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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*

**Mary Alice Mawer, Guest Organist**  
**Liturgist: Kylee Fears**

(On cover: Images from the 2019 Russian Mission Partnership  
Journey inspired by today's scripture "Blessed are the poor in  
spirit for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." Photos by Dr. Robert  
S. Smith)

### CHIMES

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### PRELUDE

"Wondrous Love"  
arr. Kendall

#### CHORAL INTROIT

"Sunday's Palms Are Wednesday's Ashes"  
B.F. White

#### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: God created all races and nations of the world  
and willed that we live together in peace and harmony.

All: **We are made to be family in Jesus Christ.**

As we struggle for reconciliation  
and wholeness one relationship at a time,  
**The Lord struggles with us.**

As we strive for peace one day at a time,  
**The Lord strives with us.**

As we work to build the beloved community,  
**The Lord works with us.**

As we offer our gifts in worship,  
**The Lord blesses us.**

Sisters and brothers, let us rejoice -  
**For we have gathered from north and south,  
east and west to worship the Lord!**

\*HYMN - "There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit" #408

#### \*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of Mercy and Grace,  
you come to us in Jesus of Nazareth  
to break down the dividing walls of hostility between us:

**now break into the lives of  
your children around the world  
that this might be a day of transformation.**

**God of hope and peace,  
may we be counted among all your disciples,  
younger and older, in Oxford, Zlatoust  
and throughout all of Chelyabinsk.**

**May we learn your ways of shalom.  
May we work as one body so peace  
with justice will increase.  
May we build new global friendships knowing  
there's great hope in serving you. Amen.**

#### \*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

We affirm, with the Apostle Paul,  
**"that neither death, nor life, nor angels,  
nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come,  
nor powers, nor height, nor depth,  
nor anything else in all creation,  
will be able to separate us from the love of God  
in Christ Jesus our Lord."  
Thanks be to God.  
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

**Shine upon us, God of glory,  
And by your Spirit reveal to us  
The grace and truth of Jesus Christ,  
Your Word made flesh. Amen.**

#### SCRIPTURE

In the beginning was the Word  
**And the Word was with God.**

A reading from Matthew 5:1-3

For the Word of God in scripture,  
for the Word of God among us,  
for the Word of God within us.  
**Thanks be to God.**

#### SERMON - "Blessed in Mission Partnership"

Pastor Lawrence & Bishop Igor - Translation by Angela Trubceac

### WE GIVE THANKS TO GOD

\*HYMN - "For the Healing of the Nations" #346

### THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

#### Invitation

When things become cross-shaped and the way pulls us  
forward into Lent beyond where we have been before,  
meet us here, O God.

**Meet us here where everything we believe becomes  
real and all on which we stake our faith becomes  
tangible, in the bread, in the cup, in being here,  
and nowhere else today.**

Meet us here, for this meal needs sharing  
with those willing to travel on the journey  
and the way of the cross.

**Because it matters,  
we all matter in the Lord,  
because bread and wine matter,  
all are welcome here  
to taste and see the good things God is doing.**

Welcome to the table of life.

(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

O Lord our God...

...Now hear us, O Lord, as we sing with the angels -  
(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!**

In thanksgiving and remembrance, we ask you to  
bless this bread and this wine so that, in sharing  
them together, we shall be your church.

So, we lift up the prayers upon our hearts...  
(Prayers will be offered up at this time.)

Through the grace that we have known in Christ  
and in the lives of those who have gone before us,  
we pray: **Our Father (saying sins...sin)**

#### The Breaking of the Bread & Sharing of the Cup

(As you pass the elements to your neighbor please say:

**The body of Christ, given for you.**

**The blood of Christ, given for you.**

Please hold the element so we can receive it together as a  
symbol of our oneness in Christ. The crackers on the  
communion plates are gluten free.)

#### OFFERING

#### OFFERTORY ANTHEM

"At the Supper of the Lamb"  
Susan Naus Dengler

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

\*BLESSING

We go now in peace,  
for Christ has called us to live in peace.

We go now in courage,  
for Christ has called us from our homes  
to be agents of redemption and partners in healing.

We go now as one body,  
to love and serve God as we love  
and serve the world!  
in the face of Jesus Christ  
shining in your hearts  
for all the world to see. Amen.

\*CHORAL RESPONSE "Holy Lamb of God" Yusuf Khill

\*POSTLUDE "The Glory of These Forty Days" arr. Child's

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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:** Judy Fisher and Kate Wespiser

**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](mailto:fisherrh@miamioh.edu), or email the church office, [office@oxfordpresbychurch.org](mailto:office@oxfordpresbychurch.org).

**Fellowship Hour** hosted by Jean O'Connell and Janet Ziegler on behalf of Oxford Presbyterian Women. Please join us in the Molyneaux Lounge following worship.

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**MINISTRY NEWS**

**Lenten Devotional:** Lent is a time to reflect, to grow, to pray, and to prepare for Easter. This year's Lenten devotional *Becoming a Beloved Community: A Matthew 25 journey to the cross*, from the Presbyterian Today, invites us on a thought-provoking journey to see firsthand how Jesus' words to "feed the hungry" and "clothe the naked" still change lives today. Copies of this Lenten resource is available in the Narthex and Molyneaux Lounge.

**Adult Christian Education - 2020 Lenten Series:** We warmly welcome you to join in any or all of the discussion sessions, based on the book: "Beatitudes from the Back Side A Different Take on What it Means to be Blessed" by J. Ellsworth Kalas. Stop into the church office to purchase your book (\$14.50) and let Bridgite know of your participation in the series. **Discussions begin TODAY** from 11:45 a.m. -1:00 p.m. in the Seminary - Community Room. Please feel free to bring your brown bag lunch. **Next discussion: Sunday, March 8.**

**Lenten Seminary Cinema Series - The Beatitudes:** Join us in the Seminary Sanctuary, today - **March 1, 2020 - 4:00 p.m. - The Florida Project (R).** A gritty, unsentimental film about spiritual and economic poverty, told from the point of view of children living in a rundown motel in the shadow of Disney World. *Matthew 5:3 Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.* **Next film: Sunday, March 8 – Philomena (PG-13)**

**Youth Group:** Bring a friend for dinner at Youth Group tonight at 6:30 p.m. Amy Bartel will be leading us in a special Lenten art project this week. We'll be meeting in the youth room upstairs.

**"Solving America's Hunger Crisis" - 2020 Puff Memorial Lecture: Monday, March 2, 5:00 p.m. - Farmer School of Business 0025**  
With more than 40 million Americans experiencing hunger and poverty, we are a nation in crisis. Author of *I Was Hungry: Cultivating Common Ground to End an American Crisis*, Jeremy K. Everett, believes most of us want children to have ample access to food and adults to be able to find work that can sustain a family—and that most of us feel that the processes towards these ends do not have to pit us against each other. Everett will discuss our collective calling to the hungry and evidence informed ways we can all participate in ending hunger and poverty together.

**"Solving Hunger in Oxford" - Town Hall Meeting: Tuesday, March 3, 4:00 p.m. - Seminary**  
A town hall meeting featuring Jeremy Everett in conversation with Oxford community leaders and Miami University faculty: Jason Bracken, Michael Conger, Ann Fuehrer, Scott Kenworthy, and Lawrence Bartel.

**Evening Circle:** The Evening Circle meets **Tuesday, March 3** at 7:30 p.m. in the home of Violet Suit, 608 Melinda Dr. 523-3534.

**OPC Book Club:** In March, we will be reading *I Was Hungry* by Jeremy Everett which focuses on how we can actively address food security within our communities. Our book discussion will be on **Thursday, March 19** at 6:00 p.m. in the Molyneaux.

**The Kirkmont Spring Retreat:** is **Friday-Sunday, April 17-19, and registration is open!** This year's theme is "I See You." The retreat is open to all youth grades 7-12 and adult leaders. Registration fees are covered by OPC. Information and registration forms are available from Pastor Marc or on the church website. Registration forms are due to Pastor Marc (either by print or e-mail) by **Wednesday, April 1st.** All youth will need to bring their Participant Information Form with them to the retreat. The cost of the retreat is covered by OPC.

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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 in Lent



**Sunday, March 1, 2020**



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

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