

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

Lord, can we be your voice crying in the wilderness? Can we be messengers of peace? We hope so. And so with this hope we bring these gifts of our lives and our treasure and we dedicate them to the building up your Kin-dom of righteousness, justice and joy. May we be people who are being changed and may we go out into a world that is being changed. Guide our feet in the way of peace. Amen.

HYMN #109 *Song of Zechariah*

DISCIPLES DEPART TO SERVE GOD

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE** *Prepare the Royal Highway* arr. Mansfield

***Please stand if able.**

THIS WEEK AT QUAKER:

Sunday, December 8

9:00 a.m. Sunday School
10:00 a.m. Worship
5:00 p.m. Earth Care Committee

Monday, December 9

4:30 p.m. QMPC-UL-LMS Task Force

Tuesday, December 10

10:00 a.m. Zoom Bible Study
10:00 a.m. Communion at The Summit
6:00 p.m. Communion at Bentley Commons

Wednesday, December 11

11:00 a.m. Centering Prayer
6:00 p.m. Prayer for Church Family at Home
6:30 p.m. Property Committee
6:30 p.m. Women's Bible Study

Thursday, December 12

10:00 a.m. Comfort Table Support Group
7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir rehearsal

Friday, December 13

6:00 p.m. The Welcome Table Potluck Dinner & Carol Sing

Poinsettias to Decorate the Sanctuary

We are now taking orders for poinsettias to place in the sanctuary during Advent. If you would like to purchase a poinsettia in honor or memory of someone, please fill out a form and place it along with a check in the offering plate or bring it by the office during the week. Each flower is \$12. The order forms can be found on a table in the Narthex. The deadline to order is Sunday, December 15.

Candlelight Service

Plan on joining us Sunday evening, December 15 for our Candlelight Service and Buffet. Please sign up in the Narthex and let us know if you can bring a finger food or dessert to share.

2025 Flower Calendar

There are some openings on the flower calendar for next year. If you are interested in providing flowers for worship next year and have not done so in the past, please contact the church office to find out what dates are available. Also, if you are on the current calendar, please contact the office to let us know you want to continue providing flowers next year.

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.



Quaker Memorial Presbyterian Church



SECOND 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
Second Sunday of Advent
December 8, 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 *An Advent Introit* Birchwood

DISCIPLES GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE The Epperson family

Isaiah 52:7-9 Bible, page 835

UNISON PRAYER

Prince of Peace, help us to prepare the way of your peace-filled reign on earth. Surprise us with opportunities to be messengers of peace in our everyday wondering and wandering. Open our eyes to the wonder-filled world around us and fill our hearts with peace. May we wonder, go on and wonder in the days ahead. Amen.

*CALL TO WORSHIP Steve Hubbard, Liturgist

In the lonely places...the wilderness...where we stand forlorn, windswept and alone, your voice calls out:

Prepare the way of the Lord!

In the dark places...the shadows...where we hide our fears and embrace our tears, your voice calls out:

Prepare the way of the Lord!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION Steve Hubbard, Liturgist

A voice is crying out: "prepare the way of the Lord!" And so we pray, may the road be straight and smooth and the highway fit for our God. Fill in the valleys, level off the hills. Smooth out the ruts, clear out the rocks. The Lord is coming! The Lord is here, in our midst...may we have eyes to see and ears to hear. Amen.

*HYMN #87 *Comfort, Comfort, Now My People*

*CALL TO CONFESSION Steve Hubbard, Liturgist

As streets fill with shoppers...bright lights and tempting offers bombard us...Christmas songs and children's laughter fill the air...may we remember that you lead us along a different path. To a desert river and a Prophetic voice calling us to service, repentance and peace...a call to prepare a way in our lives for the Savior to enter in...let us own up to our failures by confessing together, confident that as we pray we rest in God's forgiving love.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION Steve Hubbard, Liturgist

Gracious and steadfast God, you come with news of hope, freedom and restoration. We confess that we have not always believed your word or trusted your promise. We have kept silent when we could have spoken your mercy. We have been timid when we should have spoken words of peace into the world. May we be honest about the darkness within us, and perceptive of the light around us. May we immerse ourselves in your ways of peace. By your tender mercy may the dawn from on high break upon us, and give light to those of us that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death. And guide our feet into the way of peace. *(Silence is kept)* Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON Steve Hubbard, Liturgist

By the mercy and grace of our Good God, we may live in peace with one another for we have been forgiven and Christ welcomes us as a parent welcomes home a long-lost child.

Thanks be to God. May we go and share Christ's peace graciously and courageously. 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 Amanda Stanbery

DEDICATION OF THE NEW BANNERS

*HYMN #701 *Sanctuary*

As the new banners are processed into the Sanctuary, please sing together.

DISCIPLES LISTEN TO THE WORD OF GOD

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 3:1-6 Bible, page 72

Steve Hubbard, Lector

ANTHEM *Peace Came to Earth* Scott

Chancel Choir

SCRIPTURE READING Malachi 3:1-4 Bible, page 1088

SERMON Who Prepares the Way? Anghaarad Teague Dees

*HYMN #366 *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH from the Iona community

We believe that God is present in the darkness before dawn;
in the waiting and uncertainty where fear and courage join hands,
conflict and caring link arms, and the sun rises over barbed wire.
We believe in a with-us God who sits down in our midst
to share our humanity.

We affirm a faith that takes us beyond the safe place:
into action, into vulnerability and into the streets.

We commit ourselves to work for change and put ourselves on the line;
to bear responsibility, take risks, live powerfully and face humiliation;
to stand with those on the edge; to choose life
and be used by the spirit for God's new community of 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 *Advent Meditation* arr. Elliot

*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.