
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: Katie Payne**

(On cover: Image from the 2019 Russian Mission Partnership
Journey inspired by today's scripture "Blessed are the pure in
heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for
they will be called children of God." Photo by Dr. Robert S. Smith)

CHIMES

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE I Will Lift Up My Eyes to the Hills (Psalm 121)
arr. Robert Lau

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (Inspired by Psalm 23)

One: O Lord God, sometimes, the days are long,
the nights are even longer, and we're so tired.
And then You soothe us and bring us to gentle places.

All: You are our shepherd, and we don't need a thing.

Sometimes, life is moving too fast,
and we can't find a moment to breathe.
And then You surround us with stillness
and bring an even rhythm to our breath.

You are our shepherd, and we don't need a thing.

Sometimes, the valley is dark,
the shadows are heavy and we're afraid.
But then we feel Your strength,
and we have courage in the midst of pandemic.
You are our shepherd, and we don't need a thing.

We will praise You and dwell with you forever, O God.
We will worship You this day and always!

***HYMN** – "We Gather Together" #336

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O Lord of Love and Life,
**forgive us as we have feared others,
and in doing so have contaminated our hearts.**

O Lord our Shepherd,
**comfort the afflicted among us.
In their loneliness, provide care.
In their sickness, provide health.
In their weariness, provide rest.**

Soothe our anxious minds as we read viral headlines.
**Protect us from the evil one
who aims to use each update, not to inform or guide,
but to stoke the flames of chaos and confusion.**

We pray for those who lack access to health care,
we pray for the vulnerable:
**the sick and the disabled,
the elderly and the uninsured,
the furloughed and the unemployed,
for the Kingdom is theirs.**

Nourish their bodies;
protect their souls.
For they are never out of your sight.

We ask for your holy guidance
as we journey into the unknown.
**Ignite in us a spirit of generosity;
of hope and mercy;
of grace and truth;
of gentleness and self-control.**

**Cleanse our spirits,
comfort our minds,
care for our bodies,
and make us new. Amen.**

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

O Lord of Love and Life,
we thank you for your steadfast love and forgiveness.

We thank you for health care workers
who care for the sick and tend to bodies and souls
with great compassion and commitment.
Give them stamina.
Give them wisdom.
Give them grace.

**We give thanks that you lavish your grace onto us,
not pushing us into shame,
but providing a steadfast comfort.
When all else falls away,
we turn to You and You alone.
We pray this in the name our Good Shepherd,
Jesus of Nazareth who healed the sick.
Thanks be to God! Amen!**

A TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

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 5:8-9

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 – "Catharsis" Pastor Lawrence

WE GIVE THANKS TO GOD

***HYMN** – "Now Thank We All Our God" #643

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER (sins...sin)

ANTHEM "Lamb of God"
Twila Paris
Kent Peterson, tenor

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

***HYMN** – "O Lord My God" #625

***BLESSING** (Inspired by Ephesians 5:9-14)

For once you were darkness,
but now in the Lord you are light.
Live as children of light!
Seek that which is good and right and true,
and try to live in a way that pleases God.
Look to the light of God's love shown to us in Jesus.
Do not hide from it or ignore the struggles of the world
but awaken to God's call.
Arise, O sleeper, and Christ will give you light!

***POSTLUDE** "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"
arr. David Cherwein

Congregational Concerns: Betty Barnhart, Jim Baird, 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.

MINISTRY NEWS

Great is Thy Faithfulness

Great is Thy Faithfulness... in all times and places, we affirm these words.

In times of great change, we put our trust in the message of this cherished hymn and the truth of scripture:

*The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,
his mercies never come to an end;
they are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.* (Lamentations 3:22-23)

After much prayerful discernment, the church office is currently closed to visitors due to the precautions in place for COVID-19. While the church office is closed to visitors, it remains actively staffed as we creatively and strategically adapt to the realities emerging day by day.

Our faith teaches us we are connected to one another beyond social distancing and safe physical boundaries. Please continue reaching out to anyone of our staff members through a phone call - 513.523.6364 or email.

For the latest information on upcoming ministry events, please check the church calendar, visit our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/OxfordPresbyterianChurch>), or contact the church office.

CANCELLED - Introducing Third Thirty: The first meeting of the 3rd 30 (those 60 years of age and onward) scheduled for Sunday, March 29, has been cancelled. We look forward to beginning the series of gatherings when COVID-19 restrictions are lifted.

Deacon Lenten Food Drive: Our traditional Lenten Food Drive will take place through **Palm Sunday, April 5**. The following items are needed and much appreciated: peanut butter, spaghetti, tuna and personal items customers are not able to purchase with SNAP benefits such as, body wash (no bar soap, please), shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, deodorant, feminine hygiene products, laundry detergent and toilet paper. You may drop your donations off in the narthex. Monetary donations can be placed in the offering plates with the note "Lenten Food Drive" on the memo line of the check or on the outside of the envelope if the donation is cash.

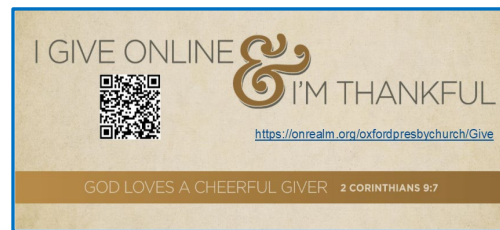
Deacon Community Blood Drive: OPC in partnership with McCullough-Hyde Hospital – Community Blood Drive. **Tuesday, April 7, 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.**

Register to give blood between March 2 and April 25, and receive a pair of limited-edition argyle socks.

Appointments Encouraged
Register online: www.DonorTime.com
Sponsor Code #324

Your participation is critical to keeping the blood supply strong. **It is safe to donate blood. The Corona Virus does not pose any risks to blood donors during the donation process or from attending blood drives. Donating blood ensures a safe blood supply. In times of disaster or public health crisis, it's the blood on the shelves that saves lives.**

For Your Offering: OPC invites you to choose the most convenient giving avenue so that we may all fully participate in our ministry and mission. Offerings of *checks* are always welcome.



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

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

Fourth Sunday in Lent



Sunday, March 22, 2020



101 North Main Street | Oxford, Ohio 45056
513-523-6364 | office@oxfordpresbychurch.org

oxfordpresbychurch.org
Find us on