
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: Buzz Green

(On cover: Image from the 2019 Russian Mission Partnership Journey inspired by today's scripture "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. "Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account." Photo by Dr. Robert S. Smith)

CHIMES

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

"The Lord's My Shepherd
arr. Wilbur Held

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (Ezek. 37:3; Ps. 130:7)

One: O mortal, can these bones live?

All: Only the Lord God knows.

O people, hope in the Lord.

With the Lord there is steadfast love and great power to redeem.

***HYMN** – "Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine!"

#839

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: O Lord, if you held our sin against us, who could live, who could stand?

We seem to have more faith in death than hope in your promise of life.

All: We seek peace through war and find security in weapons.

We abandon the hungry, sick, and dying, and pursue wealth by making others poor.

**And even so, you love us;
still there is forgiveness with you!
Therefore we worship you;
for you alone, O Lord,
can save us from death
and redeem us from our sin. Amen.**

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Jesus Christ dwells in us,
and the Spirit of God is our life
the grace of God is our righteousness.
God, who raised Jesus from the dead,
gives us life.
Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

A TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

UNISON PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**O Lord, we wait for you,
and in your Word we trust.
By the power of your Spirit,
set our hearts and minds
on the source of life and peace:
Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE

In the beginning was the Word
and the Word was with God.

A reading from Matthew 5:10-11

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 – "For Righteousness' Sake"

Pastor Marc

WE GIVE THANKS TO GOD

***HYMN** – "Spirit of the Living God" (x3)

#288

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

ANTHEM

"Der Himmelische Freund" (BWV 443)
"Gethsemane" (BWV 487)
"Lobgesang" (BWV 299)
J.S. Bach, arr. William Ryden
Kalinde Webb, trombone / Bill Fisher, tuba

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

***HYMN** – "Be Thou My Vision"

#450

***BLESSING** (John 11:25)

May the Lord Jesus Christ,
who is the resurrection and the life,
bless and keep you in this life
and the life to come.

***POSTLUDE**

"Be Still and Know"

Michael John Trotta / Kent Peterson, tenor

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 closed due to the precautions in place for COVID-19.

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.

Connect with Sunday School Online! Check our Sunday School website over the next few Sundays for updates, videos, and lesson plans from your Sunday School teachers here at OPC that you can learn from home. Visit our Sunday School website at <https://oxfordpresbychurch.org/church-school/>.

Social Distancing on Us! Attention campus students! Bring your lunch from home for a Google Hangout **TODAY** at noon. Our discussion topic this month is "How do we avoid internalizing negativity during pandemic?"

Youth Group Google Hangout! Youth Group will be meeting Today over Google Hangout at 6:30 p.m. for a time of conversation, checking in, and discussion led by Elliott. If you would like to participate, please add your e-mail to the Sign-Up sheet at <https://tinyurl.com/OPCYouthGoupHangoutSignUP>. If you need help, please contact Pastor Marc, and he will work with you to get something set up for you to participate.

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.

From the Worship Team: In light of the fact that the Coronavirus epidemic shows no signs of abating, we will continue to live-stream our Sunday worship services as long as the current emergency persists. This means that we will be observing Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday and Easter Sunday in very nontraditional ways.

Watch for future communications regarding special activities aimed at helping you with your personal and family worship practices during these holy days. We plan to hold a traditional, celebratory Easter worship service later in the year when it is safe for us to gather to do so.

Deacon Lenten Food Drive: Our traditional Lenten Food Drive will take place until **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. If you would like to make a monetary donation, please mail your check payable to Oxford Presbyterian Church with "Lenten Food Drive" in the memo line.



Stewardship in this Season:

Our stewardship continues to be a vital faith expression of who and whose we are. Our giving in this season supports our ongoing work of being church as we continue to serve our neighbors in need, offering a livestream of worship, and sustain our ministry during these unprecedented times.

Please mail your pledge/tithe to the church office or give through one of these digital avenues. 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.

CANCELLED – Kirkmont Youth Spring Retreat: In light of the ongoing health concerns around COVID-19, the youth group's spring retreat to Kirkmont Camp and Conference Center (April 17-19) has been cancelled.

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

Fifth Sunday in Lent



Sunday, March 29, 2020



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oxfordpresbychurch.org

Find us on