
Choir Appreciation Sunday

May 3, 2020

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.

Jon Sanford, pianist

Janet Holmes, liturgist

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

CALL to WORSHIP (Inspired by Psalm 150)

**All: Your church gathers, Lord,
here and to the ends of the earth.
Your church gathers, Lord,
in city and country,
around kitchen tables and office desks.**

**Your people gather to praise you, Lord,
in every language,
with voices of young and old,
with song and with silence,
with dance and with prayer.**

**Your people praise you, Lord,
for hope in the midst of despair,
for strength in times of weakness,
for justice in situations of oppression,
for courage in the face of fear,
for life in the midst of death.
We are the people who call you Lord.
Let everything that breathes, praise you Lord!**

HYMNS of PRAISE – *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise* #12
(vs. 1, 3 & 4)

**Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.**

**To all, life thou givest, to both great and small.
In all life thou livest, the true life of all.
We blossom and flourish like leaves on the tree,
then wither and perish; but naught changeth thee.**

**Thou reignest in glory; thou dwellest in light.
Thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight.
All praise we would render; O help us to see
'tis only the splendor of light hideth thee!**

All Things Bright and Beautiful (vs. 1, 3, & 4)

#20

(refrain)

**All things bright and beautiful,
all creatures great and small,
all thing wise and wonderful,
the lord God made them all.**

**Each little flower that opens, each little bird that sing,
God made their glowing colors; God made their tiny wings.**

(refrain)

**The cold wind in the winter, the pleasant summer sun,
the ripe fruits in the garden, God made them everyone.**

(refrain)

**God gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell
how great is God Almighty, who has made all things well.**

(refrain)

PRAYER of CONFESSION

This is a moment given by God to confess our sins
against each other, all that God has created, and God.
Let us take this moment to account
for the ways in which we have not embodied
what it means to be created in the image of God.

(a time of silence is held for personal prayer)

There Is a Balm in Gilead (vs. 1 & 2)

#792

(refrain)

**There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole;
there is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin sick soul.**

**Sometimes I feel discouraged,
and think my work's in vain,
But then the Holy Spirit
revives my soul again.**

(refrain)

**Don't ever feel discouraged,
for Jesus is your friend,
And if you lack for knowledge,
he'll not refuse to lend.**

(refrain)

ASSURANCE of FORGIVENESS

Jesus assures us in the light of resurrection –
**we will be led back to the songs
that God would have us sing.**

Christ is eager to show us the path home.

**So we will not be silent,
but will sing praises to the Lord our God,
and we will give God our thank and praise.
Alleluia! Amen!**

Blest Be the Tie that Binds (vs. 1, 3, & 5)

#306

**Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love.
The fellowship of kindred minds in like to that above.**

**We share our mutual woes; our mutual burdens bear.
And often for each other flows the sympathizing tear.**

**From sorrow, toil, and pain, and sin we shall be free;
and perfect love and friendship reign through all eternity.**

A TIME with YOUNG DISCIPLES

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

UNISON PRAYER for ILLUMINATION

**Resurrecting Lord, you conquered death
and opened the gates of life everlasting.
In the power of the Holy Spirit,
raise us with Christ,
open our ears and loosen our tongues
that we, too, may proclaim your love,
healing, and peace to the nations. Amen**

SCRIPTURE

A reading from Acts 2:42-47

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

HOMILY

Pastor Lawrence

When Peace like a River (vs. 1 & 4)

#840

**When peace like a river attendeth my way,
when sorrows like sea billows roll,
whatever my lot,
thou hast taught me to say,
it is well, it is well with my soul.**

(refrain)

**It is well (It is well)
with my soul; (with my soul;)
it is well; it is well with my soul.**

**Lord, hasten the day when our faith shall be sight,
the clouds be rolled back as a scroll,
the trumpet shall sound and the Lord shall descend;
even so it is well with my soul.**

(refrain)

HOMILY

My Life Flows On (vs. 1 & 3)

#821

**My life flows on in endless song,
above earth's lamentation.
I hear the clear, though far-off hymn
that hails a new creation.**

(refrain)

**No storm can shake my inmost calm
while to that Rock clinging.
Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth,
how can I keep from singing?**

**What though my joys and comforts die?
I know my Savior liveth.
What though the darkness gather round?
Songs in the night he giveth.**

(refrain)

HOMILY

WE GIVE THANKS TO GOD

HYMN of PRAISE – Be Thou My Vision (vs. 1, 2, & 4) #450

**Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art;
thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.**

**Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true Word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
thou my soul’s shelter, and thou my high tower;
raise thou me heaven-ward, O Power of my power.**

**High King of Heaven, my victory won,
may I reach heaven’s joys, O bright heaven’s Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.**

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

THE INVITATION

After the resurrection, Jesus broke bread with his disciples at tables and by the seashore. Every time and every place he proclaimed that God’s care knows no bounds.

We proclaim again the comfort and challenge of that witness. We come to Christ’s table with joy.

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

Gracious and glorious God
... **You give us bread for new life,
wine for celebration,
each other for community,
and yourself for our joy
as we sing with the eternal choir:**

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!**

... Now, let us join with one, strong voice in the prayer our Savior taught us saying... **Our Father...**

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

MUSIC for OUR OFFERING – Great Is Thy Faithfulness #39

**Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
there is no shadow of turning with thee.
Thou changest not; thy compassions they fail not.
As thou hast been thou forever wilt be.**

(refrain)

**Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning, new mercies I see.
All I have needed thy hand hath provided.
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!**

**Summer and winter, and spring-time and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.**

(refrain)

**Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow:
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!**

(refrain)

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to give online

PRAYER of DEDICATION & AFFIRMATION of MUSIC MINISTRY

...So I ask you, people of God, has your faith been nurtured by the musical gifts of these brothers and sisters in Christ?

Amen!

Have they served the Lord faithfully by proclaiming the power and comfort of God’s Word through music?

Amen!

Will you continue to support them as ambassadors of the Lord, called through baptism to be worship leaders among us?

We will!

Will you give thanks to God for the new song of resurrection that has inspired them in a ministry of music for the sake of the church?

Alleluia! Amen!

HYMN of PRAISE – When in Our Music God Is Glorified #641 (vs. 1, 2, & 5)

**When in our music God is glorified,
and adoration leaves no room for pride,
it is as though the whole creation cried:
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**How often, making music, we have found
a new dimension in the world of sound,
as worship moved us to a more profound
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Let every instrument be tuned for praise!
Let all rejoice who have a voice to raise!
And may God give us faith to sing always:
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

BLESSING

Let us rejoice: God so loves the world!
**For the Lord of the lost, the least,
and all who long for home,
calls us back – into salvation and wholeness
through music and rejoicing**

Let us rejoice: God so loves the world!
**Jesus’ love calls us out into the
wider community to be agents of
welcome and reconciliation,
joy and hope!
Alleluia! Amen!**

CHORAL RESPONSE – God Be with You Till We Meet Again #542 (vs. 1 & 4)

**God be with you till we meet again;
Loving counsels guide, uphold you,
With a shepherd’s care enfold you:
God be with you till we meet again.**

**God be with you till we meet again;
keep love’s banner floating o’er you;
smite death’s threatening wave before you:
God be with you till we meet again.**

Congregational Concerns: Betty Barnhart, Jim Baer, John Curry, Bob Douglass, Nancy Gates, Genee Hesse, 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.

2020 Birthday Offering of Presbyterian Women: The Birthday Offering is one of Presbyterian Women’s offerings received in the spring each year. It gives women a tangible way to celebrate the blessings in their lives. The Birthday Offering funds up to five projects each year, in amounts of \$75,000 to \$150,000 each.

Since 1922, the Presbyterian Women’s Birthday Offering has helped fund mission projects that improve lives. In 2015 the Birthday offering provided a \$100,000 grant to the Seventh Presbyterian Church, Barranquilla, Colombia, in partnership with Oxford Presbyterian Church, to improve the facilities and services of the Bethesda Christian Community Center, Barranquilla. This year’s Birthday Offering will support a Center for Social Assistance to the Disabled, Family, & Children Assisted Living Facility, in Davydova, Russia, and GAP Ministries in Augusta, GA. We encourage you to mail your Birthday Offering to the church office, 101 N. Main St., Oxford. Make checks payable to Oxford Presbyterian Women. Your generosity is appreciated.