

Welcome to all!

A special welcome to guests and newcomers. You bless us with your presence. Indeed, every Christmas Eve, God blesses us with the gift of special guests. Some of you may have found your way here from across town or across the country.

We have good news of great joy for you: Oxford Presbyterian Church is a welcoming place to seek the presence of God whose incarnation of love we celebrate tonight. We strive to be a sanctuary of seekers that live into the deepest questions as we answer Christ's call to love God and neighbor. We believe that Jesus wholly welcomes all people to participate fully just as they are and so do, we. We welcome you to join us on a transformative journey.

Let us know of your presence by filling out a "Welcome" card from the pew rack and then placing it in the offering plate later in worship. Please introduce yourself to a pastor after the service.

**\* Please rise in body or spirit.**



### **PROCESSION of the PEACE LIGHT from BETHLEHEM**

**CALL to WORSHIP** (Adapted from Luke 2:1-14)

One: In those days,

**All: Joseph and Mary traveled to Bethlehem.**

He was to be registered,  
And she was expecting a child.

**The time came for Mary to give birth,  
So she delivered her child,  
Wrapped him in bands of cloth  
And laid him in a manger.**

And the angels sang,  
**"Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
And on earth, peace to all."**

Let us worship Emmanuel, God-with-us.

**Let us sing songs of praise on this most holy night!**

**\* PROCESSIONAL CAROL** – "O Come, All Ye Faithful" #133

**\* LIGHTING of the CHRIST CANDLE** The Fisher Family

In a weary and worn world, how do we begin again?  
Where do we start?

**Let us begin with hope. Let us begin with peace.  
Let us begin with joy. Let us begin with love.**

Yes, let us begin with love,  
For surely love knows your name.

**Tonight, in addition to the candles  
Of hope, peace, joy, and love,  
We light the Christ Candle  
From the light of Bethlehem  
That shines in the place of Jesus' birth.**

For surely God is in this place.

Surely the Spirit is near.

Surely love knows our name.

**For unto us a child is born.**

**A light shines in the darkness**

**And the darkness cannot overcome it.**

**Glory to God in the highest heaven! Amen!**

### **\* PRAYER of CONFESSION**

**Loving Jesus,**

**When the shepherds heard that you were born,**

**They dropped their things and ran.**

**They trusted the angels' invitation.**

**They believed that your love existed for them.**

**We wish that we were more like that.**

**Instead, somewhere between the angels' song**

**And the manger,**

**We tend to lose our way.**

**We doubt ourselves.**

**We doubt the invitation.**

**We doubt that love could know our names.**

**Remind us that your love is personal and specific.**

**Remind us that the good news of this day is for us.**

**With hope we sing, we pray, and we run.**

**Amen.**

### **\* ASSURANCE of FORGIVENESS & GREETING of PEACE**

Family of faith,

The angels are singing: unto you a child is born.

It is a love that is personal.

It is a love that knows your name.

So hear and believe the good news of the Gospel:

You are seen. You are claimed.

You are forgiven. You are loved.

**Glory to God in the highest heaven!**

**Glory to God here and now.**

**Alleluia! Amen.**

**ANTHEM** – "Rejoice, Your Light Has Come" Mary McDonald

### **The Story of Christmas**

### **UNISON PRAYER for ILLUMINATION**

**Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Prince of Peace —**

**We always long for you, but on this night,**

**On this holy Christmas Eve,**

**We long for you to feel as close as possible.**

**So as we prepare to hear the timeless**

**Story of your love, we ask that you would awaken**

**Something new in us.**

**Awaken in us a fire for your Word.**

**Awaken in us proof of your presence.**

**Awaken in us your love,**

**Which is bigger than the universe,**

**And as close as our very breath.**

**We are listening. We give thanks. Amen.**

**FIRST LESSON** – Luke 2:1-3

Bill Fisher

**CAROL** – "O Little Town of Bethlehem" (vs. 1-2)

#121

**SECOND LESSON** – Luke 2:4-5

Prince Oduro

*Brief Silence*

**ANTHEM** – "Jul, Jul"

Gustafson Nordqvist, arr. Chris de Silva

Jake Vidourek, Oboe soloist

**THIRD LESSON** – Luke 2:6-7

Elena Albarrán

**SOLO** – "Song of the Donkey"

Kent Peterson

**FOURTH LESSON** – Luke 2:8-12

Judy Schiller

*Brief Silence*

**ANTHEM** – "Pachelbel Noel"

arr. Heather Sorenson

**FIFTH LESSON** – Luke 2:13-16

Mike Rudolph

**ANTHEM** – "Untitled Carol"

Joseph M. Martin

Jake Vidourek, English horn soloist

**SIXTH LESSON** – Luke 2:17-20

Pam Deahl

*Brief Silence*

**ANTHEM** – "Pavanne for a Silent Night"

Jean Anne Shafferman & Patrick M. Liebergen

Jake Vidourek, Oboe soloist

### **CHRISTMAS AFFIRMATION of FAITH**

**We believe that on a night like this one,  
A baby was born and placed in a manger.  
We believe that baby was God's love in the flesh,  
Who grew up to love the outcast  
And change the world.  
We believe that Jesus' love was so big  
And so personal  
That the world will never be the same.  
So despite the mystery of this holy night,  
We believe that a star shone,  
That the shepherds ran,  
That the angels sang, and that love was born.  
Yes! We believe it when the prophets say  
That unto you, unto us, a savior is born.  
Glory to God in the highest heaven!  
We believe. Amen!**

### **The Gifts We Offer**

**OFFERING** – Christmas Joy Offering

**MUSIC FOR OUR OFFERING** – "O Holy Night" Adam Adolphe

Jake Vidourek, Oboe soloist

***The Light of Christ Fills Our Hearts***

\* CAROL SING

*"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"*

Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn king.  
Peace on earth and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled!"  
Joyful all ye nations, rise;  
Join the triumph of the skies;  
With the angelic host proclaim,  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"  
Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn king!"

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail the son of righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings,  
Risen with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by,  
Born that we no more may die,  
Born to raise us from the earth,  
Born to give us second birth.  
Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn king!"

*"Angels We Have Heard on High"*

Angels we have heard on high,  
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply  
Echoing their joyous strains.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo! (2x)

Come to Bethlehem and see  
Him whose birth the angels sing;  
Come, adore on bended knee  
Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo! (2x)

*"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"*

Good Christian friends rejoice  
With heart and soul and voice;  
Give ye heed to what we say:  
Jesus Christ is born today;  
Ox and ass before him bow,  
And he is in the manger now.  
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

Good Christian friends, rejoice  
With heart and soul and voice;  
Now ye hear of endless bliss:  
Jesus Christ was born for this!  
He has opened heaven's door,  
And we are blest forever more.

Christ is born for this! Christ is born for this!

\* SHARING CHRIST'S LIGHT from BETHLEHEM

*(The ushers will light the first candle in each pew. Each person will light the candle of the next worshiper. Please keep the lighted candle upright when sharing the light.)*

*"Silent Night"*

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

Come to us this night, Jesus,  
Be born in us this night,  
In our hearts, our minds, our lives.  
May the light of your life be kindled in us,  
And lead us to the shining truth,  
Of God with us, God for us, God in us.

Go, into this night as you  
Join the heavenly chorus and sing:  
"Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
And on earth peace."  
Sing of God's love from day to day.  
For Jesus Christ is born today!

POSTLUDE - "Away in a Manger" arr. Mark Blatchly

*(Liturgy adapted from a prayer by Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.)*



**Christmas Eve Chancel Choir**

Adrienne Bader\* - Audrey Bader\* - Amy Bartel\* - Lydia Bartel\*  
Bill Brewer\* - Deb Davidson - Pam Deahl - Bryson Fears\*  
Bill Fisher - Judy Fisher - Katya Fisher\* - Richard Gonzales\*  
Jack Liles - Katherine Kendall - Susan Maxfield - Dick Munson  
Patricia Nespor - Janet Rinehart - Mary Jane Roberts  
Michael Rudolph - Kalinde Webb - Chris Williams  
Sterling Williams - Diane Young  
Kent Peterson, Director of Music - Lynn Jacobs, Organist  
Jens Bartel, Guest Pianist - Jake Vidourek, Oboist

\* Guest singers

# Christmas Eve

## A Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols



**Tuesday, December 24, 2024**  
**7:00 p.m.**



**Oxford  
Presbyterian  
Church** U.S.A.

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

[oxfordpresbychurch.org](http://oxfordpresbychurch.org)

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