
Welcome, we're glad you joined us!

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.

**Please rise in body or in spirit*

Jon Sanford, Guest Pianist

Liturgist: Elena Albarran

(Image on cover: An icon of Resurrection from the Eastern Orthodox Church.)

WE GATHER in GOD'S NAME

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

*CALL to WORSHIP

One: We come to this time,
seeking Jesus in the story of our faith.

**All: Do not meet us only here, O Living Christ,
but surprise us with Resurrection power
in all the places of our lives!**

We gather together to sing
and pray the story we know by heart,
a story of loving triumph and powerful grace.

**In a time of pandemic,
this story of "Alleluia!" means great joy
for the One who lives and the ones who witness
to this new life in all times and places!**

Eternal God,
we rejoice and thank you for the life of your son,
resurrected by the power of your loving, vibrant Spirit.
**Let this same Spirit fill all the places of our lives,
that we may know the truth
of resurrection for the rest of our lives!**

We join our hearts in song and sing
"Alleluia! Gracious Jesus!"
for Christ is living and so are we!
Alleluia, Christ is Risen indeed!

**HYMN – "Jesus Christ is Risen Today"*

#232

Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!
our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
who did once upon the cross, Alleluia!
suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!

Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!
unto Christ, our heavenly King, Alleluia!
who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!
sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!

But the pains which he endured, Alleluia!
our salvation have procured. Alleluia!
Now above the sky he's King, Alleluia!
where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!

Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!
praise eternal as God's love. Alleluia!
Praise our God, ye heavenly host, Alleluia!
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!

*PRAYER of CONFESSION

**God, we confess to you that while we know well the
story of your victory over the grave,
it is not a story we always live.**

**We are dragged down by all manner of death –
Despair may suffocate us:
the loss of dreams and hopes
for ourselves, our families,
our communities and our nation.
Fear in a pandemic may wall us off like a grave,
isolating us with anger, frustration, and grief.**

(A moment of silence.)

**Yet the stories of our faith are inscribed
not with the marks of death,
but with the word, "Alleluia!"
So on this Easter morning,
we pray that you will fill us with "fear and great joy"
so that, like those disciples
who came to the tomb expecting death,
we may instead find the radiant new life
that is ever before us in your Resurrection! Amen.**

*ASSURANCE of FORGIVENESS

Just as Christ did not come to condemn but to liberate,
so too is Christ raised from death
not to judge but to celebrate.
Cast off the yoke of sorrow
and instead raise up the scepter of joy –
Christ lives! We live!
All is made new on this Resurrection morning!
Alleluia! Amen!

A TIME with YOUNG DISCIPLES

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

UNISON PRAYER for ILLUMINATION

**Resurrecting Lord, you conquered death
and opened the gates of life everlasting.
In the power of the Holy Spirit,
raise us with Christ,
open our ears and loosen our tongues
that we, too, may proclaim your love,
healing, and peace to the nations. Amen**

SCRIPTURE

A reading from Matthew 28:1-10

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON – "Living and Breathing Resurrection!" Pastor Lawrence

WE GIVE THANKS TO GOD

**HYMN – "Christ is Risen! Shout Hosanna!"*

#248

Christ is risen! Shout Hosanna! Celebrate this day of days!
Christ is risen! Hush in wonder: all creation is amazed.
In the desert all surrounding, see, a spreading tree has grown.
Healing leaves of grace abounding bring a taste of love unknown.

Christ is risen! Raise your spirits from the caverns of despair.
Walk with gladness in the morning.
See what love can do and dare.

Drink the wine of resurrection, not a servant, but a friend.
Jesus is our strong companion. Joy and peace shall never end.

Christ is risen! Earth and heaven nevermore shall be the same.
Break the bread of new creation where the world is still in pain.
Tell its grim, demonic chorus: "Christ is risen! Get you gone!"
God the First and Last is with us. Sing Hosanna everyone!

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

THE INVITATION TO THE TABLE

One: Come neighbors, do not be afraid!
What was once sealed is now open...
once dead, now living.

All: We come to share the bread and cup.

Come neighbors, do not be afraid!
Come to taste resurrection, share eternity,
and be touched by the hand of the risen Christ.
We come to Christ's table with joy.

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.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

One: On this great day of celebration...
With all creation we sing your praises:

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!

All: Holy is the One who comes in your name, O God.
**Holy is Christ who came in the power of your
name and the nature of your love.**

**Holy is Jesus of Nazareth who in life,
in death, and in undying life brought
life to us and led us to you.**

One: Remembering his life, his teachings, and especially now his costly choice of the way of the cross, the way of true love... (Joys and concerns will be lifted up at this time.)

Now, let us join with one, strong voice in the prayer our Savior taught us saying... **Our Father...**

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

MUSIC for OUR OFFERING "Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks" Gretchen & Jeremy Jones

Click here <https://onrealm.org/oxfordpresbychurch/-/give/now> to give online

***DOXOLOGY** – "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" #606

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***HYMN** – "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee" #611

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love!
Hearts unfold like flowers before thee, opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the dark of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.

All thy works with joy surround thee;
earth and heaven reflect thy rays;
stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
flowery meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird and flowing fountain, call us to rejoice in thee.

Mortals, join the happy chorus which the morning stars began.
Love divine is reigning o'er us, joining all in heaven's plan.
Ever signing, march we onward, victors in the midst of strife.
Joyful music leads us sunward in the triumph song of life.

***BLESSING**

Do not look for the risen Christ in the confines of any building.
We will seek the risen Jesus in our homes and communities, in all the pathways and byways of our lives.

Do not seek comfort in the familiar, but dare to risk the unfamiliar.
We know that Resurrection makes all things new!

Do not cling to all the old, expected notions about God, Jesus, Spirit, but go forth and celebrate this truly new Good News:
Because Christ lives, new possibilities are ever before us!

Christ is Risen Indeed!
Alleluia and amen!

***POSTLUDE**

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

Email request to Judy Fisher, fisherrh@miamioh.edu, or email the church office, office@oxfordpresbychurch.org.

STEWARDSHIP IN THIS SEASON



Our stewardship continues to be a vital faith expression of who and whose we are. Our giving in this season supports our ongoing work of being church as we continue to serve our neighbors in need, offering a livestream of worship, and sustain our ministry during these unprecedented times.

Please mail your pledge/tithe to the church office or give through one of these digital avenues. To give *online* both conveniently and securely, you may access our 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.

A Note from the Newsletter Editor: Hi Everyone, I am planning a new column for the May newsletter and I need your help. Please share stories with me, in a few sentences, of the good things you have learned, kindnesses that came your way, how you are coping, or anything else from these extraordinary COVID-19 times. Also, let me know if you want to be anonymous. Let's spread these good things!

Thank you! Nancy (moeckenj@miamioh.edu).

P.S. As always, the newsletter deadline is the 20th of the month.

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

Celebration of Resurrection: Easter Sunday



Sunday, April 12, 2020



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