

Quaker Memorial Presbyterian Church



Welcome to Worship at Quaker Memorial Presbyterian Church!

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

Welcoming All, Serving Christ, Transforming Lives

The Service for the Lord's Day;
Third Sunday of Advent; December 12, 2021
Our Vocal Leader is Gerald Doyle.

THE CHRISTMAS WREATHS on the front doors are given in loving memory of Harold & Alma Webb by the Webb family.

THE CHRISTMAS WREATH on the choir door is given by Margaret Tucker in loving memory of her husband, Robert Tucker.

WELCOME

Anghaarad Teague Dees

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Anghaarad Teague Dees

PASSING OF THE PEACE

*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

LIGHTING OF ADVENT WREATH

Anders, Christen & Ella Sunwall

Week Three: Joy

One: In the still of the night, the Lord spoke to shepherds: "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people."

light the first and second advent candles

One: First the beacon ... then the witness.

Another: First the sighting ... then the celebration.

All: Light!

One: One voice shouting, "Look and see!"

Another: One flash boasting, "Brightest and best!"

All: Joy!

light the third advent candle.

One: And so with the joy of glad tidings the shepherds joined the song of the prophets: Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The Lord has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing!

All: A spark of joy lights the way—the days grow short and the to-do lists lengthen. We watch and prepare, for the Word is coming, full of grace and truth. Though the flame flickers against the shadows, we will rejoice in God's covenant of everlasting love. Amen.

DISCIPLES GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Julia Bryan, Liturgist

L: Because Christmas is almost here, because dancing fits so well with music

P: Rejoice!

L: Because inside baby clothes are miracles, because some people love you, because pain doesn't last forever

P: Rejoice! Again, we say Rejoice!

L: Because of laughter, because there really are angels, because forgiveness is yours for the asking

P: Rejoice! Rejoice!

L: Because of the dead will live again, and there is good news for the poor. Because of Christmas.

P: Because of Jesus, we rejoice!

*HYMN #132

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

1 Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
give ye heed to what we say:
Jesus Christ is born today;
ox and ass before him bow,
and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today!
Christ is born today!

2 Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
now ye hear of endless bliss:
Jesus Christ was born for this!

He has opened heaven's door,
and we are blest forevermore.

Christ was born for this!

Christ was born for this!

3 Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
now ye need not fear the grave:
Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all
to gain the everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save!
Christ was born to save!

*CALL TO CONFESSION

Julia Bryan, Liturgist

Let us confess the excuses we have made for not living in the reality of the kingdom of God:

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Julia Bryan Liturgist

Almighty God, you are our salvation. In you alone can we trust and not be afraid. We confess that we are blind to the needs of others and do not always contribute to the greater love and justice in the world. Too often we find ourselves preoccupied by our own agenda and fail to pay attention to the still, small voice in our lives. We get wrapped up in our busyness and speak harsh words to those we love and we withhold love from our enemies. Lord, have mercy.

(Please take a moment of silence for personal confession and reflection.)

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Julia Bryan, Liturgist

O Lord, you are our strength and our might; you have become our salvation. You speak to us words of love and grace: "I have taken away the judgments against you; I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach of it." Thanks be to God.

***CHORAL RESPONSE Hymn #103** *Come Now, O Prince of Peace vs 1*

Come now, O Prince of Peace; make us one body.

Come, O Lord Jesus; reconcile all people

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Anghaarad Teague Dees

DISCIPLES LISTEN TO THE WORD OF GOD

SCRIPTURE READING:

Zephaniah 3:14-20

Julia Bryan, Lector

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The Lord has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the Lord.

ANTHEM

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn

Hymn # 107

SCRIPTURE READING

Philippians 4:4-7

Anghaarad Teague Dees

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

SERMON

Rejoice!

Anghaarad Teague Dees

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:** The Apostles' Creed Hymnal, page 35

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 Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell;
the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on 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 Ghost; the holy catholic church;
the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

HYMN #140

Once in Royal David's City

1 Once in royal David's city
stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby
in a manger for his bed:

Mary was that mother mild;
Jesus Christ, her little child.

2 He came down to earth from heaven
who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable,
and his cradle was a stall;

with the poor and meek and lowly,
lived on earth our Savior holy.

3 Jesus is our childhood's pattern;
day by day like us he grew;
he was little, weak and helpless;
tears and smiles like us he knew;
and he feels for all our sadness,
and he shares in all our gladness.

4 And our eyes at last shall see him,
through his own redeeming love;

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Hymnal, page 35

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.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Holy One, this Advent season we wait in joy, and we give with joy. Joy for all you have given us; joy because of your sacred promises. Receive these generous offerings, and use them to spread your joy in our world. Amen!

*HYMN #88

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

Refrain:

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

2 O come, thou Wisdom from on high,
who orderest all things mightily:
to us the path of knowledge show;
and teach us in her ways to go. [Refrain]

5 O come, thou Key of David, come,
and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery. [Refrain]

6 O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by thine advent here;

disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight. [Refrain]

7 O come, Desire of nations, bind
all peoples in one heart and mind;

bid envy, strife, and discord cease;

fill the whole world with heaven's peace. [Refrain]

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

Anghaarad Teague Dees

arr. Mansfield