



Accompaniment Play List and Sermon available on YouTube at

<http://bit.ly/OUMC02-02-2025>

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Hebrews 12: 1-3 WEB

¹ Therefore let's also, seeing we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, lay aside every weight and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let's run with perseverance the race that is set before us, ² looking to Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy that was set

before him endured the cross, despising its shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. ³ For consider him who has endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, that you don't grow weary, fainting in your souls.

INTROIT "Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed" (UMH #359-Refrain) https://youtu.be/SBO_oqt1GBg

At the cross, at the cross,
where I first saw the light,
and the burden of my heart rolled away;

it was there by faith I received my sight,
and now I am happy all the day.

OPENING PRAYER

Oh Lord our God, you have sent Your only Son as the Word of life for our eyes to see and our ears to hear. Help us to believe with joy what the

Scriptures proclaim and to worship you in Spirit and in Truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

AFFIRMATION "The Apostles' Creed" UMH # 881

I believe in God the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth;
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord:
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
the third day he rose from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father

Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. 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.

HYMN UMH #349 "Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus"² <https://youtu.be/eeis3DAJ7w0>

Turn your eyes upon Jesus
look full in His wonderful face
and the things of earth
will grow strangely dim
in the light of His glory and grace.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Psalm 147 WEB

¹ Paul, called to be an apostle of Jesus Christ t
Praise Yah,

for it is good to sing praises to our God;
for it is pleasant and fitting to praise him.

² Yahweh builds up Jerusalem.

He gathers together the outcasts of Israel.

³ He heals the broken in heart,
and binds up their wounds.

⁴ He counts the number of the stars.
He calls them all by their names.

⁵ Great is our Lord, and mighty in power.
His understanding is infinite.

JOYS & CONCERNS and MORNING PRAYER

O holy One, we come to you in need of your leading and instruction. We so often become bogged down in the details of life and forget to see the bigger picture of life and its needs. We so often give ourselves to what we think is necessary and fail to see what is needful. Forgive us our short-sightedness and save us from our spiritual myopia.

We have been reminded today of how Jesus met needs all about him but did not succumb to the tyranny of demands and many clamoring voices. Help us to follow his example.

Whereas we tend to think in terms of doing things primarily where we live he thought of people elsewhere who had needs.

Whereas we tend to take our signals from others he took his direction from within.

Whereas we tend to live life at a frenetic pace he went out to the desert alone and prayed to find renewal.

Whereas we tend to be provincial in the scope of our concerns he thought of other communities who needed the good news.

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.

As we walk the Christian journey we pray that you will provide us a greater vision. Interrupt our frenetic activity. Help us to find the creative spiritual pause which will make clearer our mission and refresh us for it. Help us to see all people as your people and to know that we have the responsibility to love them. Help us to have the courage to change the way we have gone about life and to make it both more rewarding and more fruitful.

Lord as we come into you house and gather in your name we know there are those who do not know your son Jesus as their Lord and Savior ... we also know there are many going through trials and tribulations... facing all sorts of troubles in life... names we lift to your hearing in both heart and voice... Place your healing hand upon all these and give them the blessing that they need... and help us to be a blessing to those in need... that we might reach out in your name and witness to your great love each and every day. We pray all this is the name of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior, who taught us to pray...

HYMN UMH #359

"Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed"

<https://youtu.be/tGnxE5zpxLE>

1. Alas! and did my Savior bleed,
and did my Sovereign die?
Would he devote that sacred head
for sinners such as I?

Refrain:

At the cross, at the cross,
where I first saw the light,
and the burden of my heart rolled away;
it was there by faith I received my sight,
and now I am happy all the day.

2. Was it for crimes that I have done,
he groaned upon the tree?
Amazing pity! Grace unknown!
And love beyond degree! (Refrain)

3. Well might the sun in darkness hide,
and shut its glories in,
when God, the mighty maker, died
for his own creature's sin. (Refrain)

4. Thus might I hide my blushing face
while his dear cross appears;
dissolve my heart in thankfulness,
and melt mine eyes to tears. (Refrain)

5. But drops of tears can ne'er repay
the debt of love I owe.
Here, Lord, I give myself away;
'tis all that I can do. (Refrain)

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Mark 1:29-39 WEB

²⁹ Immediately, when they had come out of the synagogue, they came into the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. ³⁰ Now Simon's wife's mother lay sick with a fever, and immediately they told him about her. ³¹ He came and took her by the hand and raised her up. The fever left her immediately, and she served them. ³² At evening, when the sun had set, they brought to him all who were sick and those who were possessed by demons. ³³ All the city was gathered together at the door. ³⁴ He healed many who were sick with various diseases and cast out many demons. He didn't allow the demons to speak, because they knew him.

³⁵ Early in the morning, while it was still dark, he rose up and went out, and departed into a deserted place, and prayed there. ³⁶ Simon and those who were with him searched for him. ³⁷ They found him and told him, "Everyone is looking for you." ³⁸ He said to them, "Let's go elsewhere into the next towns, that I may preach there also, because I came out for this reason." ³⁹ He went into their synagogues throughout all Galilee, preaching and casting out demons.

MESSAGE

"Seeking Christ"

Rev Jim Canody

<https://bit.ly/Sermon02-02-2025>

Sometime back Dr. Phil Berry took a picture outside a roadside convenience store. The store was on the Texas border on the highway leading to Colorado. It was one of those portable advertising signs with flashing lights along the top meant to lure in passersby.

At the top of the sign it read, "Last chance Lotto Texas, clean restrooms, snacks." Then, at the bottom of the sign, almost like an afterthought, it read, "Jesus is Lord."

"It's like, on the way out of Texas, whatever you need, they have it," says pastor Glen Schmucker referring to Berry's picture. "A little snack? A place to freshen up? A place to do a little gambling? A little bit of Jesus? Whatever you need, they've got it."

Perhaps we shouldn't be too cynical. At least, they're making an effort to share Jesus, even if

he doesn't have top billing over clean restrooms or the Texas Lotto.

I heard recently of someone else who sought to share Jesus in a somewhat unconventional way. A couple in Canton, Ohio thought they saw the image of Jesus in the wood grain of a door in their house. This image was so striking that they cut it out of the door and carried it with them when they moved to another house. They kept it because the thought of it gave them encouragement.

The interesting thing is that 41% of the people who responded to an NBC online poll concerning the image claimed that they saw Jesus too. However, the wife claims that it could also be the Virgin Mary, and 6% of the people who responded to the poll did see Mary and not Jesus. It makes sense that Jesus'

image should appear in a door, says one commentator. After all, Jesus did say, "I am the door." (John 10:7) And he was a carpenter.

Of course, we see this kind of thing all the time. One lady in St. Petersburg Florida claims seeing Jesus' image in a potato chip!

My guess is that we see what we want to see, and our deepest yearning of all is to see Jesus. Our deepest yearning is to encounter God. And so, in our search for meaning our eyes pick up patterns that, while random, seem to reveal God's presence. And that gives us peace and ... hope. And we want the world to know what we've seen.

It is also a reminder to us of how popular Jesus still remains in the secular world in which we live.

Have you ever noticed how often Jesus appears on the cover of *Time* and *Newsweek*? Someone once asked the religion reporter for the *Washington Post* why that was. His answer was that every time Jesus is on the cover of these magazines, they see a spike in their sales. Jesus is commercially attractive. **He is still popular with lots of folks ... especially people like you and me.**

He was also popular when he first began his ministry two thousand years ago. The scene we have in our lesson from the gospel of Mark takes place at the house of Simon Peter where Jesus heals Simon's mother-in-law.

After reporting the healing of Peter's mother-in-law, the writer of the Gospel of Mark says this: *"That evening after sunset the people brought to Jesus all the sick and demon-possessed. The whole town gathered at the door . . ."*

Think of that, *"The whole town was gathered at the door . . ."* How does that happen? **"Israel in 4 BC Had no mass communication."** I guess they had to do it the old-fashioned way, **person to person...**you know ... **"If you tell two friends then they'll tell two friends, and so on and so on and so on."** But it worked. The whole town

gathered at the door. **Everyone wanted to see Jesus.**

A little further on we read, *"Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed. Simon and his companions went to look for him, and when they found him, they exclaimed: 'Everyone is looking for you!'"*

I don't know how to say it without it sounding like a platitude or a cliché, but I believe that even today people *"everywhere are still looking"* for Christ. **They may not know his name**, and they might use religious symbols and terminology that is different from what you and I would ever use, but they are searching for Christ all the same.

After all, he *"is the way, the truth, and the life"*. And all people, everywhere, need what only Christ can offer them.

Everyone needs a sense of direction for his or her life.

In a sense everyone is, to one degree or another, **lost**. Where are they going to find direction for their lives except in Jesus?

It's like something that Dr. Lee F. Tuttle once told about that almost affected the course of the Second World War. In December 1944 the U.S. Army and its Allies were on the offensive. For six months they had rolled with relentless precision across Western Europe. But suddenly, one December day, a major portion of the mighty Allied juggernaut ground to a halt. A counter offensive had been launched by the Germans. If that counter offensive had succeeded, the end of the war might have been indefinitely delayed. As it was, the German drive almost did succeed, and a part of that was due to some brilliant strategy devised by the defenders of their army.

A few days before the Allied operation, German soldiers dressed in American uniforms, together with American jeeps, were parachuted behind American lines. These "soldiers from the sky" carried no weapons. Their single mission was to

discover the roads over which reinforcing Allied armies might travel and change all the signs which pointed to strategic towns and villages. And this simple task of turning the signposts to give wrong directions had deadly consequences. When the defenders in the "Battle of the Bulge" called for help as the Germans attacked, many of the reinforcements never arrived. Whole battalions were lost while trying to find their way across a countryside where the signposts were either down or wrong.

Dr. Tuttle's point in relating these events was to say to us that we live in a time when many of the signposts have been torn down: moral signposts, ethical signposts, theological signposts. Because of this, many of us lose our way in life.

When I first came to the Shore in 1988, we had a clergy meeting at the camp. I knew how to get to camp ... I was very active at Camp Overlook ... I knew how to get there ... so I left the parsonage at Wachapreague to go to camp. About the time I hit Route 13 it dawned on me that I had no clue where Camp Occohannock was located. No cell phones in those day ... so I had to go home and call to get directions.

Because of these **missing sign posts** we can from time to time feel lost. Where can we turn for direction for our lives?

There is only one place that is reliable. We can turn to Jesus and find in him that for which we are so desperately searching. We see in him what we were created to be ... sons and daughters of the Divine. We are precious people who have been bought with Christ's blood. When we turn to Jesus, we rediscover our purpose, our sense of direction.

But there is a second thing we find in Jesus ... we find someone we can follow. Christ not only points the way, but he goes with us and leads the way for us. Indeed, he is "the way".

There is another true story that comes out of World War II. A platoon of American soldiers

was stranded on one side of a mine field they had to cross. The commander of the platoon came up with a plan: one man would walk across the mine field, leaving clear footprints for others to follow. If this first man hit a mine, then another man would take his place and would also walk across the field in his footsteps . . . until he fell as well, and so on . . . until finally someone had cleared a path for all the soldiers. It was a great plan, but it seemed guaranteed to leave some casualties.

The young soldiers, with their hearts in their throats, agreed to the plan. However, they wondered, which one of them would be chosen to walk the field first? To their surprise, it was their commander who began walking first across the field. As their leader, he insisted on risking his life for the sake of his men. The commander crossed the field safely. Following closely in his footsteps, all the soldiers made it across the field as well.

That's leadership. That's courage. That's being willing "to lay down one's life for one's friends". And, of course, that is what Christ did for us on Golgotha. Not only does Christ point to the direction we are to go, but he also goes before us, giving his life that ours might be saved.

The writer of Hebrews calls Christ "*the pioneer and perfecter of our faith*".

Jesus is a pioneer in the same way that the company commander in WW II was a pioneer. **He takes the dangerous path and clears the way for us.** Jesus does not ask us to go anywhere that he has not gone before himself.

The writer of Hebrews tells us that we are "*to fix our eyes upon him*", in the same way that **those soldiers fixed their eyes on the company commander in order to make it through the mine field** of life and death. Christ gives us a sense of purpose and direction for our lives. Christ leads the way and beckons us to follow.

But there's one more reason the world longs to see Jesus. When we follow him, he leads us to a specific destination ... life with the Father.

When we follow Jesus, we discover abundant life . . . not because we deserve it, but because of what Christ has done on Calvary.

Sometime back, *The Christian Century* magazine carried a story by Lillian Daniel. Ms. Daniel told the story of a large collection of Southeast Asian pottery that her parents owned. Daniel says her parents had collected this pottery on several trips to that part of the world over the years and carefully kept it in their home.

However, there was always one piece in this beautiful collection that always seemed out of place. This piece had once been a fine antique vase with a cream glaze and blue Japanese design, but now it was damaged. And yet her parents kept it amid their finer pieces, even though it was a mass of cracks, crudely glued together with what was obviously the wrong type of adhesive. Ms. Daniels notes that everywhere the 20 or so pieces of that vase met one another, glue had bubbled out yellow as it dried, leaving the vase grotesquely scarred.

She says that she once suggested to her mother that she get rid of that one ugly piece of pottery. And so, her mother told her the story behind the vase and why they could not part with it.

Her father had bought that vase when he was a journalist covering the Vietnam War. Returning home, he had wrapped and hand carried the vase as he traveled the long journey back in taxis, on several airlines, and several buses. He protected it throughout all of the journey back before walking up his driveway with this special vase in his hands.

At that very moment, as her father walked up the driveway, his two-year-old daughter rushed toward him with her arms outstretched for an embrace. Surprised and elated, her father tried to hold on to the vase and yet also open his arms to his beloved daughter. When he did that, the vase fell and broke into pieces. Ms. Daniel, of course, was that two-year-old. She ends her story like this: "Thus it was that night, my mother pulled out the glue, she

repaired the vase, and she pronounced it precious."

That cracked vase was almost as precious to her mother as we cracked, and imperfect vessels are to God.

Those who trust in Jesus and seek to walk in his steps are the recipients of abounding and overflowing love and grace. And even though we are imperfect in our service to Christ and humanity, God's love for us and acceptance of us never ceases.

The story is TOLD ... in Heaven St. Peter handles admissions at the pearly gates, and, according to the story, and the Apostle Paul acts as the administrator of the celestial kingdom, taking a monthly census of Heaven's inhabitants.

But something it does not add up. Each time Paul counts the number of people in Heaven, his number far exceeds the number of admittances that Peter has registered. This discrepancy mystifies them both for quite a while.

Then, one day, Paul runs up to Peter and excitedly shouts, "Peter! Peter! I figured out why our numbers don't match. I figured out why there are so many more people in Heaven than you're letting in at the pearly gates. It's Jesus! It's Jesus! He keeps sneaking people over the wall."

Jesus offers unlimited grace to all who would trust their lives to him. You may say as I do, I don't deserve God's grace. That's all right. You and I are among those whom Christ will sneak over somehow. That's what grace is all about.

No wonder people advertise Jesus on signs for clean rest rooms and the Texas Lotto.

No wonder people see Jesus on doors, and even on potato chips.

Everyone deep down wants what only Jesus can provide.

"Everyone is looking for you. . ." said the disciples to Jesus. It was truer than they knew. And it is

still true today. He is the answer to every person's deepest need. He gives us direction and purpose for our lives. We never need fear what lies ahead for he goes with us. He never takes us anywhere he has not been himself. He

is "the pioneer and the perfecter of our faith". And the destination is sure ... abundant life with the Father. *Isn't that what you are looking for today?*

HYMN UMH #368

"My Hope is Built"

<https://youtu.be/4Zc5B7h1aqY>

1. My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness. I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

Refrain:

**On Christ the solid rock I stand,
all other ground is sinking sand;
all other ground is sinking sand.**

2. When Darkness veils his lovely face, I rest on his unchanging grace. In every high and stormy gale, my anchor holds within the veil. (Refrain)

3. His oath, his covenant, his blood supports me in the whelming flood. When all around my soul gives way, he then is all my hope and stay. (Refrain)

4. When he shall come with trumpet sound, O may I then in him be found! Dressed in his righteousness alone, faultless to stand before the throne! (Refrain)

BENEDICTION

As we go out into the world, remember: God, who chose you before your birth, who calls you and knows you by name, now sends you out – to bring light to those in darkness, comfort to those who grieve,

hope to those who despair. And may the blessing of God, the love of Jesus Christ, and the presence of the Holy Spirit be among you and within you as you seek to do God's will. Amen.

RESPONSE

"Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed" (UMH#359 refrain) <https://youtu.be/aYKYwjjMLZc>

At the cross, at the cross, where I first saw the light, and the burden of my heart rolled away;

it was there by faith I received my sight, and now I am happy all the day.

Music Copyright and Streaming Licenses CCLI #20472475

*The World English Bible (WEB) © Public Domain, The United Methodist Hymnal (UMH), The Faith We Sing (TFWS)

^{1, 3, 5} **Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed**, UMH #359 Author: Isaac Watts, Composer and Arranger: Ralph E. Hudson © Public Domain

² **Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus**, UMH #349, Words & Music: Helen H. Lemmel, 1922. © Words: Public Domain; Music: Public Domain

⁴ **My Hope is Built**, UMH #368, Words: Edward Mote, Music: William B. Bradbury © in Public Domain

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Carrie Lewis (Feb. 1)
Ronnie Harmon (Feb. 1)
Ian Lewis (Feb. 7)

Dianne Nickel (Feb. 9)
Nita Daley (Feb. 25)

Anthony & Nelda LoFaso (Jan. 17)
Al & Bev McMath (Jan. 20)



The Chosen: Bible Study
Thursdays @ 1pm



COAT CLOSET Mission!

We continue to accept cash donations as well as coats, hats, scarves, jackets, and gloves during the year, Please either email us

at jre11@verizon.net or call 757.710.1524 to leave a message, to arrange pickup or drop off. Monetary donations may be sent to Onley UMC, P O Box 216, Onley, VA 23418; please note "coat closet" in the memo section of the check. 2024-2025 Date: **February 1 - 9am-11am.**



Thank you for your dedication to the ministries of Onley UMC! We greatly appreciate your gifts, tithes, and prayers. Your contributions are important to the life and mission of OUMC. **Checks, made payable to OUMC** should be mailed to: **Onley UMC, P. O. Box 216, Onley, VA 23350**

Thank you for your stewardship



Time to Register for Summer Camp at Camp Occohannock!
Ootbay.org



Youth Meeting This Sunday
4-6 PM @ Epworth UMC (Exmore)
No meeting next week (Feb 9)

Plan Ahead
March 23 – Youth High School Retreat @ Camp Occohannock on the Bay.

SAVE THE DATE

Ham & Clam Dinner

March 7, 5-7 pm (eat in)

4:30-7 (take out)

\$15.00

To secure your reservation, call 757-787-2721 by March 3rd

COASTAL DISTRICT HIGHLIGHTS

March 2 1:30 PM District Training – Grace UMC

For more information & to register visit:
<https://bit.ly/2024NovDistrictNews>

KEEP IN TOUCH

Website: <https://www.onleyumc.org/>
Google Review: <https://g.page/r/CW9SLu50qxK6EBU/review>
Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/OnleyUMC/>.

YouTube Channel: <http://bit.ly/OUMC-YouTube>
Join our email chain: onleymethodist@gmail.com

OUR PRAYER JOYS & CONCERNS from January 26, 2025

- The United States of America, other countries around the world, and our leaders
- War-torn areas including Ukraine, Israel & the Middle East
- Americans serving in the armed forces and in dangerous foreign diplomatic posts.
- Our missionary in Cambodia, Clara Mridula Biswas.
- Persecuted Christians
- The United Methodist Church and The Virginia Annual Conference
- Members in assisted living: Dottie Milliner

- | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------|
| • Britt Johnson | • Don Bowling | • Crystal Fati |
| • Steve Norrid | • Robyn Sexaver | • Rosilee Lewis |
| • Wyatt Bruno | • Mac Mackie | • Elmer Reed |
| • Madison Watkinson | • Dick Jenkins | • Travel Mercies |
| • Janice Canody | • Johnny Gardner | • Our World |
| • Ann & Roger Weinheimer | • George McMath | • Our Country |
| • Tom and Claudia Webb | • E. A. McMath | • Our President |
| • Betty Turington | • Camp OOTB (Prayers
daily 7:58pm) | • Israel |
| • Marie and Alma Reed | • Bobby Wood | • Unspokens |
| • James Shaffer | • Debbie Davis | |
| • Robyn Holland | | |

† *Special prayers for the family and friends of:*

- | | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| • <i>Gavin Hopkins</i> | • <i>John Kluis</i> | • <i>James Powell</i> |
|------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|

Please share your joys and concerns
with Pastor Jim at :

jimcanody@vaumc.org or

call 703-861-2023