

CELEBRATION at the MANGER

Isaiah 9:6

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given:
and the government shall be upon his shoulder;
and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor,
The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

(Image on cover: drawing by Abbie Curry, 2018 Celebration at the Manger art contest winner)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Lawrence H. Bartel

PRELUDE "Good King Wenceslas" Jens Bartel, piano
Isabella Walter, trumpet

CALL TO WORSHIP Nicholas Payne

One: People of God, come,
for the light of joy beckons us together.

**All: Come, let us follow this light into Advent,
into the wonder and heart of God's love.**

Come, great spirit of Joy,
and fill our hearts and minds today.

Come, miraculous laughter, and help us to rejoice.

People of God, come,
for the light of joy beckons us together,
asking, who are you? What is your great joy?
Come, let us follow this light in our worship.

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Advent is a season of waiting: waiting for God to break into our lives anew through the story of the birth of Jesus, and through acts of faith, hope, joy, and love. On this third Sunday of Advent, we re-kindle the candles named Hope and Peace. Today we light the candle named Joy.

**We wait – not because we are waiting
to hear the story of Jesus for the first time.
We wait – not because the Lord is not
already and always here.**

We wait with Elizabeth and Zachariah –
We wait with Mary and Joseph –
because to wait is to expect something more.

**To wait is to expect that the story of Emmanuel
will enter our hearts and our world in new ways,
to bring the change for which we long.**

As we light the candle of joy,
we remember the stories
of God's joy in all creation.

**We give thanks for the messengers –
the apostles, prophets, artists, sages, faithful ones –
present in every age,
who bring us the good news of God's restoring love;
and we shout with joy,
trusting that God is with us and before us,**

and that joy will be born anew in us.

(As the candles of Faith, Hope and Joy are lit, the congregation sings vs. 3 of "Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah" #85.

*Light three candles to watch for Messiah:
let the light banish the darkness.
Lift your heads and lift high the gateway
for the King of glory.)*

INTRODUCTION Rev. Marc van Bulck

Scene 1: The Prophecy

Narrator Emma Lake
Prophets Elias Jones, Gabriel Jones, Oliver Rice

CAROL "O Come All Ye Faithful" Choir
Jens Bartel, piano

Mary Lauren James
Angel 1 Autumn Saylor
Joseph Noel Albarran

CAROL "Angels We Have Heard on High"
Katya Fisher, solo
Jens Bartel, piano
Bryson Fears, guitar
Kylee Fears, bass guitar
Oliver Rice, violin

Scene 2: Bethlehem

Narrator Eric Staley
Emperor Brady Saylor
Innkeeper 1 Spencer Lykins
Innkeeper 2 Spencer Lykins

CAROL "The Friendly Beasts" Children and Choir
Jens Bartel, piano

Animals Lola Albarran, Sadie Chaney,
Oran Rice, Aiden Todd

Scene 3: The Birth

CAROL "O Little Town of Bethlehem" Choir
Jens Bartel, piano
Austin Lake, Saxophone
Emma Lake, Saxophone

"...O morning stars, together proclaim
the holy birth, and praises sing to God the
king, and peace to all on earth."
(During a musical interlude between verses
2 & 3, please stand and greet those around
you with the Peace of Christ.)

Narrator Elsa Friede

CAROL "Away in a Manger" Children
Jens Bartel, piano

Scene 4: The Angels Bring Praises

Angel 2 Amabel Jones
Angels Abigail Chaney, Hannah Chaney,
Lucy Chaney, Abbie Curry,
Autumn Saylor, Naomi Wanko,
Rory West Poley
Shepherd 1 Spencer Lykins
Shepherd 2 Oliver Rice
Shepherds Anthony Sunderhaus, Owen Todd

CAROL "The French Carol" Elias and
Gabriel Jones, piano

Narrator Bryson Fears

CAROL "O Holy Night" Gretchen Jones, Solo
Jens Bartel, piano

Scene 5: The Wise Men Bring Gifts

Wise Men Elias Jones, Gabriel Jones,
Brady Saylor

CAROL "Little Drummer Boy" Choir
Jens Bartel, piano
Davis Byrd, bass guitar
Ellie Garland, snare drum
Ezekiel Groom, keytar
Aaron Wanko, bass drum

Narrator Bryson Fears

CAROL "Silent Night" Elias and
Gabriel Jones, piano

OFFERING (The Offering will be received during the playing of "Silent Night.")

PRAYER & BLESSING

**May starlight guide our steps
towards this place of wonder.
May angels sing their news
as we travel to the stable.
May promise fill these days
as we watch at the edge of the manger
and may faith tell us,
Emmanuel will be with us soon.**

CAROL "Joy to the World" Congregation
Jens Bartel, piano

(please stand, if able)

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n, and heav'n, and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as, the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders, of His love.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Jenn Walter

POSTLUDE

"God Rest Ye Merry Gentleman" *Elias and Gabriel Jones, piano*

Choir – Amy Bartel, Lawrence Bartel, Lydia Bartel, Katya Fisher, Jacob Friedline, Gretchen Jones, Matt Lykins, Mike Rudolph, Aaron Wanko, Owen West Poley

Ushers – Austin Lake, Nicholas Payne, Ethan Kraushar, David Kraushar

Many thanks to the MANY volunteers who helped with this program!
Special thanks to Mitch Hardy, Music Director, Gretchen Jones, Choir Director, and Isabella Walter, Angel Dance Choreographer.



Join your church family for these worship opportunities during this sacred season:

**Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 23 – 10:00 a.m.**

**Candlelight Christmas Eve Service
December 24 – 7:00 p.m.**

**First Sunday of Christmas
December 30 – 10:00 a.m.**

Greeters: Angels

Advent Wreath Candle Lighters:

Joe and Paula Foltz and Carol Schaber

Fellowship hour following worship hosted by Mickey Simonds on behalf of the Deacons.

MINISTRY NEWS

Nativity on Film: Who is Mary? Is she an ethereal blonde with a halo radiating about her head? A middle eastern teenager riding a donkey? A British waitress laying her baby in a shopping cart? A Mexican immigrant in the southwest searching with for a place to stay in the cold desert night? These are some of the visions of Mary that we will meet this Wednesday, December 19th at 7:00pm, in the new state of the art screening room in (the Sanctuary) in the Seminary Church. We're going to be talking about the ways that the birth of the Christ child has been portrayed in the movies over the last century. We'll be screening clips from over a dozen films, some familiar and some rare, but all unique and thought provoking. Come join us at 104 East Church Street Wednesday at 7:00pm for the Nativity on Film.

Lift your voices! Join in the Chorus! Sing Hallelujah!

Come, be a part of a lively holiday evening! All are welcome! Our annual caroling excursions to the Knolls, Woodland Manor and homes of others who can't get to worship services will take place on Friday, December 21 from 5:00 to approximately 7:00. We will meet at the Seminary promptly at 5:00 and then break into groups...we will need plenty of cars/drivers! The Youth will join us before their lock-in that same evening! We have song books, bells, and lots of enthusiasm! Returning to the Seminary, we will have a pizza dinner together, thanks to Membership, Fellowship, and Evangelism Committee. Also included, the famous LaRosa's chocolate chip cookies!! Be a part of this meaningful holiday event! Please sign up after worship on Dec. 16th in the Lounge, or call/text Pat Gifford at 513-255-5416.

Spirit of Scotland 2020: The Spirit of Scotland, an eight-day guided tour exploring our sacred heritage, led by Rev. Lawrence Bartel in coordination with Rev. James Wallace (Church of Scotland). Ecumenical and welcoming, interested friends and neighboring congregations are invited to join us in May 2020 for this exciting spiritual journey.

A brochure and complete itinerary will be available in January.

Tour Information Meetings: Sunday, January 13, at 11:30 a.m., and Thursday, January 24, at 6:30 PM, in The Seminary.

Inquiries can be addressed to the following:

Rev. Lawrence Bartel, pastorlawrence@oxfordpresbychurch.org, (315) 369-5225; Ellen Buerk, ebuerk@hotmail.com, or Will Hazleton, hazletwa@miamioh.edu, (513) 461-1812



**Oxford Presbyterian Church
for a full ministry calendar, please visit:
<https://oxfordpresbychurch.org/calendar/>**

Third Sunday of Advent



**Oxford
Presbyterian
Church** U.S.A.

101 North Main Street | Oxford, Ohio 45056
513-523-6364 | office@oxfordpresbychurch.org

oxfordpresbychurch.org

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