

DISCIPLES DEPART TO SERVE GOD

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE *Rejoice, Rejoice Believers* arr. Mansfield

*Please stand if able.

THIS WEEK AT QUAKER:

Sunday, December 15

9:00 a.m. Sunday School
10:00 a.m. Worship
5:00 p.m. Candlelight Service & Buffet

Monday, December 16

9:00 a.m. Cemetery Committee meeting
10:00 a.m. Coffee with Pastor

Tuesday, December 17

10:00 a.m. Zoom Bible Study
6:00 p.m. Longest Night Service

Wednesday, December 18

11:00 a.m. Centering Prayer
12:00 p.m. Lunch Bunch
2:30 p.m. QMPC-UL-LMS Subcommittee meeting in library
6:00 p.m. Prayer for Church Family at Home
6:30 p.m. Women's Bible Study

Thursday, December 19

3:00 p.m. Communion at Willow Ridge
7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir rehearsal

Candlelight Service

Plan on joining us this evening for our Candlelight Service and Buffet. This is always a special service of Lessons and Carols followed by a time of good food and fellowship. Bring your family!

Longest Night Service this Tuesday, December 17 at 6:00pm

If you find this time of year difficult because of grief over loved ones no longer with us or because of broken relationships or because the shorter days bring about malaise, please join us for a simple service of light, wholeness, remembrance, and hope.

Lunch Bunch

This month the Lunch Bunch will head to Isabella's in Boonsboro. Join us this Wednesday, December 18 at noon. **Please note the change in time.** We will need to give a final head count to the restaurant by tomorrow so please RSVP to Sara by text or call 434-941-3349 or email her at buzzandsara@gmail.com.

THE CHRISTMAS WREATHS on the front doors are given in loving memory of Alma (Granny Maude) & Harold Webb by Andrea & David Webb.

THE CHRISTMAS WREATH on the choir door is given in loving memory of Margaret & Robert Tucker.

OUR ELDERS ON DUTY FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER are Bob Lockridge & Sam Miller.

OUR USHERS FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER are Gracie & John Lanier and Maureen & Bob Lockridge.

WORSHIP BAGS are available in a basket in the Narthex for children who stay in the sanctuary during worship. They contain tools for worship and items to foster creativity. Enjoy the bags, and at the end of worship, please return them to the basket.

HEARING DEVICES are available in the Narthex. Please see an usher for assistance.

LARGE PRINT HYMNALS are available from the ushers.

ONLINE GIVING now available! Scan this QR code or click the "Give Now" button on the front page of our website to go directly to our giving page.



Quaker Memorial Presbyterian Church



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Welcome to Worship at Quaker Memorial Presbyterian Church!

*Welcoming All
Serving Christ
Transforming Lives*

Our faith community extends a warm welcome to all worshipping with us today and hopes that you will return often.

For more than a century, Quaker Memorial has been committed to our mission of Welcoming All, Serving Christ, Transforming Lives. If you are seeking a church that offers abundant opportunities for spiritual and personal growth and Christian witness, we believe that you will find a home here.

The Service for the Lord's Day
Third Sunday of Advent
December 15, 2024
Wonder. Go on and wonder.

WELCOME Anghaarad Teague Dees
ANNOUNCEMENTS Anghaarad Teague Dees
*PASSING OF THE PEACE Anghaarad Teague Dees
*We offer God's peace to one another in the ancient words of the church:
"The peace of Christ be with you." & response "And also with you."*

PRELUDE *The Hills of Bethlehem* Kendall

DISCIPLES GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE The Jones/Cawthorne families
Zephaniah 3:14-20 Bible, page 1073

UNISON PRAYER
God of surprises, fill us with the kind of joy that cannot be contained, but must be shared. The joy of Advent is that Christ is coming, Christ is always coming. May we welcome Christ in our hearts with joy overflowing. Open our eyes to the wonder-filled world around us and fill our hearts with delight. May we wonder, go on and wonder in the days ahead. Amen.

*CALL TO WORSHIP Sara Curtis, Liturgist
Surely God is our salvation, we will trust and not be afraid...for the Lord is our strength and our might.
Sing praises to the Lord!
Give thanks to the Lord, call on God's name; make known God's deeds!
Shout aloud and sing for joy, for in our midst is the Holy One of Israel, Emmanuel!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION Sara Curtis, Liturgist
God of our Highest Joy, we come to you this day as your servants, gathered to worship you and you alone. As we continue this Advent journey, help us to focus on the coming of Emmanuel. Amidst the commercials, the cooking, the company, the chaos, the complaining, the celebrating and the caroling help us to remember the true meaning of this season that you have come into the world in the flesh and we await with joy your coming again. So, we pray, come, Emmanuel, come. Amen.

*HYMN #88 *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

*CALL TO CONFESSION Sara Curtis, Liturgist
Let us confess our sins, not as frightened servants but as children of the household of God.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION Sara Curtis, Liturgist
Emmanuel, draw near to us this day as we confess our need for gentleness in our lives...there is so much chaos and strife around us, still us, make us kind, remind us that everyone needs grace in this season. We confess our anxieties...we worry that there will not be enough, we will not be enough and our attempts to do what you call us to are not sufficient in the face of all the needs in this weary world. We confess our ingratitude...in the hustle and bustle of the season we forget to slow down and give you thanks for taking care of all we need. Forgive us, God. May our hearts be glad, our spirits rejoice, and our bodies rest in hope, for you do not abandon us to our sin. In Christ you welcome us into the joy of your mercy and grace. (*Silence is kept*) Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON Sara Curtis, Liturgist
With joy, draw waters from the well of salvation. Forgiveness is ours...trust it and generously give forgiveness to others...may we forgive as we have been forgiven.
Truly, God is our salvation we shall trust and not be afraid. Alleluia! Amen.

*CHORAL RESPONSE #121 *O Little Town of Bethlehem* (v. 4)
O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us; abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

TIME WITH CHILDREN Richard Goodman

DISCIPLES LISTEN TO THE WORD OF GOD

SCRIPTURE READING Philippians 4:4-7 Bible, page 242
Sara Curtis, Lector

ANTHEM *Let All Mortal Flesh* arr. Davis
Chancel Choir

SCRIPTURE READING Isaiah 35:1-10 Bible, page 812

SERMON How Will Joy? Anghaarad Teague Dees

*HYMN #129 *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH
Jesus Christ, brother of Light,
We believe.
We believe
that in the beginning was the Promise
and the Promise was with God
and the Promise was God.
We believe
in the infinite, nurturing creativity of God,
in the incarnate, crucified humility of God,
in the intimate, inspiring liberality of God.
Jesus Christ, brother of Light,
We believe.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE 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 debts,
As we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation.
But deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, forever. Amen.

DEDICATION OF TITHES AND OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Coventry Carol* arr. Ellson

*DOXOLOGY Hymn #606
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.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (in unison)

Gracious God, you are so good to us. We give you thanks for these blessings and would ask that the joy we felt in our hearts not only be expressed by our lips but with our hands also. May these gifts be used to embody the joy we find in you, by sharing it with those who need it most. This we pray in your holy name. Amen.

HYMN #146 *Gentle Mary Laid Her Child*