

Welcome to all! A special welcome to guests and newcomers. Let us know of your presence by signing the blue pad found toward the center aisle of each pew. Please introduce yourself to a minister after the service.

* Please rise in body or spirit.

PRELUDE

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming"
Traditional German, arr. Jack Liles
Kalinde Webb, trombone & Bill Fisher, tuba

PROCESSION of the LIGHT from BETHLEHEM

One: In a season of darkness,
when the time was right,
God sent the Light of the World.

**All: So he, the Light of the Word,
the Prince of Peace,
the Lord of Love,
came and was born among us.**

God of creation, shaper of seas and stars,
of planets and people.
Emmanuel, God is here with us.

God, born in Bethlehem,
gurgling, crying, laid in a manger
Emmanuel, God is here with us.

God of the cosmos,
dancing in the candle flame,
Emmanuel, God is here with us.

God, Emmanuel, amongst us, within us,
**We gather in this sacred moment to tell
again the good news of great joy –
Born this night is a Savior, the Messiah,
who is Christ the Lord!**

INVOCATION and PRAYER for CHRISTMAS EVE

One: The Word became flesh and dwelt among us,
full of grace and truth.

**All: Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to all people on earth. Alleluia!**

**Living God, on this holy night we gather -
to stand with shepherds, amazed at your glory;
to sing with angels, rejoicing in your work;
to wait with Joseph, trusting in your promise;
to sit with Mary, cradling your love.
May the good news of this night inspire us
to tell the world of our great joy:
for to us is born a Savior, the Messiah, the Lord.
Glory and praise to you forever! Amen.**

* **PROCESSIONAL CAROL** "O Come, All Ye Faithful" #133

LIGHTING of the CHRIST CANDLE Deahl & Chaney Families

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness, on them light has shined. (Isaiah 9:2)

**For a child, has been born to us, a son given to us;
authority shall rest upon his shoulders; and he is
named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting
Father, Prince of Peace.** (Isaiah 9:6)

Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar, and all that fills it; let the field exult, and everything in it. (Psalm 96:11-12a)

**Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy
before the Lord; for he comes.** (Psalm 96:12b-13a)

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." We light this candle as a sign of the light of Christ. (John 8:12)

*(The Christ Candle on the Christmas wreath is lighted.
After the lighting, all the people read together)*

Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

The Beginning

A READING Isaiah 9:2-7 Scott and Nancy Parkinson

CHOIR "People, Look East" traditional French
arr. Vincent M. Ryan

Mary's Story

A READING Luke 1:26-38 Janet Ziegler

CHOIR "Jesus Christ, the Apple Tree" O Waly Waly
arr. Douglas E. Wagner

Joseph's Story

A READING Matthew 1:18-21 Gene Krebs

* **CAROL** "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" #123
(vs. 1, 2 & 5)

The Birth of Christ

A READING Luke 2:1-7 Leanne and Eric Staley

CHOIR "Jesus, Jesus Rest Your Head" American folk song
arr. Kevin Robison

The Story of the Angels

A READING Luke 2:8-14 Jean Sturgeon

* **CAROL** "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" #119

The Story of the Shepherds

A READING Luke 2:15-20 Katie and Abbie Curry

CHOIR "Sing We Noel!" Terry Osman
Elizabeth Daily, oboe

The Story of the Wise Men

A READING Matthew 2:1-2, 10-11 Scott Shriver

* **CAROL** "The First Nowell" (vs. 1-3) #147

The Gifts We Offer

CHRISTMAS OFFERING

OFFERTORY "O Holy Night" Adolphe Adam
Katya Fisher, mezzo-soprano

PRAYER of DEDICATION

Let us pray, Lord of Christmas:

**Bless this offering and bless us as we once again
celebrate your coming into your creation. We
celebrate your love for every person in every place
and time. Amen.**

ANTHEM "Pavane for a Silent Night" Jeane Anne Shafferman
& Patrick M. Liebergen
Elizabeth Daily, oboe

The Light of Christ Fills Our Hearts

A READING John 1:1-5 Charles Teckman

* **SHARING CHRIST'S LIGHT from BETHLEHEM**
A Reading for the 200th Anniversary of Silent Night

(After the light is passed to you,
pass it to the person next to you.
Please do not tip the lighted candle.)

* **CAROL** "Silent Night"
(As the congregation proceeds with each verse
through the hymn, the candle is held a little higher)

**Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright
'round yon virgin mother and child!
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace,
sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing "Alleluia:
Christ the Savior is born;
Christ the Savior is born!"**

(continued on next page)

Silent night, holy night!
 Son of God, love's pure light
 Radiant beams from thy holy face,
 With the dawn of redeeming grace,
 Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,
 Jesus Lord at thy birth.

* A CHRISTMAS PRAYER

* CAROL "Joy to the World"

#134

* BLESSING

Go now to your homes,
 receive and celebrate God's love that heals
 the world through the Child of the manger
 and the Christ of the cross.
 Live in the light of this silent night's joy.
 The candles have been lit –
 light in the darkest night.

The carols have been sung –
 lifting hearts with angels heavenward.
 The story has been told –
 we will live it, now, every day:
 this hope, this peace,
 this joy, this love,
 given to the world
 through Jesus, the Christ,
 God with us, Emmanuel.
 Alleluia! Amen.



Thank you to our guest musicians
 for your musical contribution to our service.

Jens Bartel	Bill Fisher
JJ Crumpler	Richard Gonzales
Elizabeth Daily	Kalinde Webb



All are invited to join us for worship
 on the First Sunday of Christmas
 December 30 at 10:00 a.m.



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

Lawrence H. Bartel, Pastor
 Marcel van Bulck, Associate Pastor



Christmas Eve is the perfect time to give a special gift to the **Christmas Joy Offering** and the ministry of **Oxford Presbyterian Church**.

The **Christmas Joy Offering** has been a Presbyterian tradition for over seventy-five years. The Christmas Joy Offering will be distributed to the Presbyterian Church Board of Pensions for its assistance programs for retired missionaries / church workers in need and also to develop our future leaders at Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges. Please

place your gift in the Christmas Joy Offering envelope. Checks may be payable to Oxford Presbyterian Church with the notation: Christmas Joy Offering. Thank you for your generosity!



Giving to the **ministry of Oxford Presbytery Church** is also a blessing. Please feel free to use the pew envelopes for cash or checks. Also give via text or online - <https://onrealm.org/oxfordpresbychurch/Give>



Text giving is so quick!
 (1) Text opc1825 and (your designated amount) to 73256. For example, text "opc1825 25" to 73256 for an offering of \$25.
 (2) Click the link you receive in your text message response.
 (3) Follow the prompts to give.

Text giving even saves your payment information, so you can quickly give again.



Spirit of Scotland 2020: The Spirit of Scotland, an eight-day guided tour exploring our sacred heritage, led by Pastor Lawrence 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

A Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols



December 24, 2018
 7:00 p.m.