

PRELUDE "Coventry Carol" trad. English, arr. O'Briant
"Angelus ad virginem" trad. French, arr. Eden
Oxford Brass

CALL to WORSHIP

One: This year, we dreamed of world peace.

All: We dreamed of deep breaths and restful sleep.

We dreamed of love that lasts and suffering that passes.

**We dreamed of doors open wide
and a cure to disease.**

We dreamed, because to dream is to believe.

For to dream is to hope; to dream is to see.

So make room in your being to dream yet again,

Of a world without fear, and a God that draws near.

For it is almost Christmas.

Love is almost here.

**May we dream to see, and hope to believe. Let us
worship Holy God.**

CAROL – "O Come, All Ye Faithful" (vs. 1, 3, & 4) #133

LIGHTING of the CHRIST CANDLE Chancel Choir Members

In the beginning, God dreamed of a beautiful world.
In Egypt, the Israelites dreamed of freedom.
In the wilderness, the people dreamed of safety.
In Jerusalem, the people dreamed of a Messiah.
In Bethlehem, the shepherds and Wise Men
dreamed of a new beginning.

Then, several years later,
Jesus walked this earth and dreams came true.
The sick were healed.
The poor had food.
The forgotten and ignored were seen.
The children were welcomed.
Everyone was invited to the table,
and the world has never been the same.
So tonight, we are those who dream.
Tonight, we dream the same dreams
of our ancestors before us.
Tonight, we dream of salvation and justice,
of love and kindness,
of peace and hope.

Tonight we dream of a God that draws near to us
out of unfailing love.
May this candle be a reminder that there will be a day
when every dream will be fulfilled.
And until then, we will be those who dream as we worship
Emmanuel – God-with-Us – born this night.

SOLO – "Gesu Bambino" Pietro A.Yon
Kate Trybus, soprano

PRAYER of ADORATION

Ever-present God,
From time to time we dream radical dreams.

We dream of freedom for the imprisoned,
Food for the hungry, and equality for all.

We dream bold, radical dreams,
until the world tells us that these dreams are impossible.

And when that happens,
we are tempted to tuck our dreams into coat pockets
And let them collect dust on the shelves of our hearts.
Forgive us for giving up so easily.

Forgive us for giving up so easily, for on this night
we remember and celebrate a radical dream—
That you dwelled among us.

Give us the courage to dust old dreams off the shelf
With the confidence that with you,
the impossible is possible.

With you, a light always shines in the darkness.

With you, even an unwed teenage couple
and a band of shepherds
Can bring joy to the world.

Thanks be to God for a dream like that. Amen.

UNISON PRAYER for ILLUMINATION

**Holy God,
If we listen closely,
we can almost hear the angels sing.
If we listen closely, we can almost hear the bleats
of sheep following shepherds,
and the hooves of confused barn animals.
If we listen closely, we can almost hear
the innkeeper say, "No room."
If we listen closely, we can almost hear
the star whisper, "Follow me."
If we listen closely, God, we can almost hear you.**

(Pause for a moment of silence.)

**So as we turn to your Word,
Holy Writer, don't let us miss a thing—
The smell of the hay, the cool of the air,
the way Mary cherished this wild dream in her heart.
We want to hear it all; we don't want to miss a thing.
So today we pray—can you help us listen closely?
Amen.**

The Beginning

FIRST LESSON – Isaiah 9:2-7

Judy Fisher

MUSICAL SELECTION – "Lo, How A Rose" trad. German,
arr. O'Hara
Oxford Brass

Mary's Story

SECOND LESSON – Luke 1:26-35, 38 Kent Peterson
CAROL – "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" (vs. 1 & 3) #119

Joseph's Story

THIRD LESSON – Matthew 1:18-25 Katya Fisher
SOLO – "I Wonder as I Wander" John Jacob Niles
Aaron Garner, baritone

The Birth of Christ

FOURTH LESSON – Luke 2:1-7 Bill Scott
CAROL – "O Little Town of Bethlehem" (vs. 1-2 & 4) #121

The Story of the Angels

FIFTH LESSON – Luke 2:8-14 Kalinde Webb
CAROL – "Angels We Have Heard on High" #113

The Story of the Shepherds

SIXTH LESSON – Luke 2:15-20 Bill Fisher
SOLO – "O Holy Night" Adolphe Adam,
arr. Patrick M. Liebergen
Caleb Orr, tenor

The Story of the Wise Men

SEVENTH LESSON – Matthew 2:1-2, 10-11 Pastor Marc
CAROL – "The First Nowell" (vs. 1, 2, & 6) #147

AFFIRMATION of FAITH

**Great Creator,
We are in awe of you.
We will never know how you managed
to dream up mountains and valleys,
freckles, dimples, and curly hair,
a cool morning mist,
the change of seasons,
or the magic of music.
Your greatness is beyond our reckoning.
And because we are in awe of you,
We believe we must follow the angel's lead
and allow our souls to sing.
We believe that the appropriate reaction
to your goodness
is complete gratitude,
which looks like love for our neighbor,
justice for the poor,
food for the hungry,
and joy that overflows.**

And even though we do not always believe in ourselves, we believe that our song is pleasing to you. This night we are those who dream – those who believe. In Christ's name we pray, amen.

The Gifts We Offer

OFFERING – [Christmas Joy Offering](#)

OFFERTORY SOLO – "Breath of Heaven" Amy Grant
Ellie Wilmes, mezzo-soprano

PRAYER of DEDICATION

Let us pray, Lord of Christmas:
Bless this offering and bless us as we once again celebrate your coming into your creation. We celebrate your love for every person in every place and time. Amen.

MUSICAL SELECTION – "A Christmas Prayer" Gilbert Martin

The Light of Christ Fills Our Hearts

A READING – John 1:1-5 Pastor Lawrence

SHARING CHRIST'S LIGHT from BETHLEHEM

CAROL – "Silent Night" #122

Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
'round yon virgin mother and child!
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace,
sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing "Alleluia:
Christ the Savior is born;
Christ the Savior is born!"

Silent night, holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,
Jesus Lord at thy birth.

Silent night, holy night!
Wondrous star, lend thy light;
with the angels let us sing
Alleluia to our King;
Christ the Savior is born;
Christ the Savior is born.

A CHRISTMAS PRAYER

CAROL – "Joy to the World" #134

BLESSING

In hearth and home, receive and celebrate God's love that heals the world through the Child of the manger and the Christ of the cross. Live in the light of this silent night's joy.

The candles have been lit – light in the darkest night.
The carols have been sung – lifting hearts with angels heavenward.
The story has been told – we will live it, now, every day:
this hope, this peace,
this joy, this love,
given to the world
through Jesus, the Christ,
God with us, Emmanuel.
Alleluia! Amen.



For unto us a child is born...
WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS!



Oxford Brass Roster

Trumpet: Gregg Wentzell
French Horn: Lori Dickerson
Trombone: Kalinde Webb
Tuba: Bill Fisher



OPC Choral Interns

Kate Trybus
Ellie Wilmes
Caleb Orr
Aaron Garner



(Liturgy adapted from prayers by Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.)

Oxford Presbyterian Church
for a full ministry calendar, please visit:
<https://oxfordpresbychurch.org/calendar/>
Lawrence Bartel, Pastor – Marc van Bulck, Associate Pastor
Kent Peterson, Choir Director – Lynn Jacobs, Organist

Oxford Presbyterian Church

A Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols



Sunday, December 24, 2020



101 North Main Street | Oxford, Ohio 45056
513-523-6364 | office@oxfordpresbychurch.org

oxfordpresbychurch.org

Find us on