
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.

Carla Blackmar Rice, liturgist

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *"Lamb of God, Pure and Sinless"*
arr. Michael Burkhardt

CALL to WORSHIP

One: Before we were born, before we took our first breath...

All: Before the week started, before the year started...

Before we said, "I love you," before we said, "I'm sorry"...
Before we figured out who we really are...
Before we figured out who we want to be...

Before it all - Jesus loved us.
Unconditionally and freely, Fully and honestly -
God loved us!

Again and again, this is where our story begins.
Let us worship God!

HYMN – *"Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above"* #645
(vs. 1, 3, 4)

Sing praise to God who reigns above,
the God of all creation,
the God of power, the God of love,
the God of our salvation.
With healing balm my soul is filled,
and every faithless murmur stilled:
to God all praise and glory!

The Lord is never far away,
but, through all grief distressing,
an ever present help and stay,
our peace and joy and blessing,
as with a mother's tender hand
God gently leads the chosen band:
to God all praise and glory!

Thus all my toilsome way along
I sing aloud thy praises,
that all may hear the grateful song
my voice unwearied raises.
Be joyful in the Lord, my heart;
both soul and body, take your part:
to God all praise and glory!

PRAYER of CONFESSION

God of love,
We forget the beginning of the story -
That we were made from love,
To be love, to give love.
Instead of rooting our narrative
In the goodness refrain of creation,
We skip ahead and find our worth at the fall,
With Cain and Abel, lost in the wilderness.

We forget that first there was you, and you are love.
We forget that out of that love you created us.
We forget that from the very first day,
You loved first.

We forget,
Because a love like that doesn't make sense to us.
Forgive our resistance to your saving love.
And forgive our tendency to pass that doubt on -
From generation to generation.

Write a new beginning for us that roots our
Confidence in your unrelenting love.
With hope we pray, again and again. Amen.

ASSURANCE of FORGIVENESS

Family of faith, no matter what we do, where we go,
or what we tell ourselves -
Jesus is love, and God is loving us.

Again and again, we are claimed,
held, forgiven, and cared for.
In the name of the Lover,
the Beloved, and Love itself—
thanks be to God. Amen!

A TIME with YOUNG DISCIPLES

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

UNISON PRAYER for ILLUMINATION

Lord of Life, Creator of the here and now -
We have heard the words,
"For God so loved the world
that he gave his only son,"
Time and time again.

And yet we know, there is a difference between
Hearing those words in passing and truly,
deeply listening.

We long to listen to you Jesus.
We long to hear your truth.
We long to know your love.
Open our hearts and minds.
We are listening. Amen.

SCRIPTURE

In the beginning was the Word
And the Word was with God.

A reading from John 3:14-21

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

"Again & Again: A Love Supreme – Part II"
Pastor Lawrence

WE GIVE THANKS TO GOD

HYMN – *"Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"* #12

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might:
thy justice, like mountains high soaring above;
thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.

To all, life thou givest, to both great and small.
In all life thou livest, the true life of all.
We blossom and flourish like leaves on the tree,
then wither and perish; but naught changeth thee.

Thou reignest in glory; thou dwellest in light.
Thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight.
All praise we would render; O help us to see
'tis only the splendor of light hideth thee!

AFFIRMATION of FAITH –

The Theological Declaration of Barmen (excerpts)

"I am the way, and the truth, and the life: no one comes to the Father, but by me." (John 14:6). "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. ... I am the door; if anyone enters by me, he will be saved." (John 10:1, 9.)

Jesus Christ, as he is attested for us in Holy Scripture,
is the one Word of God which we have to hear and which
we have to trust and obey in life and in death.

We reject the false doctrine, as though the church could
and would have to acknowledge as a source of its
proclamation, apart from and besides this one Word of
God, still other events and powers, figures and truths,
as God's revelation.

"Christ Jesus, whom God made our wisdom,
our righteousness and sanctification and redemption."
(I Cor. 1:30.)

As Jesus Christ is God's assurance of the forgiveness of all
our sins, so in the same way and with the same
seriousness is he also God's mighty claim upon our whole
life. Through him befalls us a joyful deliverance from the
godless fetters of this world for a free, grateful service to
his creatures.

We reject the false doctrine, as though there were areas of our life in which we would not belong to Jesus Christ, but to other lords—areas in which we would not need justification and sanctification through him.

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

MUSIC for OUR OFFERING "Were You There"
traditional spiritual, arr. Moses Hogan | Kate Trybus, soloist

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

PRAYER of DEDICATION

HYMN – "God Be With You Till We Meet Again" #542

God be with you till we meet again;
loving counsels guide, uphold you,
With a shepherd's care enfold you:
God be with you till we meet again.

God be with you till we meet again;
unseen wings protecting hide you,
daily manna still provide you:
God be with you till we meet again.

God be with you till we meet again;
when life's perils thick confound you,
put unfailing arms around you:
God be with you till we meet again.

God be with you till we meet again;
keep love's banner floating o'er you;
smite death's threatening wave before you:
God be with you till we meet again.

BLESSING

**May the peace of Jesus Christ go with us –
Wherever he may send us;
May Christ guide us through the wilderness –
Protect us through the storm;
May Christ bring us home rejoicing –
At the wonders he has shown us;
May Christ bring us home rejoicing –
Once again into our doors.**

POSTLUDE "We Thank Thee Jesus, Dearest Friend"
Dietrich Buxtehude

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

The flowers on the communion table are given by Cia Beal. Dear
God, guide me today.

Congregational Concerns: Betty Barnhart, Jim Baer, Rodger
Cromer, John Curry, Bob Douglass, Nancy Gates, Genee Hesse,
Ruth Miller, Jan Reinhart, Sarah Soika, John Woodruff.

Email congregational concerns to Judy Fisher,
fisherrh@miamioh.edu, or contact the church office.

MINISTRY NEWS

Fellowship in the Virtual Molyneaux Lounge – Join us after
worship at this [link](#) on Zoom.

Lenten Creation Care Podcast Series – Podcasts are a great
way to explore new ideas. This Lent, the Christian Education
Committee teamed up with the Caring for Creation team to
develop a series of "Caring for Creation" podcast.

Listen to this week's podcast linked [HERE](#) and then join members
of our Caring for Creation team on Sundays on Zoom starting at
11:45 am for a coffee hour discussion.

Information for Zoom Meetings is [here](#) (please scroll to bottom of
document for more information)
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89958739600?pwd=enVzaExRUGxOTIR1Q0kwbWFHYVNJQT09>

Lenten Reflections – Each Wednesday throughout Lent,
members of the OPC Staff will be offering individual messages of
hope on our YouTube channel and social media pages.

Join us this Lent as again and again, we bring all of who we are to
Christ and trust that God will meet us with hope, time and again,
along the way.

Confirmation Meets on Monday, March 15 – Our next
confirmation class will be meeting Monday, March 15 at 7:45 p.m.
Carla Blackmar Rice will be leading our lesson entitled "All Good
Gifts." For more information, please check the weekly
confirmation e-mail blast.

Campus Ministry Discussion Group – Pastor Marc will be
leading a four discussion group nights for college and campus
students called "Worldchanging 101" based on the lessons in the
book by the same name by David LaMotte. The discussion group
will be over Zoom every other Monday night at 7:00 p.m. The
dates for these discussion nights are March 22, April 5, and April
19. To register for one (or all) of these discussion nights, please
[contact Pastor Marc](#). All materials will be provided.

Worship in the Sanctuary - March 21 – We're so excited that
in the midst of this pandemic, local conditions are once again
approaching healthy and safe levels for our RETURN to WORSHIP
in the Memorial Church Sanctuary.

As you continue to practice healthy precautions and receive
vaccinations, we are preparing to gather in person for worship on
Sunday, March 21. [Registration](#) is now open for those wishing to
join in-person worship on the 21st.

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

The Fourth Sunday in Lent



Sunday, March 14, 2021



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

oxfordpresbychurch.org

Find us on 