
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.

Matt Benzing, liturgist

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"
Harmonized by Praetorius
arr. Sylvia Woods
Kathryn Mawer, harpist

CALL to WORSHIP

One: John the Baptist said, "Prepare the way."
So family of faith,
how do we prepare our minds for worship?

All: We silence the inner critic.
We let go of busy thoughts.
We make space for God to speak.

How do we prepare our hearts for worship?

We acknowledge all emotions.
We feel what we feel.
We open ourselves up to be moved.

How do we prepare our bodies for worship?

We take in the scent, sight, and feel of this space.
We breathe in Christ's mercy.
We exhale the Lord's love.

How do we prepare our souls for worship?

We bring our full selves into this space
for Jesus welcomes our hearts and minds.
We trust that even now, God is here.

Family of faith, what we practice in worship,
we must live out in our daily lives.

So prepare the way. Let us worship Holy God.

HYMN – *"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"*

#82

Come, thou long expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us;
let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver,
born a child and yet a king,
born to reign in us forever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all sufficient merit
raise us to thy glorious throne.

PRAYER of CONFESSION

Holy God,
We wish that peace was something we could buy.
We wish that peace could be ordered
in a subscription service,
found on a map,
downloaded in an app,
or voted for in a ballot.

We wish that peace was as easy as a one-time
choice when we are feeling our best.
However, what we have found is that peace involves
everyday decisions over and over,
whether or not we are feeling our best.

So today we confess, in this community of faith,
that we need your help in this Advent season.
Prepare the way for greater peace,
and teach us how to be a part of it.
With hope we pray, Amen.

ASSURANCE of FORGIVENESS

May Christ forgive you.
May Jesus' guiding hand surround you.
May you know comfort. May you know peace.

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 the first pitch of opening season.
I dream of family home for the holidays.
I dream of good books and homemade meals.
I dream of sunset drives with the windows down.
These are beautiful dreams, but I also have urgent
dreams.

I dream of conversations across party lines.
I dream of more bridges and less walls.
I dream of more laughter and less fear.
I dream of more listening and less tears.

But most of all, I dream of peace like a river.
Today we light the candle of peace.

May it remind us that there is another way. Amen.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

UNISON PRAYER for ILLUMINATION

God of Peace,
We must admit,
there are a million things on our minds.
We would like to be as focused as John the Baptist—
preparing the way,
gathering the crowd,
spreading the word of your arrival.
Maybe then we'd know peace.

So today, we ask for your help in preparing the way.
Could you start with our ears,
and then maybe move to our hearts?
We'd like to hear you more clearly.
Maybe then we'll know peace.
Gratefully we pray, Amen.

SCRIPTURE

A reading from Mark 1:1-8

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON – *"Those Who Dream of Incarnation"* Pastor Lawrence

WE GIVE THANKS TO GOD

SPECIAL MUSIC – *"In the Bleak Midwinter"* Gustav Holst
arr. Richard Walters / Kate Trybus, soloist

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION

Come, all who walk through the darkness
seeking hope and peace.
Here is a place where you are welcome.
This is a table where you can rest in the heart of love

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

Lord, we gather here in defiance
of all the world wants to proclaim in this season...

And so in this Advent season,
when we anticipate all it can mean
that God came to dwell
within our world and our hearts,
we join our hearts with all who have gone before,
and proclaim:

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!**

An elderly couple named Elizabeth and Zechariah opened their hearts to your song...

As we share this bread and cup, strengthen our hope in the promises of this season, and give us courage to live in the way of hope and peace as we lift up the prayers of our hearts today. (*Joys and concerns are shared here.*)

We lift up all these prayers in name of the Prince of Peace who taught us to pray: **Our Father in heaven...**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD & SHARING OF THE CUP

MUSIC for OUR OFFERING "O Come, O Come Emmanuel"
Adapted from plainsong / arr. Sylvia Woods
Kathryn Mawer, harpist

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

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

HYMN – "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" (vs. 1 & 3) #119

Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king.
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise;
join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Refrain:

*Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king!"*

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth,
born to give us second birth.

refrain

BLESSING

**We go forth in peace,
alert for the signs of the reign of God:
We wait in hope, turn toward love, practice peace,
and set our confidence in the Living God –
Emmanuel. Alleluia! Amen.**

POSTLUDE

Postlude on *Veni, Emmanuel*
arr. Robert Powell

(Liturgy adapted from prayers by Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.)

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

No-Contact Food Drive!

The Deacons and Youth Group have organized a "no-contact" food drive to help support TOPSS. This evening from 6:30-8:00 p.m., please load your food items into the trunk of your car, stop by the Seminary and remain in your vehicle (with masks on) and our youth will help unload your items into the building.

OPW Christmas Tea: "Listen to the Angels"

OPW's traditional Christmas Tea will become virtual this year on December 13th at 2:00 pm. You are invited to wear your Christmas sweater or sweatshirt, make a cup of tea at home, grab a cookie, and also bring your favorite Angel ornament as you settle down in front of your computer or iPad screen.

Confirmation Class on Monday, December 14th @ 7:45 PM!

Confirmation class will be meeting on Monday, December 14 at 7:45 p.m. Carla Blackmar Rice will be leading a lesson on God's providence. Please keep an eye on the Voice, the bulletin, and the confirmation e-mail list over the next week or so for our meeting location. If you would like to be added to the confirmation class e-mail list, please contact, Pastor Marc (pastormarc@oxfordpresbychurch.org).

Small Group Study

Our printed devotion this Advent on the theme of Those Who Dream is a collaboration of pastors and artists. The engaging artwork from Those Who Dream offers us an opportunity to explore a new form of Bible Study called - "Visio Divina." Visio Divina is Latin for "divine seeing" and extends the practice of Lectio Divina by the use of visual imagery for meditation, reflection and prayer.

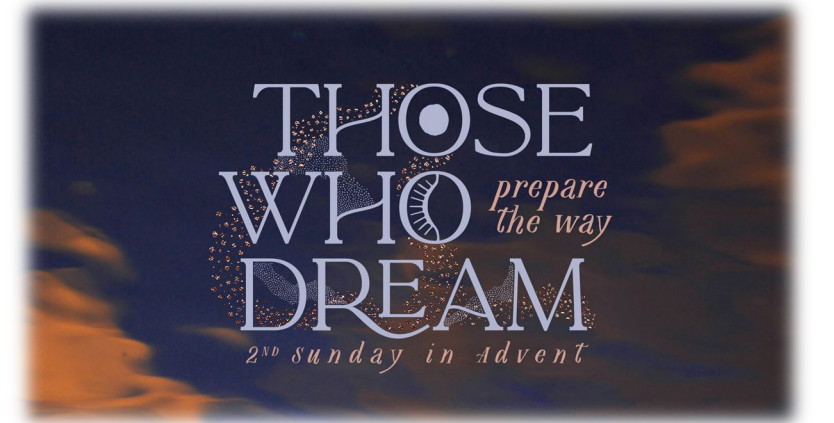
We offer you the opportunity to join us in a small group setting for Advent Visio Divina on Sunday, December 20 at 11:45 a.m. As we continue to adapt to the pandemic, please contact Pastor Lawrence for meeting details.

**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 Second Sunday in Advent



Sunday, December 6, 2020



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oxfordpresbychurch.org

Find us on 