

CELEBRATION at the MANGER

Isaiah 9:6

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given:
and the government shall be upon his shoulder:
and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor,
The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

*** The congregation is invited to stand and sing all hymns this year!**

(Image on cover: "Waiting for a King" by Cora Murray)

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE - "The Holly and the Ivy"
English traditional, arr. Christofferson

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: "Teacher, the crowd asked," what should we do?
**All: If you have two shirts, give one away.
Hold onto hope.
Live like we belong to one another.
Speak the truth.
Look for God.
Do the good that is yours to do.**

It's all that easy, and it's all that hard.
Let us worship the Lord our God!

LIGHTING the ADVENT CANDLE Prince and Gladys Oduro

One: In a weary world, how do we begin again?
How do we start?
**All: Let us start small.
Let us begin with what is right in front of us.
Let us do the good that is ours to do
And let us do it with joy!**

Today, we light the candles of hope, peace and joy.
**May all these lights remind us of what could be.
May these lights inspire action.
May the warmth of these lights fill us with joy.**

*** HYMN** - "O Come, All Ye Faithful" #133

Scene 1: The Prophecy
Narrator: Bryson Fears

Scene 2: The Angel Appears To Mary
Narrator: Katie Conger
Actors: Claire Murray, Cora Murray

Scene 3: Mary Visits Elizabeth
Narrators: Katie Conger and Lydia Bartel

Scene 4: Emperor Augustus
Narrator: Bryson Fears
Actor: Ezra Troy

*** HYMN** - "Angels We Have Heard on High" #113

*** PRAYER of CONFESSION**

*** ASSURANCE of FORGIVENESS & GREETING of PEACE**

Friends, no matter how many times
We lose momentum,
Doubt our own ability,
Or tell ourselves that the problems of the world
Are simply too big,
God sees what we cannot.
God calls us by name,
Surrounds us in grace,
And invites us to begin again.
Trusting in this good news,
Join me in proclaiming these words of forgiveness:

**We are loved. We are forgiven.
We are invited to do the good that is ours to do.
Thanks be to God for this new beginning. Amen.**

Scene 5: The Inn
Narrator: Eric Staley
Actors: Lola Albarrán, Luke Brymer,
Gabriel Driver, Claire Murray

Scene 6: Animals in the Manger

HYMN - "Zagales Pastores"

Scene 6 continued... The Baby is Born!
Narrator: Andy Conger

*** HYMN** - "Away in a Manger" #115

MUSIC for OUR OFFERING -
"Greensleeves/ What Child is This?"
English traditional, arr. Marchand

(Scan the QR code to the right or go to
<https://onrealm.org/oxfordpresbychurch/-/give/now>
to give online)



*** DOXOLOGY** - "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" #607

Scene 7: Shepherds
Narrator: Bryson Fears
Actors: Nash Driver, Tell Jones, Jack Rasche,
Oran Rice

SPECIAL MUSIC - "Carol of the Bells" Luke Brymer

Scene 8: The Wise Men
Narrator: Katie Conger
Scene 9: Conclusion
Narrator: Andy Conger

*** HYMN** - "Joy to the World" #134

CLOSING PRAYER and BLESSING

*** HYMN** - "Go, Tell It on the Mountain" #136

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

POSTLUDE - "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen"
English traditional, arr. Walker

WE DEPART TO SERVE

Oxford Brass Roster

Gregg Wentzell, Trumpet I Adam Dolfi, Trumpet II
Lori Dickerson, French horn Kalinde Webb, Trombone
Bill Fisher, Tuba

Credits

Piano: Laurie Traveline Neyer
Guitars: Laurie Traveline Neyer, Jesse Troy
Percussion and Bells: Ezra Troy, Tommy Troy
Violin: Carla Blackmar Rice
Digeridoo: Andy Conger

Choir

Amy Bartel, Lawrence Bartel, Kim Conger, Michael Conger,
Patricia Nesper, Mike Rudolph

Thanks to Church Staff

Gordon Adams, Lawrence Bartel, Bridgite Dickerson, Nick Fears,
Michael Hughes, Kent Peterson, Marc van Bulck

Thanks to all parents and volunteers

Especially Joni Marcum, Sarah Miller, Jeannie Sturgeon
Kristen Adams, Olivia Naiman, Andy Rice, Claire Waller

Animals

Skye Adams, Reuben Driver, Steele Jones, Annie Rasche

Actors

Lola Albarrán, Luke Brymer, Ophelia Brymer, Gabriel Driver,
Nash Driver, Baya Jones, Tell Jones, Claire Murray, Cora Murray,
Jack Rasche, Oran Rice, Ezra Troy

Congregational Concerns

Jim Baer, Fred & Mary Jane Brower, Steve Dana, Sandy
Douglass, Amber McClelland, Peggi Stitt.

Email congregational concerns to the church office
(office@oxfordpresbychurch.org).

MINISTRY NEWS

OASH (part of the OPC ESP Team)

Our last meeting of 2024 will be held Monday, December 16, from 5:00-7:00 p.m. at the OPC Seminary church on the corner of Church and Poplar. Please join us for pizza and beverages as we continue with plans for the annual Point-in-Time (PIT) count and our work toward bringing permanent supportive housing to Oxford.

Hands-On Mission Volunteer Opportunity at TOPSS

The next OPC-sponsored hands-on mission activity will be held at TOPSS on Saturday, December 21st, from 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. A team from OPC will be helping with curbside shopping and delivering food to families in need. In addition, there are a few other projects that we may help with.

Talawanda Oxford Pantry and Social Services (TOPSS) provides support to people in the Talawanda School District who are experiencing major setbacks or challenges. TOPSS offers weekly pantry services and emergency assistance, including rent and utility support, to those who are eligible to ensure that no one falls through the cracks.

Please join us at TOPSS at 5445 College Corner Pike on Saturday, December 21st, to help support the work of this important organization that responds to needs in our community. Share this good news on the go with family and friends, neighbors, and colleagues.

Creating a Healthy Community

Thanks to everyone for their dedication to the community blood drives month after month.

Results from the December 6th blood drive:

- 31 were successful!
- 1 first time donor
- Over 93 lives will be positively impacted because of total donations!

Next blood drive: Friday, January 3.

Appointments preferred, walk-ins welcome.

Scan the QR Code or call 937-461-3220 to schedule your appointment.



OPC - Office Holiday Hours

Regular hours of operation:

December 16-20, 23, 24, 27, 30-31
(8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.)

- Closed December 25 & December 26
- Closed January 1 & January 2

Regular hours of operation resume on Friday, January 3.

Christmas Eve in Oxford

*It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old...
... and the whole world gives back the song which now the angels sing.*

Share the joy of Christmas Eve with your Oxford Presbyterian Church family as we join in the song that announces the good news of great joy. Jesus, the Christ, is born!

Invite your family, friends, and neighbors for a Traditional Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship Service of Lessons and Carols on Tuesday, December 24 at 7:00 p.m.

Please note the nursery will be open for any need that our families may have to use that space. However, will not be staffed to allow our wonderful nursery staff to enjoy the festive season with their families.

WEEKLY CALENDAR of MINISTRY

16 th	ESP / OASH Community Meeting	5:00 p.m. (Seminary church - community room)
17 th	Orientation for Ruling Elders	5:30 p.m. (Memorial church - Molyneaux Room)
17 th	Session Meeting	7:00 p.m. (Memorial church - Molyneaux Room)
18 th	CCNS Board Meeting	6:00 p.m. (Memorial church - Molyneaux Room)
19 th	Bicentennial Team Meeting	10:00 a.m. (Memorial church - Molyneaux Room)
19 th	Chancel Choir Rehearsal	7:30 p.m. (Memorial church - Molyneaux Room)
21 st	Mission and Outreach - Hands-On Mission	11:00 a.m. (TOPSS Food Pantry)
24 th	A Candlelight Service of Lessons & Carols	7:00 p.m. (Memorial church - Sanctuary)
25 th - 26 th	Merry Christmas	OPC Offices Closed

**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

Celebration at the Manger



December 15, 2024



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oxfordpresbychurch.org

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