

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.

The Food Basket before the altar is presented to the glory of God.

The flowers on the altar are presented to the glory of God by Barbara Bennett, in honor of Chris Bennett on his birthday, Nov. 29.



PARTNERS IN MINISTRY TODAY

Members of the Church

Nursery Care Providers: Lisa Maddrey-Ryno and Brooks Ryno

Prayer Partner:

Lay Reader: Debbie Rippard

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

CCLI License #1625684



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."

November 30, 2025

First Sunday in Advent



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

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.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 2:1-5, NRSV

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths."

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation; neither shall they learn war any more.

O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Jo Ann Rooks

The prophet Isaiah calls to us from the past to imagine the future when God’s reign will be fully realized and recognized throughout creation. When that time comes, God “shall judge between the nations and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation; neither shall they learn war any more.”

Today, we choose to live in hope, believing that the time of God’s reign has come and is coming among us.

We light this candle of hope as a sign of our promise to follow the Light as we answer God’s call to transform our hope into reality today and in the days to come.

PRELUDE “PRELUDE I FROM L’ART DE TOUCHER LE CLAVECIN”
MONICA WHITEHURST

PASSING OF THE PEACE

MESSAGE FOR GROWING CHRISTIANS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Blow the horn in Zion;
give a shout on my holy mountain!
Let all the people of the land tremble,
for the day of the Lord is coming.
It is near –
come, let us worship God.

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

OPENING PRAYER

Gracious God, your vision of peace and wholeness comes to us in sweeping revelations and in tiny signs of hope. Kindle our hearts that we may be a hopeful people. Keep us from growing weary of waiting lest we miss the glory of your appearing.
Even so, come quickly, O God. Amen.

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

HYMN	“TELL OUT, MY SOUL”	#200
	Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord! Unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice; tender to me the promise of God’s word; In God my Savior shall my heart rejoice	

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of God’s name! Make known God’s might, who wondrous deeds has done; God’s mercy sure, from age to age the same;
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God Incarnate, we are waiting for the feast day of your birth.
Looking back and looking forward to the Christ’s return to earth.
Help us to proclaim the gospel, ’til the world is reconciled.
Let us set your holy table for each woman, man, and child.

God the Spirit, we are waiting for your presence here and now.
Humbled by our sinful weakness, at Your mercy we will bow.
Search our hearts and make us ready, speak in language strong and mild,
help each one of us, your people, to receive you like a child.

CCLI Song # 7169484
Ann Bell Worley | Rowland Hugh Prichard
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BENEDICTION

Advent people, go from this place in the blessing of God who journeys with us, guiding our path as we wait, watch, and work for the day when we beat swords into plowshares and follow the path of peace until God’s kingdom comes on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

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

POSTLUDE	“BORN AGAIN”	MONICA WHITEHURST
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understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

LESSON “WHAT WOULD JESUS SAY IS UP TO US?” NED ALDERMAN

RESPONSE TO THE WORD PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Sisters and brothers in Christ, for the sake of the world that God so loves, let us pray. Pray for the peace of Jerusalem.

We pray for peace in every nation – that people will turn their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks and study war no more.

Pray for the peace of the church.

We pray for peace in Christ’s body – put an end to fear and fighting, and help us to proclaim in word and action the good news of salvation to all.

Pray for the peace of this community.

We pray for peace in this place – for safety in our homes and streets, for the prosperity of our neighbors, and for the health of family and friends.

God of the future, make us ready for the coming of your reign, when you will bring everlasting peace and renew the face of the earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Long, Kimberly Bracken. Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year A, Volume 1 (pp. 2-3). Presbyterian Publishing Corporation. Kindle Edition.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Come with gratitude and joy to the table of the Lord. Bring the works of your hands and the gifts of your lives as an offering of praise.

Long, Kimberly Bracken. Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year A, Volume 1 (pp. 2-3). Presbyterian Publishing Corporation. Kindle Edition.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING/DEDICATION

Although we do not know the day or time of your coming, dear God, we know that now is the time to be your children of light. Receive the gifts we bring. Transform them into light for the world, into signs of peace and hope for all to see. Amen.

The Abingdon Preaching Annual 2010, copyright 2009 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 “GOD ALMIGHTY, WE ARE WAITING” #3047

God Almighty, we are waiting for a savior to appear.
Meet us in our desert journey; give a sign that you are near:
burning bushes, parted waters, food aplenty in the wild.
As we look for signs and wonders, help us see you in a child.

God’s holy name, the Lord, the mighty One.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of God’s might!
Powers and dominions lay their glory by;
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,
The hungry fed, the humble lifted high

Tell out, my soul, the glories of His Word!
Firm is the promise and God’s mercy sure.
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!
To children's children and for evermore

CCLI Song # 27051

Timothy Dudley-Smith | Walter Greatedorex

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PRAYER OF CONFESSION [unison]

Holy One, you call us to wake from sleep, to become aware to our surroundings. The dawn of a new time of preparation is upon us. Forgive us when sleepiness takes its toll, when our discussions become battles, when our judgment and self-judgement outweigh our faith. Let us put on the light of Christ and live as You have called us in respect, in mutual dialogue, and in healthy living. Help us so that everything we do reflects Christ’s light. Amen.

Posted on Fight the Bees. Reposted on the re:Worship blog at <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2013/10/prayer-of-confession-wake-from-sleep.html>.

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 “A LIVING PRAYER” MONICA WHITEHURST

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 24:36-44, NRSV

“But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in the days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken, and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But