory.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on your people gathered here and on these gifts – bread and wine of earth, to body and blood of heaven; our frail flesh and blood to your holy people, that we might be Christ's body to your world.

For this world we now pray: end all war, mend your wounded earth, heal those who suffer, comfort those who mourn, and infuse us with your peace that is rooted in what is just.

Through the power of your Spirit unite us with Christ and with one another as we work and wait in hope, confident in that day when Christ will come to make all things well and we will feast together at his heavenly table.

All glory and honor are yours, Holy God, through Christ and in the unity of the Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year C, Volume 2; copyright 2013 by Westminster John Knox Press

The Lord's Prayer [sung]

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

Loving God, you have made us your people, so that we may speak of your wonderful acts. With gratitude for all we have received, we have come to offer our gifts to you.

*Scifres, Mary; Beu, B.J.. The Abingdon Worship Annual 2020: Worship Planning Resources for Every Sunday of the Year (p. 113).
Abingdon Press. Kindle Edition.*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION

Way-Making God, your offer to us is not just to believe in heaven, but to live the kingdom life here and now. Through Jesus, you show us the way, the truth, and the life – calling us to deeper trust, wider welcome, and greater works of grace. As we bring our gifts, we step into that life, choosing generosity over fear and hope over judgment. Use these offerings, and use us, to make your dwelling places visible in our community, in our compassion, in our courage. We give, because we’ve heard your voice. In Christ’s name. 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.**

HYMN

“WOMB OF LIFE”

TFWS #2046

Womb of life, and source of being, home of every restless heart,
in your arms the worlds awakened; you have loved us from the start.

We, your children, gather ‘round you, at the table you prepare.
Sharing stories, tears, and laughter, we are nurtured by your care.

Word in flesh, our brother Jesus, born to bring us second birth,
you have come to stand beside us, knowing weakness, knowing earth.
Priest who shares our human struggles, Life of Life and Death of Death,
Risen Christ, come stand among us, send the Spirit by your breath.

Brooding Spirit, move among us; be our partner, be our friend.
When our memory fails, remind us whose we are, what we intend.
Labor with us, aid the birthing of the new world yet to be,
free of servant, lord, and master, free for love and unity.

Mother, Brother, Holy Partner; Father, Spirit, Only Son:
we would praise your name forever, One in three, and Three in one.
We would share your life, your passion, hear your word of world made new,
ever singing, ever praising, one with all, and one with you.

BENEDICTION

May the mystery of God inspire you to journey into new places with the Lord.
May a sense of discovery fill your heart. And may experiences with God the Creator,
Redeemer, and Sustainer bring you life. Amen.

Mosser, David. The Abingdon Preaching Annual 2011 (p. 173). Abingdon Press. Kindle Edition.

POSTLUDE

“HERE AT YOUR TABLE LORD “

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.

PARTNERS IN MINISTRY TODAY

Members of the Church

Nursery Care Providers: Joanne Rooks & Nancy Helsel

Lay Reader: Debbie Rippard

Prayer partner: Brenda Swoope

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-Johnson