
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.

Kent Peterson, Liturgist

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"
arr. Carson Cooman

CALL to WORSHIP

One: The power of dreams lies in waking up.
For when we close our eyes,

All: **We can see a better world.**

When we close our eyes,

We can dream a better dream.

But when we open our eyes,

We begin the work of faith.

The power of worship is the same.

When we enter this space,

We can see a better world.

When we enter this space,

We dream a better dream.

But when we leave this space,

We begin the work of faith.

So come in. Dream your dream.

Find hope here.

For in an hour,

We will begin the work of faith.

May it be so.

HYMN – "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (vs. 1-2, 6-7)

#88

O come, O come, Emmanuel
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

Refrain

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.*

O come, thou Wisdom
from on high, who orderest all things mightily:
to us the path of knowledge show;
and teach us in her ways to go.

refrain

O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight.

refrain

O come, Desire of nations, bind
all peoples in one heart and mind;
bid envy, strife, and discord cease;
fill the whole world with heaven's peace.

refrain

PRAYER of CONFESSION

**O God of dreams and visions,
Over and over again in scripture,
we hear your dream for a beautiful world.**

**We hear your dream for peace and reconciliation.
We hear your dream for harmony and togetherness.
We hear your dream for community and hope.
We hear your dreams,
and yet we do not open our eyes.**

**We continue to live with the curtains drawn,
the covers pulled tight,
eyes shut to the realities of the world.**

Forgive us.

**Kindle a hope in us that will burn
through the darkest nights.**

**Give us the strength and the will to keep awake
in this sleeping world.**

With hope we pray, Amen.

ASSURANCE of FORGIVENESS

The promise of the season of Advent
is the promise of Emmanuel, God with Us.

We see in the colors and candles of this season
that it is a new day and God gives us
a new way through Jesus.

The Lord is near and invites us all
into a loving embrace
as together we journey in hope.

Friends, believe the Good News of the Gospel:

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Amen.

A TIME with YOUNG DISCIPLES & LIGHTING the ADVENT CANDLE

I dream of sunflower fields.

I dream of an ice cream sundae

topped with whipped cream a mile-high.

I dream of the days when we could be part of a crowd.

I dream of snow days.

I dream of empty beds in jail cells.

I dream of a world that will let kids be kids.

I dream of full tables instead of empty bellies.
I dream of schools with enough money to teach.
I dream of parents with enough money to feed.

I dream to keep awake,
because if we don't dream of better days,
then we might forget that this is not what God imagined.

So today we light the candle of HOPE,
for HOPE is the very thing that keeps dreams afloat.

May this light be an invitation to keep awake.
May this light be our invitation to be Advent people—
people who dream.
Amen.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

UNISON PRAYER for ILLUMINATION

**O God of Grace and Glory,
you dreamed up a dream for your people—
a dream of hope and justice,
a dream for eyes wide open,
to both the world's suffering and the world's beauty.
So today, as we read scripture,
we ask that you would plant that same dream in us.
Pour out your Spirit on our hearts and minds
so that we may see what you see,
and dream what you dream.
Gratefully we pray, Amen.**

SCRIPTURE

A reading from Isaiah 64:1-9

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON – "Dreaming of Home"

Pastor Lawrence

WE GIVE THANKS TO GOD

HYMN – "Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn"
(vs. 1 & 4)

#107

Awake! Awake and greet the new morn,
for angels herald its dawning.
Sing out your joy, for soon he is born,
behold! the Child of our longing.
Come as a baby weak and poor,
to bring all hearts together,
he opens wide the heavenly door
and lives now inside us forever.

Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night.
Though dark the winter and cheerless,
the rising sun shall crown you with light;
be strong and loving and fearless;
Love be our song and love our prayer
and love, our endless story;
may God fill every day we share
and bring us at last into glory.

AFFIRMATION of FAITH

We believe in God.

We believe that God has dreams for humanity.

We believe in the Holy Spirit.

We believe that the Holy Spirit comforts us when our dreams turn to nightmares.

We believe in Jesus.

We believe that Jesus walked this world to wake us up, Inviting us to be the church in the world.

We believe in dreams.

We believe in the power that dreams have to show us a new way.

So in this Advent season,

We are those who dream and those who wake up. May it be so. Amen.

PRAYERS of the PEOPLE and LORD’S PRAYER (sins...sin)

MUSIC for OUR OFFERING

"The Birthday of A King"
William H. Neidlinger / Caleb Orr, soloist

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

DOXOLOGY – *"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"* #607

HYMN – *"Love Has Come"* #110

Love has come: a light in the darkness!
Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it;
hear how their song of joy arises:
Love! Love! Born unto you,
a Savior! Love! Love! Glory to God on high!

Love is born! Come, share in the wonder.
Love is God now asleep in the hay.
See the glow in the eyes of His mother;
what is the name her heart is saying?
Love! Love! Love is the name she whispers.
Love! Love! Jesus, Emmanuel.

Love has come and never will leave us!
Love is life everlasting and free.
Love is Jesus within and among us.
Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.
Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas.
Love! Love! Praise to You, God on high!

BLESSING

**It is a new day.
The Holy Spirit has planted a dream within our lives.
We have a new way of hope:
God’s way made known in Jesus of Nazareth
whose spirit lives in us this day and always.
Alleluia! Amen.**

POSTLUDE

"Savior of the Nations, Come"
Johann Pachelbel

The flowers on the communion table are given by Candace Crist, with gratitude to all committee members, elders and trustees, and for the musical and spiritual leadership of OPC. Cheers to my friends in faith!

Congregational Concerns: Betty Barnhart, Jim Baer, Rodger Cromer, John Curry, Bob Douglass, Nancy Gates, Genee Hesse, Ruth Miller, Dick and Marian Nelson, Jan Reinhart, Becky Rudolph, Sarah Soika, John & Jean Woodruff. **Email request to Judy Fisher, fisherrh@miamioh.edu, or contact the church office.**

MINISTRY NEWS

Confirmation Class on Monday, November 30th @ 7:45 PM! Our next confirmation lesson will be this coming Monday, November 30 at 7:45 P.M. Pastor Marc will be leading a lesson on the sacraments. We will be meeting via Zoom this week, so check your e-mail for login information over the weekend. If you would like to be added to the confirmation class e-mail list, please contact, Pastor Marc (pastormarc@oxfordpresbychurch.org).

No-Contact Food Drive! This Advent, the Deacons and the Youth Group are working together to organize a "no-contact" food drive to help support TOPSS. The food drive will be taking place on Sunday, December 6 from 6:30-8:00 p.m. at the Seminary Building.

Special Music Fund and Poinsettia Fundraiser
Please use this form to order a flower or contribute to the Special Music Fund. Checks should be marked for flowers or the Special Music Fund. The cost of the poinsettias this year will be \$16.50.

_____ **Poinsettia (Cost \$16.50)** _____ **Special Music Fund**

_____ **Donate Poinsettia to Deacons**

Dedication to be put in bulletin:

Paid by check (no.) _____ or Cash _____

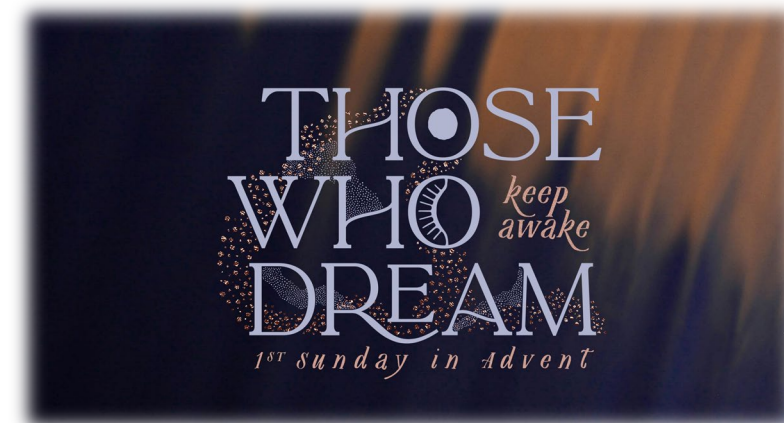
Signature _____

THE LAST DAY TO ORDER IS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2020.

Payment can be mailed to Nick Fears (Financial Secretary) at the church (101 N. Main St).

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

The First Sunday in Advent



Sunday, November 29, 2020



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oxfordpresbychurch.org

Find us on