
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 the article below for more information.)

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

"Prelude No. 4" (Op 23, No. 4)
Rachmaninoff
Will Rand, pianist

CALL to WORSHIP

One: We gather in the image of the Creator

All: **who is a community of love.**

We gather in the name of the Savior
who reconciles all of creation.

We gather in the presence of the Life Giver
who inspires new life and renews it.

We gather to worship the Triune God!

HYMN – "*When Morning Gilds the Skies*"

#667

**When morning gilds the skies,
my hearts awaking cries:
may Jesus Christ be praised!
Alike at work and prayer
to Jesus I repair:
may Jesus Christ be praised!**

**Does sadness fill my mind?
A solace here I find:
may Jesus Christ be praised!
Or fades my earthly bliss?
My comfort still is this:
may Jesus Christ be praised!**

**Let earth's wide circle round
in joyful notes resound:
may Jesus Christ be praised!
Let air and sea and sky
from depth to height reply:
may Jesus Christ be praised!**

**Be this, when life is mine,
my canticle divine:
may Jesus Christ be praised!
Be this the eternal song
through all the ages long:
may Jesus Christ be praised!**

PRAYER of CONFESSION

**Holy God,
we thank you for the beauty of your Creation,
and for giving us the privilege of caring for it.**

**We confess that we have not cared for the earth
with the sustainable and nurturing love
that you ask of us as stewards.
We mourn the broken relationships in creation.
We repent for our role in a changing climate.**

**Faithful God, sustainer of all – we pray with hope,
because you are already at work through Christ
to reconcile all of creation to Yourself
and to renew all things.**

**Loving God, help us to turn our lives around
to be people of restoration.
Help us to hear the cry of those
already suffering and will continue
to suffer by a changing climate.
Help us to build just relationships
and to live sustainably.**

**Spirit of life, let our stewardship for creation
be our act of worship and love for you. Amen.**

ASSURANCE of FORGIVENESS

Friends, in the goodness of the original Garden,
love was born;
in the surprise of an Easter garden,
love was reborn.
May this love be born in our hearts,
minds, and bodies again this day.

**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 Philippians 2:1-13

**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 – "*Home*"

Pastor Lawrence

WE GIVE THANKS TO GOD

HYMN – "*God of the Sparrow*"

#22

**God of the sparrow God of the whale
God of the swirling stars
How does the creature say Awe
How does the creature say Praise**

**God of the earthquake God of the storm
God of the trumpet blast
How does the creature cry Woe
How does the creature cry Save**

**God of the rainbow God of the cross
God of the empty grave
How does the creature say Grace
How does the creature say Thanks**

**God of the hungry God of the sick
God of the prodigal
How does the creature say Care
How does the creature say Life**

**God of the neighbor God of the foe
God of the pruning hook
How does the creature say Love
How does the creature say Peace**

**God of the ages God near at hand
God of the loving heart
How do your children say Joy
How do your children say Home**

PRAYERS of the PEOPLE and LORD'S PRAYER (sins...sin)

MUSIC for OUR OFFERING

"Precious Jesus"
Jay Althouse
Aaron Garner, soloist

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

PRAYER of DEDICATION

O Lord, my God, when I in awesome wonder consider all the worlds thy hands have made, I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder, thy power throughout the universe displayed:

refrain

Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee: How great Thou art! How great thou art! Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee: How great thou art! How great thou art!

When through the woods and forest glades I wander and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees, when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur, and hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze:

refrain

And when I think that God, his Son not sparing, sent him to die, I scarce can take it in, that on the cross, my burden gladly bearing, he bled and died to take away my sin:

refrain

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in humble adoration, and there proclaim, "My God, how great Thou art!"

refrain

BLESSING

God's creation is constantly changing and renewing itself. In this new day of new beginnings with Jesus Christ, all things are possible.

Restored and renewed in joy, we will walk gently upon the Earth with joy and recommitment in our calling as stewards of all creation. Alleluia! Amen!

POSTLUDE "We're Marching to Zion" arr. Marilyn Thompson Tune: Marching to Zion by Robert Lowry

The flowers on the communion table are given by Judy Fisher in appreciation for the teachers and what they are doing.

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, Don Snow, Joan Teckman, Stacey Winn, John & Jean Woodruff.

Email request to Judy Fisher, fisherrh@miamioh.edu, or email the church office, office@oxfordpresbychurch.org.

September Stewardship Focus – Seeking God

When faced with the many changes created by COVID-19, the Senior High and Middle School Youth Group continues to evolve and thrive. Following the summer discussion series on the book, Stamped, Middle School and Senior High Youth Group have been meeting virtually to participate in a 21-Day Challenge on race, equity, and equality. This timely and deeply relevant three-week discussion series is the first of three focused topic discussions that the youth group will engage with this fall. Additionally, this year's confirmation class will be kicking off in October led by Pastor Marc, Carla Blackmar Rice, and Carrie Ann Sharitt and will continue throughout the school year into the Spring. With all of Christian Education, the Youth Group is committed to growth, development and transformation as people and as disciples of Christ.

The 21-Day Challenge: An Adult Christian Education Small Group

Following off of our summer book discussion series, Stamped (and the small group for youth and adolescents by the same name), Pastor Marc will be leading a special 3-week 21-Day Challenge small group for adults as part of our commitment to continue our own growth, development, and transformation as people and as disciples of Christ.

For three weeks, each adult participant will be challenged to choose a short article, podcast or film clip from this list on the topic of race, equity, and equality. Unlike the 21-Day Challenge for youth and adolescents, this separate list has been curated specifically for adult small groups by Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) clergy and social justice scholars.

We will then gather together on Thursday evenings via Zoom to discuss and share which item on the list you chose. How did it make you think this week? What did you learn? What did you unlearn? What resonated with you? What do you struggle with? How did you find yourself engaging?

The dates for the adult small group are:

- Thursday, October 1 - 7:30 p.m.
Thursday, October 8 - 7:30 p.m.
Thursday, October 15 - 7:30 p.m.

If you are interested in participating, please contact Bridgite at the church office (office@oxfordpresbychurch.org), and she will add you to the 21-Day Challenge mailing list with Zoom login info.

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

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost



September 27, 2020



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