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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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**\*Please rise in body or in spirit**

**Liturgist: Nancy Moeckel**

(Image on cover: An icon of Mary, Joseph, and Jesus's flight into Egypt)

### WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

#### CHIMES

#### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**PRELUDE** "Reflection" Michael Helman

**CHORAL INTROIT** "Love Has Come"  
traditional French melody

#### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

*Isaiah 63, Hebrews 2, Psalm 148*

One: We recount the gracious deeds of God,  
all the praiseworthy acts the Lord has done for us:

**All: Praise God for coming to dwell among us,  
Immanuel.**

**Praise God for the good news of Jesus,  
the pioneer of our salvation.**

Praise God for making us brothers and sisters in Christ.

**Praise God whose glory shines in heaven  
and on earth!**

**\*HYMN** – "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" #119

#### \*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

*Hebrews 2:10-18; Matthew 2:16-18*

**Merciful God, in great love you have claimed us  
as your children. We confess that we have not  
loved you as we should.**

**We have not participated fully in your purposes  
and plans; we grow weary and give up when the  
way is hard. We have not loved our brothers  
and sisters as you intend. Complacent in the  
presence of injustice and violence, we fail to  
recognize our own complicity.**

**Forgive us, especially when we fail to protect  
children so vulnerable and precious in your  
sight. Forgive our misuse of power against  
people, and against your creation.  
Help us to praise you by living  
in harmony and peace.**

**Do not be ashamed of us, we pray,  
but forgive us our sins as we forgive  
those who sin against us.**

**Set us free from fear that we may wholly  
trust in you. Amen.**

#### \*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

*Hebrew 2:16; Isaiah 63:8-9*

Children of God, it is clear that Jesus Christ  
came to help sinners.

God is our Salvation in all our distress,  
and it is God's presence that saves us.  
Beloved, believe the Good News!

**In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.  
Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Amen.**

#### \*SHARING THE PEACE

#### A TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

### WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

#### UNISON PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**Holy One, your Word comes to us:  
Jesus Christ, Immanuel.  
You cross every border. Speak to us  
In the word read and proclaimed.  
In your triune name we pray. Amen.**

#### SCRIPTURE

A reading from Matthew 2:13-23

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON** – "The Empire Strikes Back"

*Pastor Marc*

### WE GIVE THANKS TO GOD

**\*HYMN** – "Christ Has Risen While Earth Slumbers" #231

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER**  
(sins...sin)

#### OFFERING

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM** "A Christmas Prayer"  
Gilbert M. Martin

#### PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**\*HYMN** – "Joy to the World" #134

#### \*BLESSING

May God the Creator, Christ the Savior,  
and the Holy Spirit, our Advocate,  
guard your going out and your coming in;  
and be your strength and help  
in every time of need.

**Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Amen.**

**\*CHORAL RESPONSE** "That Boy-Child of Mary"  
Malawi melody, arr. Tom Colvin

**\*POSTLUDE** Postlude on "Gloria" Jason D. Payne

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

**Greeters:** Carol and Steve Flee

**Acolyte:** Eric Staley

**The flowers on the left** side of the communion table are  
given in thanks for Jim and Billie Maynard's 66<sup>th</sup> wedding  
anniversary, celebrated December 27<sup>th</sup>.

**The flowers on the right** side of the communion table are  
given in celebration of Steve and Carol Flee's 50<sup>th</sup> wedding  
anniversary which was December 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Congregational Concerns:** Betty Barnhart, John Curry, Bob Douglass, Nancy Gates, Genee Hesse, Chris & Hank Krueger, Ruth Miller, Jan Reinhart, Becky Rudolph, Sarah Soika, Joan Teckman, Stacey Winn, John & Jean Woodruff.

Email request to Janet Holmes, [holmest2@frontier.com](mailto:holmest2@frontier.com), or email the church office, [office@oxfordpresbychurch.org](mailto:office@oxfordpresbychurch.org).

**Fellowship Hour** hosted by Jill Grajewski and Diane Young on behalf of the Deacons. Please join us in the Molyneaux Lounge following worship.

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### MINISTRY NEWS

**Tuesday Evening Circle:** Will meet in the home of Jane Baer at 7:30 p.m. on **Tuesday, January 7**, 131 E. Spring Street. We Start at 7:30. Sue Wilson will do the program. Nancy Sturgeon will give the Devotions. 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).

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**Congregational Meeting:** The Annual Congregational Meeting of Oxford Presbyterian Church will take place on Sunday, January 19 following worship. **Please turn in Committee Reports to the church Office by Monday, January 6.**

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**Youth Group:** No youth group this Sunday night! Youth Group will be on break through the holidays and will start back up on **Sunday, January 12th**. See you then!

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**Attention Youth and Sunday School Children:** Your church's Christian Education Committee has a Christmas gift for you! ...A "Joseph" ornament made by the Barker family in Oxford. If you haven't received yours yet, see Carol Klumb or Pastor Marc after worship.

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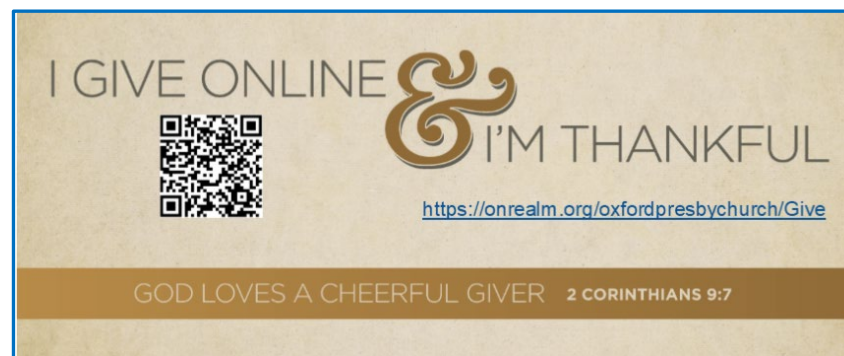
**Still available: SERRV items, coffee and chocolate**  
**See Prue Dana.**

**2020 Stewardship Campaign Update:** Stewardship season is an inspiring time of year at OPC! **As of December 20, we received a total of 117 pledges, totaling \$362,778. Thank you!**

If you haven't pledged yet and plan to, please make a pledge to our 2020 ministry today. To learn about your gift's impact and how to pledge via email visit our website at: <https://oxfordpresbychurch.org/your-gifts-matter/>

You are a Gift! Your Gifts Matter!

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**For Your Offering:** OPC invites you to choose the most convenient giving avenue so that we may all fully participate in our ministry and mission. Offerings of *checks* and *cash* are always welcome in the offering plate. To give *online* both conveniently and securely, scan the QR code on the pew card (example above) with your phone and follow the brief prompt. You may also access the same online giving opportunity from your computer at <https://onrealm.org/oxfordpresbychurch/Give>.

To give via *text message*, text opc1825 and your designated amount to 73256. For example, text "opc1825 25" to 73256 for an offering of \$25 and follow the prompt. Questions? Contact office - [office@oxfordpresbychurch.org](mailto:office@oxfordpresbychurch.org)

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**Oxford Presbyterian Church**  
**for a full ministry calendar, please visit:**  
<https://oxfordpresbychurch.org/calendar/>  
**Lawrence Bartel, Pastor**  
**Marc van Bulck, Associate Pastor**  
**Kent Peterson, Music Director**  
**Lynn Jacobs, Organist**

# First Sunday of Christmas



**Sunday, December 29, 2019**



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

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