

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION** (in unison)

Gracious God, we thank you for the gifts before us and ask that you bless them that we might use them to be a blessing to others. As we finish this journey of Advent...as the lights shine brighter we ask that you would care for us as you did your servant Mary. Might we serve you as she did, carrying God's grace and love into the world. Amen.

HYMN #108 *Of the Father's Love Begotten (vs 1-3,6)*

DISCIPLES DEPART TO SERVE GOD

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE** *Hail to the Lord's Anointed* arr. Balcombe

***Please stand if able.**

THIS WEEK AT QUAKER:

Sunday, December 22

9:00 a.m. Sunday School
10:00 a.m. Worship & Congregational Meeting
8:00 p.m. Youth Lock-In

Tuesday, December 24

5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service

Wednesday, December 25 Christmas Day

Church Office Closed

6:00 p.m. Prayer for Church Family at Home

Thursday, December 26

Church Office Closed

Join us this Tuesday evening at 5pm for our Christmas Eve Service of Carols and Communion.

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



FOURTH 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
Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 22, 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 *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence* arr. Johnson

DISCIPLES GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE The Casey Wood family,
Debbie & Sam Williams, Lisa & Larry Wood, Toby Bradner, Gene, Lauren
& Ruby Davis, Christie Wood, Wells Huband & Riley Wood

2 Peter 3:8-15 Bible, page 289

UNISON PRAYER

Ancient of Days, the days keep moving along and we wonder what time will you arrive? Help us to take our eyes off the clock and calendar. May we instead look upon our neighbors in need of kindness and care. Open our eyes to the wonder-filled world around us and fill our hearts to overflowing with love for one another. May we wonder, go on and wonder in the days ahead. Amen.

*CALL TO WORSHIP Peggy Deyerle, Liturgist
May we listen fully and deeply for the hope God is preparing
O come, o come Emmanuel
May we welcome God with the same joy as Elizabeth greeted Mary
Rejoice, rejoice with heart and soul and voice!
May we listen deeply for the peace the angels sing
Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
May we feel the love magnified in Mary's womb
For love has come, a light in this old dark world.

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION Peggy Deyerle, Liturgist
Merciful God, may Mary's song be heard through the ages drowning out the din of chaos. May it ring in the ears of the traumatized...may it sing in the hearts of the hopeless...may it echo in the cries of peace...may it nourish hope in the bellies of the hungry. May it be a song that stirs the joyful promises of justice and love in our world. May we be so bold to join Mary's song as we magnify you from the unexpected places to the farthest corners of the earth. Amen.

*HYMN #140 *Once in Royal David's City*

*CALL TO CONFESSION Peggy Deyerle, Liturgist
In all honesty and humility, let us confess our sins before God and be free of the burdens that weigh us down during our Advent journey.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION Peggy Deyerle, Liturgist
O Holy God of Promise so often we are filled with doubt that this could all be possible...this ancient story of how you came into the world to be one of us. That you could possibly look upon us with enough love and worthiness to enter in to our world...that you would desire more for us than our hearts can comprehend. We confess our unwillingness to see the light and to walk in your ways. When our spirits despair and we deny our blessedness, forgive us. We ask that the Spirit of Christ be born anew within us, that our hearts be stirred to magnify you with acts of compassion and service. Help us to look in faith, open our belief, and set aside our doubts that you sent your Son, Emmanuel to set us free. *(Silence is kept)* Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON Peggy Deyerle, Liturgist
In the hushed anticipation of Christ's coming, we are reminded again and again that God is always with us. .always forgiving us. .always loving us. My friends, know this day that we are all forgiven, we are all blessed in order to be a blessing!
Emmanuel, God with us. .we thank you for your saving grace! 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 Micah 5:2-5a Bible, page 1059
Peggy Deyerle, Lector

ANTHEM *Still, Still, Still* arr. Luboff
Chancel Choir

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 1:39-56 Bible, page 69

SERMON Who Will Love? Anghaarad Teague Dees

*HYMN #110 *Love Has Come*

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH from the Brethren Church in South Africa
Jesus taught us to speak of hope as the coming of God's kingdom.

We believe that God is at work in our world
turning hopeless and evil situations into good.
We believe that goodness and justice
will triumph in the end
and that tyranny and oppression cannot last forever.

One day all tears will be wiped away;
the lamb will lie down with the lion,
and justice will roll down like a mighty stream.
True peace and true reconciliation are not only desired,
they are assured and guaranteed in Christ.

This is our faith.

This is our hope.

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 *Gesu Bambino* Pietro a Yon
Jaimee Scott, soloist

*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.