
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.

Mary Alice Mawer, pianist
Kent Peterson, liturgist

(Image on cover: Walking along highways on the Camino de Santiago. Photo by Elliott Jones Boyle)

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

"Prayer"
Engelbert Humperdinck

CALL to WORSHIP (Inspired by Psalm 67)

One: May God be merciful to us and bless us;
may the Lord smile with kindness upon us.
Then everyone on earth will learn to follow God,
and all nations will see the Lord's power to save.

**All: Let the people praise You, O God—
let all the people everywhere praise You!**

May the whole world celebrate and sing for joy,
because You judge fairly and with integrity,
and guide all people, near and far.

**Let the people praise You, O God—
let all the people everywhere praise You!**

Our God has richly blessed us,
providing abundantly for all our needs.

**May God continue to bless us,
and may the whole world come to know
and worship the Creator of all!**

HYMN – "Give Thanks, O Christian People" #644

**Give thanks, O Christian people, for workers of our day
who heed the call to service and make it their life's way
to go to feed the hungry, to tend to those in need,
to work for equal justice, till all God's folk are freed.**

**Give thanks, O Christian people, for leaders of our years
who live to share with others our joy when Christ appears,
to teach the ones who seek light,
to guide the faltering feet,
to lead the followers forward our living Lord to meet.**

**Give thanks, O Christian people, for all who love the Lord,
who live each day believing in God's eternal Word:
to share Christ's love in living, to witness with each deed,
to use the talents given to plant the gospel seed.**

**Give thanks, O Christian people, for life in fellowship
with all who trust our Savior their serving to equip:
to ease another's burdens, to cope in joy and stress,
to magnify God's message and Christ's great love confess.**

PRAYER of CONFESSION

**O Christ, we confess that we do not always
understand your ways.
We are easily discouraged when life
takes unexpected turns
and our carefully laid plans and dreams
come to nothing.
We confess that we are quick to give up
when things get difficult,
and quick to question your presence
and your power.**

**Forgive us.
Grant us patience to wait for your good timing.
Open our eyes to recognize your leading and
to listen for your gentle whisper
when we least expect it.
And then give us courage to step out
in faith and obedience,
trusting in your leading even when
we cannot yet see the outcome.**

**We praise you for your faithful love,
and pray that you would make us worthy
to bear your name.
Amen.**

ASSURANCE of FORGIVENESS

**Though fear should beset us—
though danger cause us to close up our doors—
though troubles assail and lead us away
from the ways of grace—
only one thing is necessary:
turning back to God's promise of grace.**

Remember that God is reaching out
with loving arms,
and let yourself be held.
Only ask for forgiveness, and it is yours:
know that in this moment you have asked
and in Christ Jesus, you are forgiven.

**Thanks be to God!
Alleluia! Amen!**

A TIME with YOUNG DISCIPLES

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

UNISON PRAYER for ILLUMINATION

**Jesus, in the Spirit of Pentecost,
you always come to us.
Whatever point we may find ourselves,
you are always waiting for us.
Open our hearts to what you want us to hear
in your Word today. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE

A reading from Genesis 45:1-15

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON – "The Impossible Journey: The Work of Lifetimes
and Generations" Pastor Lawrence

WE GIVE THANKS TO GOD

HYMN – "How Clear is Our Vocation, Lord" #432

**How clear is our vocation, Lord,
when once we heed your call
to live according to your word and daily learn,
refreshed, restored,
that you are Lord of all and will not let us fall.**

**But if, forgetful,
we should find your yoke is hard to bear;
if worldly pressures fray the mind
and love itself cannot unwind
its tangled skein of care:
our inward life repair.**

**We marvel how your saints
became in hindrances more sure:
whose joyful virtues put to shame
the casual way we wear your name,
and by our faults obscure
your power to cleanse and cure.**

**In what you give us, Lord,
to do, together or alone,
in old routines or ventures new,
may we not cease to look to you:
the cross you hung upon,
all you endeavored, done.**

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

MUSIC for OUR OFFERING "For the Beauty of the Earth"
arr. Jerry Van Der Pol

Click here <https://onrealm.org/oxfordpresbychurch/-/give/now>
to give online

PRAYER of DEDICATION

In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;
in cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter
there's a spring that waits to be,
unrevealed until its season,
something God along can see.

There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;
there's a dawn in every darkness,
bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future;
what it holds, a mystery,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.

In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity;
in our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity.
In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.

BLESSING

As we go from here, hear again the promises of God,
made long ago to our ancestors in faith,
and still true for us today:

I am the Lord your God,
the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.
Know that I am with you,
and will keep you wherever you go.
I will not leave you
until I have done everything that I have promised.

Let's go from here
in the assurance that our faithful God goes with us.
Alleluia! Amen!

POSTLUDE Prelude and Fugue in C Major
J. S. Bach

Congregational Concerns

Betty Barnhart, Jim Baer, Rodger Cromer, 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.

The flowers on the communion table are given by Cy and Diane
Young in loving memory of their parents, Cal and Herma Young
and Kenneth and Frances Lowery.

MINISTRY NEWS:

On the third Sunday of August, the Oxford Presbyterian Church
Session traditionally calls a Special Meeting of the Congregation to
elect the Nominating Committee. The Special Meeting of the
Congregation will take place today - Sunday, August 16 and will
begin approximately 5 minutes after the end of the livestream
worship service. The congregational meeting will be hosted on the
Zoom platform and will officially start when there is a quorum
logged on.

Accessing the Special Meeting of the Congregation by electronic
device (computer, laptop, tablet, etc.):

- At the end of the worship service, click on this link:
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82588367260?pwd=N3dmM3o4M2FhR2RkbTNEdi9GZTI4Zz09
Meeting ID: 825 8836 7260
Passcode: 247145
You should not need to use the Meeting ID or password
If you have not used Zoom previously, when you click on
the link above you will be prompted to allow a quick
download of the necessary electronic configurations to join
a Zoom meeting. If you have used Zoom, you will be
asked to confirm that you want to connect. In either case,
you will have to say yes or confirm if you want to proceed
and join the meeting.

Accessing the Special Meeting of the Congregation by touch-tone
phone (audio only):

- Dial this phone number: 1-312-626-6799
When prompted, enter the Meeting ID: 825 8836 7260
You should not need it, but in case there are issues,
the meeting password is: 247145
If you don't hear anything, don't worry; the meeting may
not have officially begun yet.

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

Eleventh Sunday
after Pentecost



Sunday, August 16, 2020



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