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# Welcome, we're glad you're here!

We welcome you to join us on a transformative journey.

**Seeking God**, we strive to know God and love God.

**Serving others**, we follow our Servant Savior to help bring fullness of life to others.

**Sharing Christ's love with all**, we proclaim the unconditional love of Christ filled with joy and hope.

*If you are a Miami student, we invite you to make this your church home away from home during your time at Miami.*

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**Liturgist: The Curry Family**

(Image on cover: "The Arrival" by John Stuart, a Scottish pastor serving Erin Presbyterian Church in Knoxville, TN)

## WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

*\*Please rise in body or in spirit*

### CHIMES

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**PRELUDE** "What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright"  
arr. Franklin D. Ashdown

**CHORAL INTROIT** "The Feast Is Ready"  
Graham Kendrick

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Arise! Shine! Your light has come,  
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you!

**Right side: We have seen Christ's star in the east,  
and we are following.**

**Left side: We have remembered  
the Lord's wonder and promise,  
and we are worshiping.**

One: Lift up your eyes and look around;

**Right side: We as God's people now gather together,**

**Left side: to open our hearts and sing out our praise.**

**All: The mystery of Christ's wonder and grace is  
here: Come, let us adore!**

**\*HYMN** – "We Three Kings of Orient Are" (vs. 1, 2, & 5) #151

### \*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We remember the Magi,  
who set out with singular focus  
on the promise of the heavens.

**And we remember the ways  
that we have lost sight of you, Holy God,  
as the bright guide for our lives.**

We remember that they stayed  
determined on their journey,  
not even swayed by Herod's power and promises.

**And we remember that often  
we have started out well,  
but strayed from your path,  
detoured by our fleeting fears and desires.**

We remember the wise ones who adored the child:  
wisdom and wealth falling to their knees  
before a poor infant.

**And we remember that too often  
we have given our adoration  
to wealth or wisdom,  
not seeing the Christ in our midst.**

**Forgive us once more, O Lord, amen.**

### \*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

To each of us who knows that  
we have lost sight of the promise,  
or lost the way of our God,  
or lost hope,  
the Lord has a promise: "I am with you."  
God gives a holy presence, and forgiveness,  
and new hope, in the Christ.  
**Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Amen.**

### \*SHARING THE PEACE

### A TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

(Children in Preschool through Grade 8  
are dismissed to class following the children's message.)

## WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

### UNISON PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**Speak with authority in our lives, Christ.**

**Speak to us, and to what is in us,  
so that we might be whole.**

**Speak to us, with love,  
with hope and with strength,  
so that we might hear you,  
and know, deep inside,  
that we are your people,  
and that you are our God. Amen.**

### SCRIPTURE

A reading from Matthew 2:1-12

Holy wisdom, holy Word.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**MESSAGE** – "Journeys that Changed the World" Pastor Lawrence

**POEM** - *Journey of the Magi* by TS Eliot

Matt Benzing

## WE GIVE THANKS TO GOD

### CHOIR ANTHEM

"In Remembrance of Me"  
Butyl Red

### SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

### INVITATION

One: Come, all who journey in faith: bring your lives,  
fragile and holy. There is a place for you here.

**All: We come to this table,  
seeking the Light found in Bethlehem's cradle.**

One: (Singing) The Lord be with you.

**All: (Singing) And Also with you  
Lift up your hearts.**

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

### PRAYER OF GREAT THANKSGIVING

Holy One,  
you shaped creation  
and placed your grace within us.

**Your grace walked among us as Emmanuel,  
God with us. We remember how the child  
whose birth we celebrate at Christmas,  
lived a life of healing, teaching and transformation.**

Through this grace, your song of hope  
has rung out from ancient days  
beckoning us to listen and join in.

**All: (Singing)**

**Holy, Holy, holy Lord; God of power and might.  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!  
Hosanna in the highest!**

God of grace, from age to age  
you infuse every particle of the universe with wonder.

**From age to age you surround  
every person with love.**

**From age to age you call to every corner  
of creation with promise.**

**Some travelers once journeyed together  
beneath a fiery star  
to seek the treasure of their hearts.**

**Kneeling in a stable  
they found the gift they sought.**

**So we lift up the joys upon our hearts  
(joys may be shared at this time):**

**In this season, we also set out seeking signs  
of your presence and remembering how this child  
of Bethlehem broke bonds of oppression  
to pour out compassion for all.**

**So we lift up the concerns upon our hearts  
(concerns may be shared at this time):**

We remember a final meal.  
Where bread and cup were blessed and shared  
with new meaning:  
"Here is life. Here is promise.  
You are my beloved."

As we share this bread and cup  
may we open ourselves  
to the strength of this love.

We pray this in name of our Lord who taught his disciples  
to pray:

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
Your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
On earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins as we forgive  
those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.**

**THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD & THE SHARING OF THE CUP**

**COMMUNION BY INTINCTION**

All are welcome to approach the communion stewards  
at the front or back of the sanctuary. Receive the gift of Bread,  
hearing the words, "the Bread of Life," and then dip it  
into the Cup, hearing the words, "The Cup of Salvation."  
The crackers on the communion plates are gluten free.  
Please return to your seat by the outer aisles.

If it's not comfortable for you to walk,  
a steward will joyfully offer you communion in your seat.

**OFFERING** *"Beautiful Savior"*  
setting, Sylvia Oines

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**\*HYMN** – Go, Tell It on the Mountain #136

**\*BLESSING**  
Arise, people of God! Shine!  
The light of our Christ is in you and among you,  
guiding you and blessing you, now and always.

**May the Spirit of God be a guiding star before us,  
a glorious song above us,  
a gentle path below us,  
an inspiring voice behind us  
wherever we may journey with the Light. Amen.**

**\*CHORAL RESPONSE** "Amen" trad. African-American

**\*POSTLUDE** "O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright!"  
arr. Mark Sedio

Large-print bulletins and hearing assistance units are available  
from the ushers. **Please sign the friendship pads found  
at the end of the pew and pass them to our neighbors.**

**Greeters:** Scott and Vicki Shriver

**Congregational Concerns:** Betty Barnhart, John Curry,  
Tracy DeGood, Bob Douglass, Nancy Gates, Genee Hesse,  
Breanna Kinneman, Ruth Miller, Jan Reinhart, Becky Rudolph,  
Sarah Soika, Joan Teckman, Dave Wilson, Stacey Winn,  
John and Jean Woodruff

Email prayer request to Janet Holmes, [holmest2@frontier.com](mailto:holmest2@frontier.com),  
call Pat Roberts, 513-255-0549 or email the church office,  
[office@oxfordpresbychurch.org](mailto:office@oxfordpresbychurch.org).

Fellowship hour following worship hosted Katie Payne and Greg  
Hughes on behalf of the Elders of Session.

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**MINISTRY NEWS**

**Tuesday Evening Circle:** The Evening Circle is meeting January  
8 at the home of Jane Baer, 131 E. Spring St., 523-5127. Seeing  
Jane in her home is always a meaningful experience. Anyone  
needing a ride should contact Karen Simpson, 523-  
8363, [k.simpson2007@yahoo.com](mailto:k.simpson2007@yahoo.com).

**Tuesday Afternoon Circle:** The Tuesday Afternoon Circle will  
meet on January 15 in the Country Kitchen at 1:30 p.m.  
Reservations for the optional noon lunch are due to Lynn Cronk by  
Friday, January 11. Visitors and guests are always welcome.



**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](mailto:pastorlawrence@oxfordpresbychurch.org), (315) 369-5225; Ellen  
Buerk, [ebuerk@hotmail.com](mailto:ebuerk@hotmail.com), or Will Hazleton,  
[hazletwa@miamioh.edu](mailto:hazletwa@miamioh.edu), (513) 461-1812

**Offering Envelopes:** The numbered offering envelopes are in the  
Narthex. Please pick them up if you requested them.

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

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

# Epiphany Sunday



**Sunday, January 6, 2019**



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[oxfordpresbychurch.org](http://oxfordpresbychurch.org)

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