

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (adapted from a poem by Madeleine L'Engle)

God did not wait till the world was ready, till nations were at peace.

God came when the Heavens were unsteady and prisoners cried out for release.

God did not wait for the perfect time. God came when the need was deep and great.

God dined with sinners in all their grime, turned water into wine.

God did not wait till hearts were pure.

In joy God came to a tarnished world of sin and doubt.

To a world like ours, of anguished shame, God came and God's Light would not go out.

God came to a world which did not mesh; to heal its tangles, shield its scorn.

In the mystery of the Word made Flesh, the Maker of the stars was born.

We cannot wait till the world is sane to raise our songs with joyful voice,

For to share our grief, to touch our pain, God came with Love: Rejoice! Rejoice!

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation to the Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

May the God of holy nights be with you!

And also with you!

People of God, this is the night God transformed our lives.

This is the night we offer our hearts to God.

Children of Bethlehem, lift your voices in joy to God.

Our voices join with all who celebrate the Birth this night.

Breaking of the Bread and Sharing of the Cup

Prayer after all are served

SPECIAL MUSIC

Be Born in Me
Olivia Webb, soloist

Battistelli

THE SHARING OF THE LIGHT

*Reading John 1:1-14

*Unison Prayer

We are...we could be...people of your light. So we pray for the light of your glorious presence as we wait for your appearing. We pray for the light of your wondrous grace as we attempt to cope with all that is around us. We pray for the gift of your light that will override our weariness. We pray that we may see and know and hear and trust that your light shines in the darkness and the darkness does not overcome it. Amen.

*HYMN #122

Silent Night

*BENEDICTION

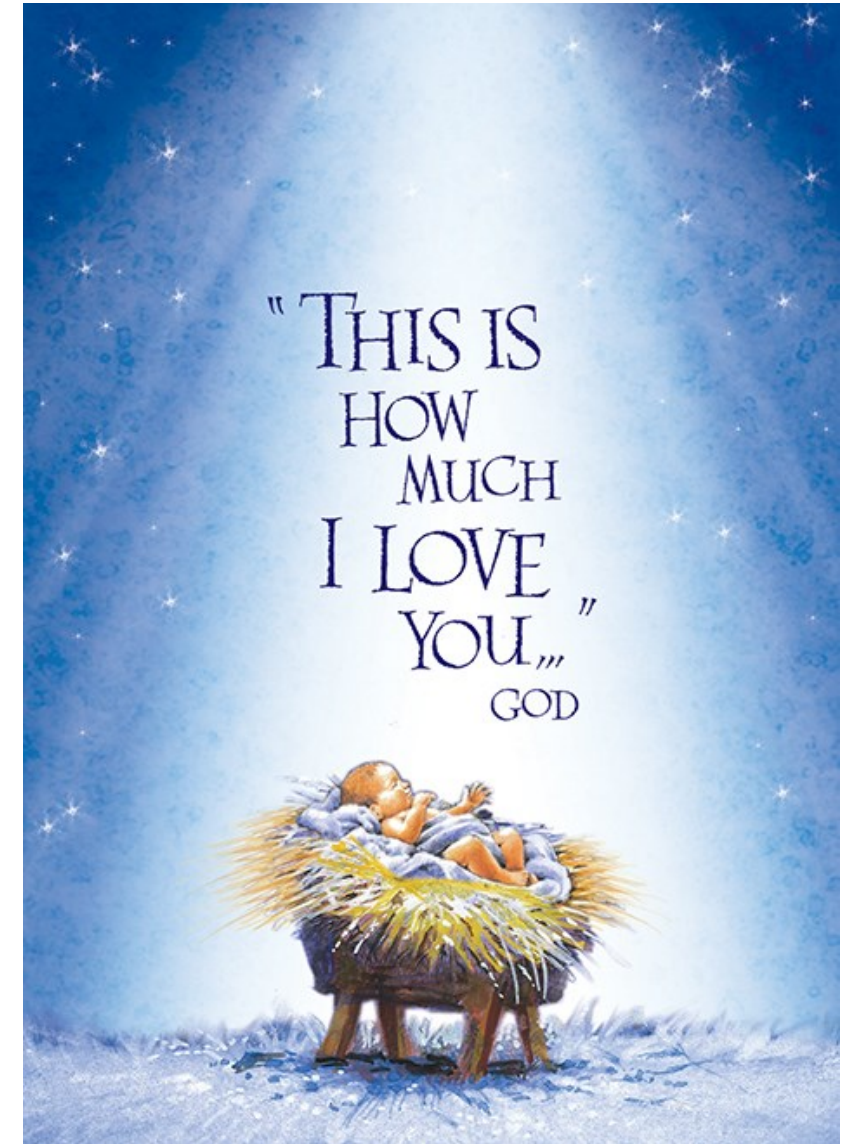
*RESPONSE TO THE BENEDICTION #134 *Joy to the World*

*POSTLUDE

Christmas Medley

Quaker Memorial Presbyterian Church

December 24, 2023



*Please stand if able

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

PRELUDE

Go Tell It On the Mountain
Men's Ensemble

Traditional

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT

Noel
Youth Choir

Anghaarad Teague Dees

Tomlin

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

The Bryan family

Gather in light, people of God. Sing the Christmas song!

Song of faith, song of trust, a song to welcome the Christ.

Gather in light, people of God and hear the prophet's song:

"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep of darkness—on them light has shined. You have multiplied exultation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke on their burden and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For a child has been born for us, a son given us; authority rests upon his shoulders and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." (Isaiah 9:2-4,6)

And so the light of Christ shines!

On this night, let us light the candles of hope, peace, joy and love and the Christ candle to tell the world our Lord comes! We have waited a long time for Christ's hope, joy and love to shine in the darkness of this world. As we gather here we ask for the light of Christ to blaze forth in our hearts banishing the shadows of this world. The lullabies are so sweet on Christmas Eve as the stars shine in the sky and babies in their cradles lie. Christmastide draws near and so we sing lullaby, lullaby sweetest dreams in the starlight this night.

Lullaby:

Away in the Manger
Faith Jacob, soloist

UNISON PRAYER:

O God, you changed the world when your Word became flesh and blood and moved into the neighborhood. We imagined a savior powerful and mighty not a tiny child crying in the night. In our world we are seeking light...a light that defeats the powers of darkness, a light that shines truth and hope into a weary world. May we receive this light and may our lives testify to the grace of Christ, the child born to us this day! Comfort us in our living and remind us that in the lullabies of hope, peace, joy, love and light your time will come for Christ comes on the 'morrow and Christ is here. Amen.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

On this holiest of nights,

we come, joining the shepherds, who are stunned by wonder.

On this most silent night,

we come, our hopes and dreams, joining those of Mary and Joseph.

On this night of carols and candlelight,

we come, our glad songs joining with the choirs of angels over us.

*HYMN #133

O Come, All Ye Faithful

A MOMENT WITH THE CHILDREN

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Night of Silence
Chancel Choir

arr. Ferguson

LESSONS & CAROLS

The Prophecy

Isaiah 52:7-10

Peggy Deyerle

Carol

Winter Snow
Olivia Webb, soloist

Tomlin

The Promise

Micah 5:2-5a

Skip Wodke

Carol

Evergreen
Youth Choir

arr. Wood

The Birth

Luke 2:1-7

Sophia Haupt

*Hymn #123

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

The Visitors

Luke 2:8-20

Tami Jacob

Carol

Sweet Little Jesus Boy
Anghaarad Teague Dees, soloist

MacGimsey

The Fulfillment

Titus 2:11-14

Steve Hubbard

Carol

O Holy Night
Faith Jacob, soloist

Adam

MEDITATION

The Angels' Song

Anghaarad Teague Dees

HYMN #113

Angels We Have Heard on High