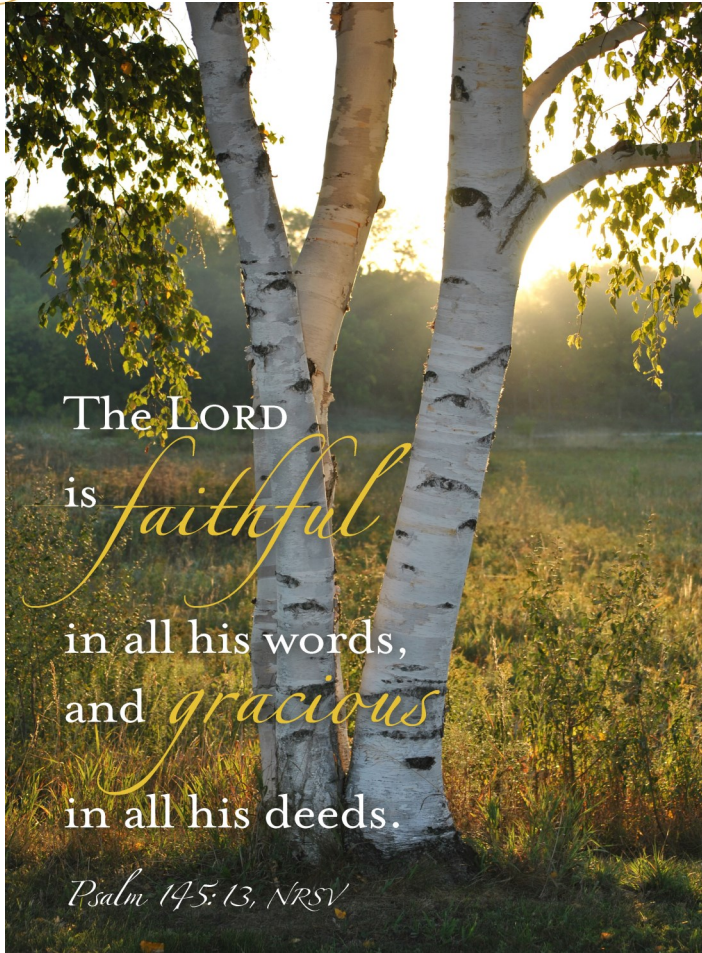




FIRST UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH

oxford

*Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 26, 2021*



The LORD

is

faithful

in all his words,

and *gracious*

in all his deeds.

Psalm 145: 13, NRSV

First United Methodist Church of Oxford
216 Snow Street
P.O. Box 3261
Oxford, AL 36203
256 831-3221

MORNING WORSHIP

Prelude

“O Young and Fearless Prophet”

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Dr. Yohan Hong

Passing the Peace

“God’s Peace Be with You!”

*Vision Statement

Oxford First United Methodist Church is Jesus-Centered,
Grace-Filled, and Committed to Transforming Lives to Christ.

*Call to Worship

L: If it had not been God who was on our side,

P: the troubles of our world would have swallowed us whole.

L: If it had not been God who was on our side,

P: the sorrows of our times would have swept us away.

L: Are any among us suffering?

P: Come and pray.

L: Are any among us cheerful?

P: Come sing songs of praise.

L: Are any among us sick?

P: Come and ask for healing.

L: Our help is in our God,

P: The One who made heaven and earth.

L: Call upon God, creator and rescuer.

P: God is on our side. And we will be on His side!

*Opening Prayer

Eternal God, you create us and you rescue us. Be here with us now. Help us know how much we need you. Teach us that no other power can support us like your power. As you share your power with us, teach us to be Christ to the world, proclaiming your reign for all people. As you lavish your love upon us, help us receive that love and offer it to the world, in Jesus’ name. Amen.

*Songs of Praise

“He Leadeth Me: O Blessed Thought”

1. He leadeth me: O blessed thought! O words with heavenly comfort fraught!
Whate’er I do, where’er I be, still ’tis God’s hand that leadeth me.

Refrain: He leadeth me, he leadeth me, by his own hand he leadeth me;
His faithful follower I would be, for by his hand he leadeth me.

3. Lord, I would place my hand in thine, nor ever murmur nor repine;
Content, whatever lot I see, since ’tis my God that leadeth me. **Refrain.**

“What a Friend We Have in Jesus”

1. What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear! What a privilege
To carry everything to God in prayer! O what peace we often forfeit,
O what needless pain we bear, all because we do not carry everything to God in prayer.
2. Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere? We should never be

Discouraged; take it to the Lord in prayer. Can we find a friend so faithful who will
All our sorrows share? Jesus knows our every weakness; take it to the Lord in prayer.

***Affirmation of Faith**

I BELIEVE in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried, The third day he rose from the dead, He ascended into heaven, And sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I BELIEVE in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, The communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, And the life everlasting. Amen.

Offertory and Individual Prayer Time “Heavenly Father”

For in-person worshipers, you can drop off your offerings in the plates where you enter and exit the sanctuary. For online worshipers, please remember to mail in your offerings to the church post office box.

“Along with our monetary offering, we also offer ourselves to God. Bring your anxiety, fear, concern, hope, and desire to the Altar.” Hear God’s voice for you: “Surrender. Trust me. I love you.”

***Doxology** Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer and Lord’s Prayer

Our father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen

Sermon

“Friendship”

Rev. Dr. Yohan Hong

1 Samuel 18-20; John 15:13-14

***Hymn of Commitment**

“Mighty to Save”

1. Everyone needs compassion A love that's never failing Let mercy fall on me
Everyone needs forgiveness The kindness of a Savior The hope of nations

[Refrain] Savior, he can move the mountains My God is mighty to save He is mighty to save
Forever author of Salvation He rose and conquered the grave Jesus conquered the grave

2. So take me as you find me All my fears and failures Fill my life again
I give my life to follow Everything I believe in Now I surrender

[Bridge] Shine your light and let the whole world see We're singing For the glory
of the risen King, Jesus Shine your light and let the whole world see
We're singing For the glory of the risen King

Benediction

***Postlude**

“Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart”

Wednesday Meal begins this week at 5:30 pm in the TMMC.

Beginning on October 9, Trustees will have **church wide work days** on the second Saturday of each month at 8:00 am.

Observing guidelines— As a result of low vaccination rates & easily transmitted variants, the new guidance as of July 27, 2021, by CDC and also by our Bishop, **“recommends”** that even fully vaccinated people wear masks in public indoor settings in areas of substantial or high transmission regardless of your vaccination status. Your cooperation is highly appreciated!

Nursery— If you plan to bring your children to Sunday morning worship and need childcare in the nursery, please inform the church office in advance, by Thursday morning.

Small Groups— If you want to grow spiritually and stay connected with the church, please find a small group for you.

- **New Disciples Sunday School Class**— **Sundays at 9:30 am in TMMC. For the safety issue, the doors of the TMMC will be open at 9:20 am.**
- **Children’s Sunday School**- 9:30 am on the 2nd floor of the Educational Building.
- **Young Adults** meet Sundays at 5:00 pm on the second floor of the Educational Building or at the Shipley’s.
- **See You at the Storehouse**, a small group, meets Tuesdays via zoom at 6:30 pm until October 12

Church Office Hours- Mondays (9am – 4:30pm), Tuesdays (8:30 am - 4:30pm), Wednesday and Thursday mornings (9am-12pm). During the rest of the week, calls will be forwarded to Beverly at home until 4:30 pm.

Pastor’s Office Hours-Tuesday to Friday mornings (9am-12pm). Please know that your pastor is at the office for the availability of pastoral care.

Shepherding Groups-Please cooperate with your leader to take care of your group members, and check in with one another. If someone needs further pastoral care, please let your pastor know about that.

[Mission] **Oxford First United Methodist Church exists to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.**

[Vision] **Oxford First United Methodist Church is Jesus-Centered, Grace-Filled, and Committed to Transforming Lives to Christ.**

[Core Values] **Radical Hospitality, Passionate Worship, Intentional Faith Development, Risk Taking Mission and Service, Extravagant Generosity.**