
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.

Pam Deahl, liturgist

(Image on cover: A monarch butterfly after immediately emerging from the chrysalis.)

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

"Meditation in the Rain"
Timothy Brown
Jens Bartel, pianist

CALL to WORSHIP (Inspired by Matthew 16:13-20)

One: In the name of the Lord Jesus
the bread breaker
the light gatherer
cross carrier
welcome

**May the peace of the Lord Jesus
the peace maker
and the temple disturber
friend of the sinner
and companion on the road
be with us all**

**Let us draw close to the Lord Jesus
the savior
the healer
the teacher
and worship him...**

**... and ask ourselves
who do we say he is?**

HYMN – *"Sing Out with Joy to God Our Strength"* #56

**Sing out with joy to God our strength.
The God of Jacob praise,
who brought us forth from Egypt's grip:
from slavery we were saved.
God promised to provide for us,
to nurture and to feed,
to fill our mouths with all good things,
to give us all we need.**

**But we, your people, would not hear,
nor listen to your voice.**

**Our selfish wills would not submit,
nor make your way our choice.
You gave us to our stubborn hearts,
their counsel to obey.**

**We turned from all your promises,
to walk in our own way.**

**You plead for us to hear your voice,
to hearken and obey.**

**You promise to subdue our foes,
and sweep them all away.**

**You pledge to give us all we need,
with finest wheat supply,
and give us honey from the rock,
rich food to satisfy.**

PRAYER of CONFESSION

**Jesus, we look for you in all the wrong places,
and wonder why we cannot find you.**

**We wander the corridors of power,
while you are on the sidewalks, beside the homeless.**

**We sit at the head tables of the world,
while you are handing out soup to the hungry
at the kitchen's backdoor.**

**We applaud those who win the race,
while you are cheering on those in last place.**

**In forgiving us, God of new life,
you would transform our cold hearts
into those melted in service to others.**

**In granting us mercy,
you challenge us to think of all those
we have ignored.**

**In gifting us with grace,
you enable us to proclaim you, our Lord and Savior,
as the hope, the joy, the peace the world seeks.
Amen.**

ASSURANCE of FORGIVENESS

**God,
it's not money,
but our generosity with your blessings;
it is not power,
but our willingness to humble ourselves;
it is not our efforts, but Christ's gift,
which transforms us into God's children.**

**It is more than just how we think.
In mercy and grace, our hearts, our lives, our spirits
are transfigured and made new.**

**You are a Lord who says 'Follow me'.
So we pray for courage and faith in our hearts
that we may take up the cross
and find it leads to life.**

**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 Romans 12:1-8

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON – *"It Is Necessary to Be Most Careful"* Pastor Lawrence

WE GIVE THANKS TO GOD

HYMN – *"We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight"* #817

**We walk by faith and not by sight;
with gracious words draw near,
O Christ, who spoke as none e'er spoke:
"My peace be with you here."**

**We may not touch your hands and side,
nor follow where you trod;
but in your promise we rejoice and cry,
"My Lord and God!"**

**Help then, O Lord, our unbelief;
and may our faith abound to call on you
when you are near
and seek where you are found.**

**And when our life of faith is done,
in realms of clearer light
may we behold you as you are,
with full and endless sight.**

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

MUSIC for OUR OFFERING

"Lead, Kindly Light"
arr. Robert J. Powell

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

PRAYER of DEDICATION

HYMN – "Amazing Grace"

#649

**Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
was blind, but now I see.**

**'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved.
How precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed!**

**Through many dangers, toils, and snares,
I have already come.
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.**

**The Lord has promised good to me;
his word my hope secures.
He will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures.**

**When we've been there ten thousand years,
bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise
than when we'd first begun.**

BLESSING

You are the body of Christ.
May you have the heart of Christ,
tender for mercy.
May you have the eyes of Christ
to see a world in need.
May you have the feet of Christ
to bring good news.
Go in peace!
And God go with you.
Alleluia! Amen!

POSTLUDE

Postlude-Cantique
Th. Dubois

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 Cal and Carol Klumb in honor of another wedding anniversary as they continue to share their love and God's witness in the world.

MINISTRY NEWS:

Nominating Committee

The officers of the Oxford Presbyterian Church are the vital component of our congregational leadership. God continues to work through the vibrant ministry of our church in the midst of the global pandemic. We are growing and learning so much each day. We invite you to take a few moments right now and consider people you will nominate for the following roles:

Deacon - This is a role rooted in compassion and connection for those in our community who need intentional care - seniors, those experiencing transitions, grief or illness, and many more. Consider people who have an active prayer life, naturally reach out to others during tough times and are gifted at following up with people.

Elder - The elders, in partnership with the staff, are responsible for nurturing the faith and life of the congregation. This is first a role of spiritual leadership and second of program leadership. Consider people who are already invested in OPC with their time and talents, those with enthusiasm for the furthering of the Gospel and those with vision.

Board of Trustees - The trustees are responsible for the church facilities and areas of specific financial resources that enliven our ministry. Consider people who are committed to OPC and have skills in facility maintenance, accounting, insurance, etc.

Prayerfully consider who you will nominate today.
To nominate Deacons, Elders and Trustees – please email office@oxfordpresbychurch.org.
If you have any questions please reach out to the co-chairs of the Nominating Committee, Buzz Green or Ginny Layton.

Fall Rummage Sale – Cancellation

The Oxford Presbyterian Women are following the Ohio Governor's recommendations to keep us safe during this COVID-19 pandemic. In order to practice social distancing and safety for our workers and our community customers we have decided to not hold a Fall Rummage Sale this year. This will of course affect our OPW revenue and our ability to support our missions. **If you would like to help support our missions, you can send a check to OPW and put rummage in the memo line.** Mail checks to OPW, Debbie Davidson, Treasurer, 101 N. Main St., Oxford, OH 45056

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

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost



Sunday, August 23, 2020



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oxfordpresbychurch.org

Find us on