

***In the Morning Wednesday, September 1, 2021
David Pendleton Oakerhater, Deacon and Missionary, 1931***

Welcome

Opening Prayer

O God of unsearchable wisdom and mercy, Liberate us from bondage to self, and empower us to serve you and our neighbors; that like your servant David Oakerhater, we might bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you; through Jesus Christ, the captain of our salvation; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.

Dwelling in the Word: Psalm 96:1-7

*1 Sing to the Lord a new song; *
sing to the Lord, all the whole earth.*

*2 Sing to the Lord and bless his Name; *
proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.*

*3 Declare his glory among the nations *
and his wonders among all peoples.*

*4 For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; *
he is more to be feared than all gods.*

*5 As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; *
but it is the Lord who made the heavens.*

*6 Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence! *
Oh, the power and the splendor of his sanctuary!*

*7 Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples; *
ascribe to the Lord honor and power.*

As you hear the passage being read, what word or phrase is God calling you to notice?
As you hear the passage read a second time, what might God be calling you to try on at this time?

Following your silent meditation after the second reading, please type your word or phrase into the Chat if you would like to share it. The officiant will invite all of us into a quiet time for a few minutes to prayerfully read and reflect on the words offered in the Chat.

The officiant will end this time of silent prayer with The Lord's Prayer.

The Lord's Prayer

(Spanish - The Rev. Felix Rivera, Deacon, Grace Church, Hartford ;

French - The Rev. Jack Gilpin, Retired Priest, ECCT)

Zoom Call

At end of zoom call

Closing Prayer

Almighty and most merciful God, we remember before you this day the people of Louisiana and the Gulf Coast, who are suffering devastation and injury from Hurricane Ida. Tend the sick and injured, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted. Strengthen all who respond to the needs and work to alleviate the suffering. We pray that in these hours of fear, pain, and suffering, that you may shield them all. We pray too that you will help us to open our hearts to share our bounty with those in need. Help us to heal those who are broken in body or spirit, and in time to turn their sorrow into joy. Grant this Father, for the love of your Son, who suffered much that we might all be one, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

From the BCP, modified by The Diocese of Virginia

Blessing

David Pendleton Oakerhater

“God’s warrior” is an epithet by which David Pendleton Oakerhater is known among the Cheyenne Indians of Oklahoma. The title is an apt one, for this apostle of Christ to the Cheyenne was originally a soldier who fought against the United States government with warriors of other tribes in the disputes over Indian land rights. Born circa 1851, by the late 1860s Oakerhater had distinguished himself for bravery and leadership as an officer in an elite corps of Cheyenne fighters.

In 1875, after a year of minor uprisings and threats of major violence, he and twenty-seven other warrior leaders were taken prisoner by the U.S. Army, charged with inciting rebellion, and sent to a disused military prison in Florida. Under the influence of a concerned Army captain, who sought to educate the prisoners, Oakerhater and his

companions learned English, gave art and archery lessons to the area's many visitors, and had their first encounter with the Christian faith. The captain's example, and that of other concerned Christians from as far away as New York, had an effect on the young warrior. He was moved to answer the call to transform his leadership in war into a lifelong ministry of peace.

With sponsorship from the Diocese of Central New York and financial help from a Mrs. Pendleton of Cincinnati, he and three other prisoners went north to study for the ministry. At his baptism in Syracuse in 1878, he took the name David Pendleton Oakerhater, in honor of his benefactress. Soon after his ordination to the diaconate in 1881, Oakerhater returned to Oklahoma. There, he was instrumental in founding and operating schools and missions, through great personal sacrifice and often in the face of apathy from the church hierarchy and resistance from the government. He continued his ministry of service, education, and pastoral care among his people until his death on August 31st, 1931.

Half a century before, the young deacon had told his people: "You all know me. You remember when I led you out to war I went first, and what I told you was true. Now I have been away to the East and I have learned about another captain, the Lord Jesus Christ, and he is my leader. He goes first, and all he tells me is true. I come back to my people to tell you to go with me now in this new road, a war that makes all for peace."

Lesser Feasts and Fasts 2018

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