
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.

Steve Flee, liturgist

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE – "Restore in Us, O God" arr. Edwin T. Childs

CALL to WORSHIP

One: Every week is a new week,
Another chance to say:

All: **"Here I am. Use me."**

Every day is a new day,
Another chance to say:
**"Thank you for yesterday.
Thank you for tomorrow."**

Every hour is a new hour,
Another chance to say,
"Again and again, make me new."

We do not come to this place to stay the same.
We come to this place to be changed.

**So let us worship the Triune God,
Who created yesterday, will create tomorrow,
And even now is creating something new.**

HYMN – "There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit" #408

There's a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place,
and I know that it's the Spirit of the Lord;
there are sweet expressions on each face,
and I know they feel the presence of the Lord.

Refrain

*Sweet Holy Spirit, Sweet heavenly Dove,
stay right here with us, filling us with your love;
and for these blessings we lift our hearts in praise;
without a doubt we'll know that we have been revived,
when we shall leave this place.*

There are blessings you cannot receive
till you know him in his fullness and believe;
you're the one to profit when you say,
"I am going to walk with Jesus all the way."
refrain

PRAYER of CONFESSION

Gracious God,
We want to see you.
We want to be known as the people
Who looked for Jesus;
But not only that, we want to be people
Who have your covenant written on our hearts.

Why do we feel so far away from that at times?
What went wrong?
Where did we lose our way?
Could you, would you, once again,
Write on our fragile hearts?
Amen.

ASSURANCE of FORGIVENESS

Friends, despite our wonderings,
Despite our distractions,
Despite wrong turns time and time again,
We are known and loved by God.
Jesus will never stop inviting us home.
So hear and believe the good news of the gospel:

**Today is a new day.
Again and again, we are forgiven;
Again and again, we are reformed.
Thanks be to God.
Amen.**

A TIME with YOUNG DISCIPLES

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

UNISON PRAYER for ILLUMINATION

Holy and gracious Lord,
Scripture tells us that your
Word is written on our hearts,
But we struggle to hear it.

Take us back to the beginning.
Remove the self-talk that distracts.
Clear away the cobwebs of doubt.
Show us how to look inside ourselves for your truth,
And then write on our hearts once more.

**We are listening. We are hopeful.
We are here. Speak now.
Amen.**

SCRIPTURE

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

A reading from John 12:20-33

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: Another Chance" Pastor Lawrence

WE GIVE THANKS TO GOD

HYMN – "Great is Thy Faithfulness" #39

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
there is no shadow of turning with thee.
Thou changest not; thy compassions they fail not.
As thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

Refrain

*Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning, new mercies I see.
All I have needed thy hand hath provided.
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!*

Summer and winter, and spring-time and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.
refrain

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow:
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!
refrain

AFFIRMATION of FAITH – The Confession of 1967 (excerpts)

**The reconciling act of God in Jesus Christ exposes
the evil in people as sin in the sight of God.
In sin, people claim mastery of their own lives,
turn against God and each other, and become
exploiters and despoilers of the world.
They lose their humanity in futile striving
and are left in rebellion, despair, and isolation.**

**Wise and virtuous men and women through the ages
have sought the highest good in devotion to
freedom, justice, peace, truth and beauty. Yet all
human virtue, when seen in the light of God's love in
Jesus Christ, is found to be infected by self-interest
and hostility. All people, good and bad alike, are in
the wrong before God and helpless without God's
forgiveness. Thus everyone falls under God's
judgment. No one is more subject to that judgment
than those who assume they are guiltless before God
or morally superior to others.**

**God's love never changes. Against all who oppose
the divine will, God expresses love in wrath. In the
same love, God bore judgment and shameful death
in Jesus Christ, to bring all people to repentance and
new life.**

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

MUSIC for OUR OFFERING "Sit Down Servant"
traditional spiritual | arr. Patsy Ford Simms
Aaron Garner, soloist

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

PRAYER of DEDICATION

HYMN – "I Sing the Mighty Power of God" #32

I sing the mighty power of God
that made the mountains rise,
that spread the flowing seas abroad
and built the lofty skies.
I sing the wisdom that ordained the sun to rule the day.
The moon shines full at God's command,
and all the stars obey.

I sing the goodness of the Lord
who filled the earth with food.
God formed the creatures through the Word,
and then pronounced them good.
Lord, how thy wonders are displayed,
wher-e'er I turn my eye,
if I survey the ground I tread, or gaze upon the sky.

There's not a plant or flower below
but makes thy glories known.
And clouds arise, and tempests blow,
by order from thy throne,
while all that borrows life from thee is ever in thy care,
and everywhere that we can be,
thou, God, art present there.

BLESSING

Our hearts are full of joy
For God so loves the world!

May God, our Maker,
**Send us back into your world
With creative energies refreshed.**

May Christ, the Light,
Illuminate our darkest moments.

And may the Holy Spirit of steadfast love,
**Guide us until we worship together again,
This day and forevermore. Amen!**

POSTLUDE – "O God, Thou Faithful God" J. S. Bach

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

The flowers on the altar are given by Cy and Diane Young in joyous celebration of their 54th wedding anniversary on March 25.

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

Our CE and C4C teams are continuing with our Lenten Podcast discussion series, Listen to this week's podcast linked [HERE](#) and then join members of our Caring for Creation team 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)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89958739600?pwd=enVzaExRUGxOTIR1Q0kwbWFHYVNIQT09>

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.

Easter Special Music Fund & Spring Flower Fundraiser

This year Spring flowers will be placed at the front of the church on Easter Sunday. Cost is \$16.00. **Orders are due by March 26.** The number of flowers will be limited to the first 30. Donations and dedications for the traditional pre-Easter offering to the Special Music Fund continues to be gratefully accepted.

Fish Banks and One Great Hour of Sharing

Sunday, April 4, Easter Sunday, we will be collecting the familiar Fish Banks as we take up our One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) special offering. Each gift to One Great Hour of Sharing helps improve the lives of the suffering and the vulnerable. We invite you to give generously on April 4.

Congregational Survey

If you missed the survey in Friday's Voice, we invite you to take a moment to fill it out and let us know if you plan to join us for in person worship [Palm Sunday or Easter Sunday](#).

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 Fifth Sunday in Lent



Sunday, March 21, 2021



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

oxfordpresbychurch.org

Find us on