Obey this order without fault or failure until the appearance of our Lord Jesus Christ. The timing of this appearance is revealed by God alone, who is the blessed and only master, the King of kings and Lord of lords. He alone has immortality and lives in light that no one can come near. No human being has ever seen or is able to see him. Honor and eternal power belong to him. Amen.

Tell people who are rich at this time not to become egotistical and not to place their hope on their finances, which are uncertain. Instead, they need to hope in God, who richly provides everything for our enjoyment. Tell them to do good, to be rich in the good things they do, to be generous, and to share with others. When they do these things, they will save a treasure for themselves that is a good foundation for the future. That way they can take hold of what is truly life.

# LESSON "RICH AT THIS TIME"

Rev. Ned Alderman

#### RESPONSE TO THE WORD – PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

Answer us, O Lord, when we call on you; show us your salvation. Hear our prayer, O Lord, our refuge and fortress, our God, in whom we trust: For those who are under siege from war or illness or any adversity – give them faith and hope for the future you are preparing.

For those who live in fear of terror in the night or destruction in the day – be with them in trouble and satisfy them with long life. For those who live in comfort and ease, satisfied with gluttony, drunk with power, wasting their days with idle pastimes – show them the evil of their ways and the end that is coming if they do not repent. For those who are hungry or oppressed, those in prison, or burdened by heavy labor, for the orphan, the widow, and the immigrant – give them food and freedom, justice and joy, watch over them and show them your welcome. Merciful God, we offer you these prayers in the confidence that you alone have the grace to receive us and the power to deliver us; through Jesus Christ, who has risen from the dead. **Amen.** 

#### INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

We brought nothing into the world, so that we can take nothing out of the world. Let us give both the gifts we have been given and our truest selves with glad and generous hearts.

#### **OFFERING PRAYER**

God who gives life to all things, and richly provides us with everything, use these, our offerings, to take hold of, and show us, the life that really is. Amen.

Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year C, Volume 2 © 2012 Westminster John Knox 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.



# 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."

# September 28 2025 Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost



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. [†] = Invites persons to stand as they are able.

#### **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.

GOSPEL READING

John 18:33-37 [CEB]

Pilate went back into the palace. He summoned Jesus and asked, "Are you the king of the Jews?"

Jesus answered, "Do you say this on your own or have others spoken to you about me?"

Pilate responded, "I'm not a Jew, am I? Your nation and its chief priests handed you over to me. What have you done?"

Jesus replied, "My kingdom doesn't originate from this world. If it did, my guards would fight so that I wouldn't have been arrested by the Jewish leaders. My kingdom isn't from here."

"So you are a king?" Pilate said.

Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. I was born and came into the world for this reason: to testify to the truth. Whoever accepts the truth listens to my voice."

PRELUDE "Album Leaf" DANA MOODY

PASSING OF THE PEACE

MESSAGE FOR GROWING CHRISTIANS

**CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)** 

<u>Lay Reader</u>: Praise the Lord! Let my whole being praise the Lord!

<u>People:</u> I will praise the Lord with all my life; I will sing praises to my God as long as I live. Lay Reader: Don't trust leaders; don't trust any human beings – there's no saving help with

them!

<u>People</u>: Their breath leaves them, then they go back to the ground. On that very same day, their plans die too.

<u>Lay Reader</u>: The person whose help is the God of Jacob – the person whose hope rests on the Lord their God – is truly happy!

<u>People</u>: God: the maker of heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, God: who is faithful forever, who gives justice to people who are oppressed, who gives bread to people who are starving!

<u>Lay Reader</u>: The Lord: who frees prisoners. The Lord: who makes the blind see. The Lord: who straightens up those who are bent low. The Lord: who loves the righteous. The Lord: who protects immigrants, who helps orphans and widows, but who makes the way of the wicked twist and turn!

<u>People</u>: The Lord will rule forever! Zion, your God will rule from one generation to the next! Praise the Lord!

# **OPENING PRAYER (in unison)**

Eternal God, the refuge and help of all your children, we praise you for all you have given us, for all you have done for us, for all that you are to us. In our weakness, you are strength, in our darkness, you are light, in our sorrow, you are comfort and peace. We cannot number your blessings, we cannot declare your love: For all your blessings, we bless you. May we live as in your presence, and love the things that you love, and serve you in our daily lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Written by St. Boniface (ca. 672-754). Posted on the re:Worship blog at https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2014/06/prayer-of-saint-boniface.html.

# **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, unhasting, 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 changest 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.

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious and generous God, you lavishly bestow the gift of your love. Forgive us, we pray—when we don't see or recognize your gifts for what they are; when we think we have somehow earned or are entitled to your generosity; when we take what you give and beg you for more; when we hoard our gifts and do not hear the mournful cry of those around us; when our desire for more plunges us into ruin and destruction. Teach us the ways of godliness, and grant us a spirit of contentment, that we may be grateful for your provision and share the gifts you have with others. As we are blessed by you, so may we be a blessing to others, in the name of your matchless gift, our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

People of God, do not set your hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but rather on the richness of God, who provides everything for our enjoyment. Be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

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#### 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 "What a Friend We Have in Jesus" CHANCEL CHOIR
Trio: Shellene Castellow, Kay Hill, Julian Baker

#### EPISTLE READING

1 Timothy 6:5-19 CEB

There is constant bickering between people whose minds are ruined and who have been robbed of the truth. They think that godliness is a way to make money. Actually, godliness is a great source of profit when it is combined with being happy with what you already have. We didn't bring anything into the world and so we can't take anything out of it: we'll be happy with food and clothing. But people who are trying to get rich fall into temptation. They are trapped by many stupid and harmful passions that plunge people into ruin and destruction. The love of money is the root of all kinds of evil.

Some have wandered away from the faith and have impaled themselves with a lot of pain because they made money their goal.

But as for you, man of God, run away from all these things. Instead, pursue righteousness, holy living, faithfulness, love, endurance, and gentleness. Compete in the good fight of faith. Grab hold of eternal life – you were called to it, and you made a good confession of it in the presence of many witnesses. I command you in the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and Christ Jesus, who made the good confession when testifying before Pontius Pilate.

HYMN "How Shall I Come Before the Lord #3124

- 1. How shall I come before the Lord and bow myself with heart outpoured?
  And shall I come with offering?
  What shall I give? What shall I bring?
- 2. Will finest gifts bring God's delight? Will wealth bring favor in God's sight? What must we be? What must we do? What does the Lord require of you?
- 3. Let justice shine in all your ways. Let loving kindness rule your days, that, as this earthly path you trod, you shall walk humbly with your God.

#### BENEDICTION

Brothers and sisters, go to live with God every moment of each day. May the love of God, the peace of Christ, and the guidance of the Holy Spirit, help us to build strong, faithful, relationships. Go in peace. Amen.

Beu, B.J.; Scifres, Mary. The Abingdon Worship Annual 2019: Worship Planning Resources for Every Sunday of the Year (p. 213).

Abingdon Press. Kindle Edition.

**POSTLUDE** "The Glory of God in Nature"

DANA MOODY

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



### **PARTNERS IN MINISTRY TODAY**

Members of the Church
Prayer Partner: Sandy Carraway
Lay Reader – Kelly Castellow
Nursery: Debbie & David Rippard
Audio-Visual Operator – Ericka Litten
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 Haupert-Johnson