
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.*

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

Liturgist: Matt Lykins

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

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

CHIMES

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *"In the Bleak Midwinter"*
Alfred V. Fedak

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

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (Inspired by John 1)

One: In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

**All: He was in the beginning with God.
All things came into being through him,
and without him not one thing came into being.**

What has come into being in him was life,
and the life was the light of all people.

**The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness did not overcome it.**

We awake to the Light
In our world, emerging anew each day.

**We seek to share this wisdom,
nurtured in the Light over Bethlehem's cradle.**

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

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O Lord of Love and Light,
sometimes we feel lost
and even consumed by darkness.

**We wonder if we are loveable.
Our actions dim the value and worth you
created in others and ourselves.**

But in Christ, God has given us a new Light,
kindling unconditional love for us,
and showing us a well-lit path
to wholeness and forgiveness.

**The Star still beckons.
We follow the Light of the World
that was before, is now, and ever will be.
We seek the Light's ancient wisdom.**

**The Star still beckons.
We seek the Light of the World
that is God's continuing gift.
We live into the Light's new wisdom. 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 Light of the World has a promise:
"I am with you."
God gives a holy presence, forgiveness,
and new hope, in Jesus 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 – "Seekers and Scientists"

Pastor Lawrence

WE GIVE THANKS TO GOD

CHORAL ANTHEM

"At the Table of the Lord"
Jay Althouse

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION

Come, all who journey in faith: bring your lives,
fragile and holy. There is a place for you here.
**We come to this table,
seeking the Light found in Bethlehem's cradle.**

(Singing) The Lord be with you.

(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 Immanuel,
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.

(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 prayers upon our hearts...
(Joys and Concerns will be offered up at this time.)
And now as your daughters and sons whom you have
reconciled to yourself, we pray: **Our Father in heaven...**

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 and then dip it into the Cup. The crackers on the communion plates are gluten free. If it's not comfortable for you to walk, a steward will joyfully offer you communion in your seat.)

OFFERING *"Bethlehem Sicilienne"*
arr. Franklin D. Ashdown

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

***HYMN** – "On This Day Earth Shall Ring" (vs. 1 & 3-4) #141

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

***POSTLUDE** *"Love Has Come"*
arr. David Sims

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: Pam Deahl and Joy Russell

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

Fellowship Hour hosted by the Elders of Session. Please join us in the Molyneaux Lounge following worship.

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 p.m. Anyone needing a ride should contact Karen Simpson, 523-8363, k.simpson2007@yahoo.com.

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.

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!

"Called to Life!" Retreat: All are invited and encouraged to participate in the second and final retreat in our "Called to Life!" discernment. Join us on **Saturday, January 18 at 9:00 a.m.** in the Seminary Community Room.

Church Services at The Knolls: We will once again be viewing a recent Presbyterian Church service at The Knolls **on Tuesday, January 14 & 28**. Come and join us at 10 a.m. in the Activity Room.

If you would like to watch with us, but need a ride, call Becky Quay at 513-523-5747.

Tuesday Afternoon Circle: Will meet on **January 21** in Country Kitchen at the Knolls. An optional lunch for \$8 is available at noon in the café by making reservations with Rosemary Fisher by the preceding Friday (January 17) at 524-7748.

Visitors and guests are always welcome to attend this lunch and meeting.

Current Volunteer Needs: There are several ways to get involved in the mission and ministry of OPC. Currently volunteers are needed to help fold the weekly bulletin and monthly newsletter.

If you have some free time, please consider joining the team. Contact the church office for details.

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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

Epiphany Sunday



Sunday, January 5, 2020



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oxfordpresbychurch.org

Find us on