
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.

** Please rise in body or in spirit*

Ellen Buerk, liturgist

(Note on cover image: photo of creation's beauty by Marcia Perry)

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE – "Sing Glory to the Name of God" arr. Janet Linker

***CALL to WORSHIP** (inspired by Luke 24:36)

One: The bread of life opens our eyes.

All: The word of life opens our ears.

The risen one appears bringing peace.

And invites us to faith through touch and taste.

**In Christ is the water of life, the word that feeds,
The food of eternity.**

We come and praise the Lord of all Hopefulness.

***HYMN** – "Lord of All Hopefulness"

#683

Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,
whose trust, ever child-like,
no cares could destroy:
be there at our waking and
give us, we pray,
your bliss in our hearts,
Lord, at the break of the day.

Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,
whose strong hands were skilled
at the plane and the lathe:
be there at our labors and
give us, we pray,
your strength in our hearts,
Lord, at the noon of the day.

Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,
your hands swift to welcome,
your arms to embrace:
be there at our homing and
give us, we pray,
your love in our hearts,
Lord, at the eve of the day.

Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,
whose voice is contentment,
whose presence is balm:
be there at our sleeping and
give us, we pray,
your peace in our hearts,
Lord, at the end of the day.

***PRAYER of CONFESSION**

**Holy God, you see into each of us and know us fully.
We protect what is familiar
And reject what is unknown.
We admire those with courage
But excuse ourselves when we falter from the truth.
We forget you are always with us,
And that with you all things are possible.
Forgive us, transform us, and lead us back to you,
That we might show your life,
Light and love to others.
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

***ASSURANCE of FORGIVENESS**

We seek God's grace with boldness
Because we trust in Jesus Christ,
The One who loves us
And laid down his life for us.

**This is the good news of the gospel:
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Amen!**

A TIME with YOUNG DISCIPLES

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

UNISON PRAYER for ILLUMINATION

**Holy God, by your Spirit
Reveal your radical, surprising love;
Come to us through your holy word,
And let us hear what you are saying. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE

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

A reading from Luke 24:36-48

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

"Active Witnesses & Engaged Disciples"
Pastor Lawrence

WE GIVE THANKS TO GOD

***HYMN** – "In the Bulb There Is a Flower"

#250

In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;
in cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter
there's a spring that waits to be,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.

There's a song in every silence,
seeking word and melody;
there's a dawn in every darkness,
bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future;
what it holds, a mystery,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.

In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity;
in our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity.
In our death, a resurrection;
at the last, a victory,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.

AFFIRMATION of FAITH – The Confession of 1967 (excerpts)

**We believe that the reconciling work of Jesus
Was the supreme crisis in the life of humankind.
His cross and resurrection become
Personal crisis and present hope
When the gospel is proclaimed and believed.
In this experience,
The Spirit brings God's forgiveness to us,
Moves us to respond in faith,
Repentance, and obedience,
And initiates the new life in Christ.
We believe that the new life
Takes shape in a community
In which we know that God
Loves and accepts us
In spite of what we are.
We therefore accept ourselves and love others,
Knowing that no one has any ground
On which to stand,
Except God's grace. Amen.**

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

MUSIC for OUR OFFERING

"I Will Sing New Songs"
Antonín Dvorák
Andrew McLeese, soloist

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

PRAYER of DEDICATION

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.

***BLESSING**

Go out with joy!
**We go to tell the story of faith
That is given to us by the One who never lets us go.**

Seek out those who abound with sacred questions,
Ready to answer by showing Christ's love
And, if necessary, words of grace.
Alleluia! Amen!

POSTLUDE "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name"
arr. David Cherwien

The flowers on the communion table are given by Jan Reinhart for the constant love and friendship of Connie Everhart.

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

Youth Group Picnic today at 6:30 p.m.!

Join us for a special youth group outdoor picnic and discussion night! It's BYOBF (Bring Your Own Bagged Food), a mask, and a Bible! We'll meet in the Seminary Building and walk outside from there (Note: if weather is nasty, we will meet inside the Seminary Building as a back-up). Masks are required!

Campus Ministry Discussion Group

Our discussion group nights for college and campus students will be meeting this Monday, April 19th at 7:00 P.M. over Zoom with "Worldchanging 101" based on the lessons from the book by David LaMotte. If you would like to participate, please contact Pastor Marc. All materials will be provided.

Invitation to Submit Articles

The OPC newsletter is an open access, print and online, peer reviewed, top notch, award-winning newsletter. Its circulation is in the high 3 numbers!

We publish Pastor accounts and commentary, Committee reports and invitations, Team write-ups and more. You can join in helping the public understand our mission by submitting your articles on whatever you might want to, by April 20. Include pictures, poetry, fun stuff and varied and diverse information. Don't miss out on seeing YOUR name in print, as a byline to YOUR column. Send items to your local editor, Nancy Moeckel at moeckenj@miamioh.edu. I double dog dare you to come up with something!

Calling all kids and youth: Tell us about your favorite tree!

Our Caring for Creation team is planning a special Earth Day worship on April 25. The focus is trees! For the children's message on this day, we are creating a slide show where our kids each show a picture and maybe say a sentence or two about a tree in their life that is meaningful to them. Children and families, please [check out our request for pictures](#) and [upload your photos using this survey](#) by **April 21 at 10pm.**

Confirmation Mission Project on April 26th!

This year's confirmation class will be meeting at TOPSS on Monday, April 26th from 3:30-5:00 p.m. for an afternoon service project. They will need to wear a mask and bring shopping bags filled with canned, non-perishable food items for curbside shopping. For more information, please contact [Pastor Marc](#) or check the weekly confirmation e-newsletter.

New Members Experience this Spring!

If you are interested in learning more about membership at Oxford Presbyterian Church, we invite you to join us for a New Member Experience facilitated by Pastor Marc. We will be meeting in the Molyneaux Lounge directly following worship on May 2 and May 9. New Member Sunday will be May 16. If you are interested in learning more or would like to register, please contact the [church office](#) for more information.

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

Third Sunday of Easter



Sunday, April 18, 2021



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oxfordpresbychurch.org

Find us on