
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.

Kent Peterson, liturgist

(Image on cover: September's Stewardship Focus on the first aspect of our congregation's mission "Seeking God." See "Ministry News" for more information.)

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

"Blest Are They"
arr. Charles L. Lenz

CALL to WORSHIP (Psalm 104)

One: Bless the Lord, O my soul!

**All: All creatures look to you
to give them their food at the proper time.
When you open your hand,
they are satisfied with good things.**

You have made the moon to mark the seasons;
the sun knows its time for setting.
You make the darkness, and it is night,
when all the animals of the forest come creeping out.

**All creatures look to you
to give them their food at the proper time.
When you open your hand,
they are satisfied with good things.**

The lions roar for their prey and seek their food from God;
the sun rises, and they steal away;
they return and lie down in their dens.

Then people go out to their work,
to their labor until evening.
**All creatures look to you
to give them their food at the proper time.
When you open your hand,
they are satisfied with good things.**

From your lofty abode you water the mountains;
you make springs gush forth in the valleys;
they flow between the hills,
giving drink to every wild animal;

**All creatures look to you
to give them their food at the proper time.
When you open your hand,
they are satisfied with good things.**

You cause the grass to grow for the cattle,
and plants for people to use,
to bring forth food from the earth,
wine to gladden the human heart,
oil to make the face shine,
and bread to strengthen the human heart.

**All creatures look to you to give
them their food at the proper time.
When you open your hand,
they are satisfied with good things.**

The Earth is satisfied with the fruit of your work.
**All creatures look to you
to give them their food at the proper time.
When you open your hand,
they are satisfied with good things.
May the glory of the Lord endure forever!**

HYMN – *"Morning Has Broken"*

#664

**Morning has broken like the first morning;
blackbird has spoken like the first bird.
Praise for the singing!
Praise for the morning!
Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!**

**Sweet the rain's new fall sunlit from heaven,
like the first dew fall on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,
sprung in completeness where God's feet pass.**

**Mine is the sunlight!
Mine is the morning,
born of the one light Eden saw play!
Praise with elation; praise every morning,
God's recreation of the new day!**

PRAYER of CONFESSION

Lord of All,
you tell us the land must rest,
free from the burden of production.
**We confess our demand
that the Earth produce beyond its limit,
and our bondage to desire more.**

You call us to pause from sowing, pruning,
and reaping in ways that destroy the soil and forests.
**We confess to our insatiable appetite
for food, energy and luxury.**

You assure us that we can be filled
from the harvest of the land.
**We confess our lack of trust
that we may thrive within the Earth's limits.**

You call us to leave enough fruit on the vine and in the
fields – to share your blessings with our neighbors
and animals so that your creation may be whole.
**We confess to thinking of creation as given,
instead of a gift.
Amen.**

ASSURANCE of FORGIVENESS (Romans 8:26-27)

The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know
how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes
with sighs too deep for words.

And God, who searches the heart,
knows what is the mind of the Spirit,
Because the Spirit intercedes for the saints
according to the will of God.

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

A TIME with YOUNG DISCIPLES

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

UNISON PRAYER for ILLUMINATION

**God of Wisdom, open us to the work of your Spirit,
that we may hear and faithfully respond
to your holy Word.
Amen.**

SCRIPTURE

A reading from Romans 14:1-12

**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 – *"Stewardship of Our Commons"* Pastor Lawrence

WE GIVE THANKS TO GOD

HYMN – *"Be Thou My Vision"*

#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.**

**Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise;
thou mine inheritance, now and always;
thou and thou only, first in my heart,
High King of Heaven, my treasure thou art.**

**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.**

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

MUSIC for OUR OFFERING

"Cert'n'y Lord"
Hall Johnson
Kate Trybus, soloist

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

PRAYER of DEDICATION

HYMN – For the Beauty of the Earth #14

**For the beauty of the earth,
for the glory of the skies,
for the love which from our birth over
and around us lies:**

(refrain)

**Lord of all,
to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.**

**For the wonder of each hour of the day and of the night,
hill and vale, and tree and flower,
sun and moon, and stars of light:**

(refrain)

**For the joy of ear and eye,
for the heart and mind's delight,
for the mystic harmony linking sense to sound and sight:**

(refrain)

**For the joy of human love,
brother, sister, parent, child, friends on earth,
and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild:**

(refrain)

**For thyself, best gift divine
to the world so freely given;
for that great, great love of thine,
peace on earth and joy in heaven:**

(refrain)

BLESSING

**May God our Creator,
who established the dance of creation,
may Jesus our Savoir,
who marveled at the lilies of the field,
may the Holy Spirit our Sustainer,
who transforms chaos to order,
lead us to transform our lives and the Church
to reflect God's glory in creation.
Alleluia! Amen!**

POSTLUDE

Trumpet Tune in D

David Johnson

The flowers on the communion table are given by Jan Reinhart in memory of her father, Roy H. Reinhart, who so loved his country and fought bravely for freedom.

Congregational Concerns

Betty Barnhart, Jim Baer, Rodger Cromer, John Curry, Bob Douglass, Nancy Gates, Genee Hesse, Sean 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:

September Stewardship Focus – Seeking God: This summer the Caring for Creation Team hosted a "Walk in the Woods" through the forest of the Indian Creek Metropark in Reily. We had a great turnout of all ages for a "staggered start" walk on the park's short trail loop, allowing both safe physical distance and space for observation, contemplation and prayer. Following our walk, we gathered in a large circle to reflect on God's gift of creation and our call to be stewards of this great gift.

Confirmation Class: If you are in 6th, 7th, 8th or 9th Grade and are interested in learning more about confirmation this year, please contact Pastor Marc. This year's teachers will be Pastor Marc, Carla Blackmar Rice, and Carrie Ann Sherritt. An informational meeting with calendar and lesson information will be held in September, so keep your eyes open for that date coming soon. In the meantime, if you are interested in learning more, please contact Pastor Marc to add your name to the list.

MS / Senior High Youth Group: 21-Day Challenge: Following off of our summer book discussion series, Stamped, MS and Senior High Youth Group is participating in a 21-Day Challenge beginning this Sunday night at 6:30 pm. Each week our youth are challenged to choose one short article, podcast or film clip from [this list](#) on the topic of race, equity, and equality curated by Presbyterian pastors and social justice advocates. We will gather together for three weeks on Sunday nights at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom to discuss what they read or listened to this week, what they learned, what challenged them, what made them think, and what did they find themselves learning (or unlearning)?

Our 21-Day Challenge is a commitment to continue our own growth, development, and transformation as people and as disciples of Christ. If you would like to learn more, please check out this month's [newsletter article](#) from Pastor Marc.

**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**

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost



September 13, 2020



**Oxford
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