

## 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.

**Connect with us** by signing the friendship pads  
found at the end of the pew and passing them to  
your neighbors. Visitors, please scan the QR code.



Large print bulletins and hearing assistance devices are available  
from ushers.

(Image on cover: created by Hannah Garrity of Sanctified Art)

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

**Eric Staley, liturgist**

### WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

#### WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

**PRELUDE** – "Away in a Manger" arr. Janet Linker

#### \* CALL to WORSHIP

One: Here on the heels of Christmas,  
**East: I walked, eyes looking up, following the star.**  
**West: I ran, lunging for a love that is bigger than I.**  
**North: I tumbled and fell, tender step after tender step.**  
**South: I sauntered like a pilgrim, caught up in God's flow.**

One: Tell me again. How did you get here?  
**All: I am here by God's grace and Jesus' love.**

Welcome home.  
**This is God's house.**  
**There is room for all here.**  
**Let us worship our Emmanuel, God-with-us!**

\* **HYMN** – "We Three Kings of Orient Are" (vs. 1, 2 & 5) #151

#### \* PRAYER of CONFESSION

**God of new beginnings,**  
**We admit that we often follow the well-worn path,**  
**Simply because others have been there before.**  
**Sometimes this is holy and humble,**  
**But there are days when a new path**  
**Needs to be tread.**

**On those new-beginning days, O Christ,**  
**Give us the courage to follow your star.**

**Give us the courage to go home by another way**  
**For the sake of justice, love, and neighbor.**  
**For when you are doing a new thing,**  
**We want to have the courage to follow. Amen.**

#### \* ASSURANCE of FORGIVENESS

Dear travelers, no matter the roads you've taken,  
The steps you've made, or the paths you've traveled,  
There is nowhere you could go  
That would land you outside of God's love.  
Hear and believe the good news of the Gospel:  
**Regardless of the path we travel,**  
**Of how lost we may get,**  
**Or the twists and turns along the way,**  
**We do not walk alone.**  
**We are loved. We are forgiven.**  
**We have every chance to begin again.**  
**Thanks be to God for a love like this!**  
**Alleluia! Amen!**

#### A TIME with YOUNG DISCIPLES

### WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

#### UNISON PRAYER for ILLUMINATION

**Jesus, Light of the world,**  
**We long to follow you.**  
**Like the Magi,**  
**We want to follow your guiding star.**  
**Unfortunately,**  
**The stars can be hard to see from here.**  
**Your still, small voice**  
**Can be hard to hear from here.**  
**So just as you guided the Magi, guide us.**  
**Draw our attention to your Word.**  
**Reveal what it is you want us to hear today,**  
**So that we can follow you.**  
**With hope in our hearts we pray, amen.**

#### SCRIPTURE – Isaiah 60:1-6

Holy wisdom, holy Word.  
**Thanks be to God.**

#### SERMON – "The Call of Christmas"

Pastor Lawrence

### WE GIVE THANKS TO GOD

\* **HYMN** – "What Child is This" #145

#### THE SACRAMENT of HOLY COMMUNION

#### INVITATION

Come, all who journey in faith:  
Bring your lives, fragile and holy.  
There is a place for you here.

**Every time we gather at this table,**  
**We tell the same story –**  
**The story of a Messiah who gathered his friends**  
**Together for one last supper,**  
**The story of a Messiah who loved us so much**  
**He just couldn't stay away.**

So friends, bring the parts of you that are aching to hear  
This story again,  
**Because this good news is for us –**  
**For all creation!**  
(Singing) The Lord be with you.  
(Singing) **And also with you**  
Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them up to the Lord.**  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

#### GREAT PRAYER of THANKSGIVING

God-with-us, we confess that there is something  
So marvelous and wonderful about this Christmastime.  
Joy and hope are in the air –  
So thick we could almost bottle it up.  
But we don't want to bottle up this feeling;  
We want to share it. So we sing with creation –

(Singing) **Holy, Holy, holy Lord;**  
**God of power and might.**  
**Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**  
**Hosanna in the highest!**  
**Hosanna in the highest!**  
**Hosanna in the highest!**

So today we come to you in prayer,  
Pour out your Spirit on this table.  
Strengthen us from the inside out.

(Joys and Concerns offered here)

... As we tell your story of good news,  
Let us once again speak the prayer you  
Taught your disciples to pray, saying:  
**Our Father...**  
(Lord's Prayer on pg. 35 of Glory to God saying sins...sin)

#### THE BREAKING of the BREAD & SHARING of the CUP

**MUSIC for OUR OFFERING** – "The God of All Eternity"  
John L. Bell & Graham Maule  
(Tune: Winchester New)

(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"  
#606

#### \* PRAYER of DEDICATION

\* **HYMN** – "Go, Tell It on the Mountain"

#136

\* **BLESSING**

Let all people sing praises to God.  
**We sing for joy.**  
Let the whole world give glory to Jesus.  
Let heaven rejoice. Let the whole world rejoice.  
**Christ is here! God is with us!**  
**Alleluia! Amen!**

**POSTLUDE** – *Chorale Prelude on 'In Dulci Jubilo'*

J. S. Bach

**WE DEPART TO SERVE**

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

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**Congregational Concerns**

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

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**MINISTRY NEWS**

**Caregivers Connections**

OPC's support group for people whose lives are affected by the caregiving needs of family members or other loved ones will hold its meeting on Monday, January 6 at 1:00 p.m. in the Molyneaux Room. Caregivers will receive support from others who share their challenges and find help in identifying resources that can assist them in their caregiving roles. For more information, please call the church office at 513-523-6364.

**Tuesday Evening Circle**

The Tuesday Evening Circle will be meeting on January 7 at 6:45 p.m. in the Memorial church Molyneaux Room. We will be discussing Lesson Four, "Water Justice," in the Horizon's Bible Study, *Let Justice Roll Down*. Visitors are welcome.

**Adult Christian Education – Small Group Bible Study**

All are invited to join us in the Memorial church meeting room on Sunday, January 12 at 11:30 a.m. The book, "Believe and Live," guides our study and discussion of John's Gospel. This small group meets twice a month on the second and fourth Sundays.

**Adult Christian Education - The Chosen Discussion Series**

Oxford Presbyterian Church invites you to once again join us for our discussion series on the popular program, "The Chosen" presented by the Christian Education committee. This 5-week series meets on Thursday evenings in the Molyneaux Room at 6:30 p.m. beginning January 16. We will watch an episode of the program each week followed by a guided discussion. Scan the QR code to access the reading list.

This intergenerational program is open to adults, children, youth ages 12 and up. For more information, please contact the church office.



**All Church Retreat**

The process of listening and discerning how to live a life of meaning and purpose is important for each of us and is a core value of our congregation. It is a common challenge for us as individuals, and this is a common thread throughout all of our ministries.

You are all invited to join us on January 18 for an all-church retreat. The theme of our retreat is callings - both individual and congregational. In anticipation of the Lenten season, we also will discuss spiritual practices to assist us in starting or continuing to discern our individual calls. The retreat will be held from 9:00 - 11:30 a.m. in the Seminary church.

An RSVP is requested to help us with room set-up and to ensure sufficient snacks and beverages. In addition, please contact the church office ([office@oxfordpresbychurch.org](mailto:office@oxfordpresbychurch.org)) to let us know if you have any childcare needs and to let us know you're coming. If you forget to reply, don't worry - still come. You are welcome!

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**Annual Meeting of the Congregation**

The annual meeting of the congregation will be held after worship on Sunday, January 19. At this meeting, we will receive the 2024 annual report, review the 2025 ministry budget, and approve the pastors' terms of call.

We will give thanks to God for a faithful, wise and vital congregation as we follow the Holy Spirit into this new year.

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**WEEKLY CALENDAR of MINISTRY**

5	Connections Committee	11:30 a.m. (Memorial church – 3-5 grade classroom)
7	Tuesday Evening Circle	6:45 p.m. (Memorial church – Molyneaux Room)
8	Personnel Committee	6:30 p.m. (Memorial church – meeting room)
8	Stewardship & Finance Committee	7:00 p.m. (Memorial church – Molyneaux Room)
9	Called to Life! Team	4:00 p.m. (Memorial church – Molyneaux Room)
10	Scripture by Heart Team meeting	8:30 a.m. (Memorial church – meeting room)
12	Adult Christian Ed – Bible Study of John	11:30 a.m. (Memorial church – meeting room)

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**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**

# Epiphany of the Lord Sunday



**January 5, 2024**



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

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