

3. Trials dark on every hand, and we cannot understand
all the ways that God would lead us to that blessed promised land;
but he guides us with his eye, and we'll follow till we die,
for we'll understand it better by and by.

Refrain

GATHERING PRAYER/BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“REJOICE O THOU MY SOUL”

DANA MOODY

References: Call to Worship: Written by Beth Merrill Neel on her blog, 'Hold Fast to What is Good'. Used with permission.”

Witt, Rev. Jeffrey A. (2016) Twelve Faith Lessons: Taught by Stone Stories

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 by Stella Price in honor of
Oaklette United Methodist Church

PARTNERS IN MINISTRY TODAY

Members of the Church

Lay Reader: Monica Whitehurst

Prayer partner: Brenda Swoope

Audio-Visual Operator: Danny & Kelly Castellow

Music Director: Dana Moody

Greeter: Joanne Rooks

Pastor: Rev. Carla Warnock

Administrative Assistant: Eileen Ballance

Financial Secretary: Edna Bess

Coastal Virginia Dist. Superintendent: Rev. Beth Givens

Resident Bishop, Richmond Area: Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson

Rev. Carla Warnock

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"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.”

September 20 2026

Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost

Welcome to our church. All are welcome in the house of the Lord.

REFLECTION

“O HOW BLESSED ARE YE”

DANA MOODY

GATHERING HYMN

“IMMORTAL, INVISIBLE, GOD ONLY WISE”

#103

1. Immortal, invisible, God only wise, in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.
2. Unresting, unchanging, and silent as light, nor wanting,
nor wasting, thou rulest in might,
thy justice like mountains high soaring above,
thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.
3. To all, life thou givest, to both great and small, in all life thou livest, the true life of all;
we blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,
and wither and perish, but naught changeth thee.
4. Thou reignest in glory; thou dwellest in light;
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;
all laud we would render: O help us to see 'tis only
the splendor of light hideth thee.

GREETING

WELCOME GUESTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING PRAYER

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.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: In the light of this day we have gathered;
People: **We are a community that is one, bringing our questions and our joy.**
Leader: In the song and silence we will listen -
People: **What is it that God would have us hear this day?**
Leader: In our praise and our prayers we will remember
People: **that God’s glory shines around us and within.**
Leader: So let us worship God.

WORSHIP HYMN “SHALL WE GATHER AT THE RIVER” #723, vv. 1,2,4

1. Shall we gather at the river, where bright angel feet have trod,
with its crystal tide forever flowing by the throne of God?
Refrain
Yes, we’ll gather at the river, the beautiful, the beautiful river;
gather with the saints at the river that flows by the throne of God.
2. On the margin of the river, washing up its silver spray,
we will walk and worship ever, all the happy golden day.
Refrain
4. Soon we’ll reach the shining river, soon our pilgrimage will cease;
soon our happy hearts will quiver with the melody of peace.
Refrain

MESSAGE FOR GROWING CHRISTIANS

JOYS, CONCERNS, & WHERE WE’VE SEEN INSPIRATION & THE WORK OF GOD THIS WEEK

PASTORAL PRAYER

ANTHEM	“GREAT AND WONDERFUL”	CHANCEL CHOIR
SCRIPTURE	JOSHUA 4:1-9 (CEB)	

TWELVE STONES AT GILGAL

When the entire nation had finished crossing over the Jordan, the Lord said to Joshua, “Pick twelve men from the people, one man per tribe. Command them, ‘Pick up twelve stones from right here in the middle of the Jordan, where the feet of the priests had been firmly planted. Bring them across with you and put them down in the camp where you are staying tonight.’”

Joshua called for the twelve men he had appointed from the Israelites, one man per tribe. Joshua said to them, “Cross over into the middle of the Jordan, up to the Lord your God’s chest. Each of you lift up a stone on his shoulder to match the number of the tribes of the Israelites. This will be a symbol among you. In the future your children may ask, ‘What do these stones mean to you?’ Then you will tell them that the water of the Jordan was cut off before the Lord’s covenant chest. When it crossed over the Jordan, the water of the Jordan was cut off. These stones will be an enduring memorial for the Israelites.”

The Israelites did exactly what Joshua ordered. They lifted twelve stones from the middle of the Jordan, matching the number of the tribes of the Israelites, exactly as the Lord had said to Joshua. They brought them over to the camp and put them down there. Joshua also set up twelve stones in the middle of the Jordan where the feet of the priests had stood while carrying the covenant chest. They are still there today.

MESSAGE “REMEMBRANCE STONES-STONES AT GILGAL”
REV. CARLA WARNOCK

INTERLUDE
OFFERING PRAYER

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.

A MODERN AFFIRMATION

Pastor: Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is the one true church, apostolic and universal, whose holy faith let us now declare:

All: **We believe in God the Father, infinite in wisdom, power, and love, whose mercy is over all his works, and whose will is ever directed to his children’s good.**

We believe in Jesus Christ, Son of God and Son of man, the gift of the Father’s unfailing grace, the ground of our hope, and the promise of our deliverance from sin and death.

We believe in the Holy Spirit as the divine presence in our lives, whereby we are kept in perpetual remembrance of the truth of Christ, and find strength and help in time of need.

We believe that this faith should manifest itself in the service of love as set forth in the example of our blessed Lord, to the end that the kingdom of God may come upon the earth. Amen.

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.

CLOSING HYMN “WE’LL UNDERSTAND IT BETTER BY AND BY” #525, vv.1, 3

1. We are tossed and driven on the restless sea of time;
somber skies and howling tempests oft succeed a bright sunshine;
in that land of perfect day, when the mists have rolled away,
we will understand it better by and by.

Refrain

By and by, when the morning comes, when the saints of God are gathered home,
we’ll tell the story how we’ve overcome, for we’ll understand it better by and by.