

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;
Fourth Sunday of Advent; December 19, 2021
Our Vocal Leader is Bob Beilfus

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

In the Town

arr. Scott

LIGHTING OF ADVENT WREATH

Amanda, Brandon & Harper Stanbery

Week Four: Love

- **One:** In the midst of the hustle and bustle of the temple the Lord spoke to Simeon: "you shall not see death before you see the Messiah." And Simeon righteous and devout took the child of Mary in his arms and declared with heart full of love...this is the Messiah.

light the first three advent candles

- **One:** First the sigh ... then the smile.
- **Another:** First the blush ... then the excitement.

All: Light!

- **One:** One voice calling, "Let us love one another!"
- **Another:** One heart beaming, "This is our purpose!"

All: Love!

light the fourth advent candle

- **One:** And with love filling his heart, Simeon sang: "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel."

All: A spark of love lights the way—the time draws near as we watch and prepare, for God is doing great things. Turning the world around to match the promise: that we love because God first loved us."

DISCIPLES GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Skip Wodke, Liturgist

L: We are waiting on you, God. We are still waiting.

P: The darkness is deeper, but look! The star is beginning to shine. The everlasting light is creeping closer.

L: Hope is in the air. Peace is promised. Joy is on the tips of our tongues.

P: Love is coming. Love divine, all loves excelling.

L: We are waiting on love.

P: And Love is waiting on us.

*HYMN #110

Love Has Come

1 Love has come--a light in the darkness!

Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.

See, all heaven has come to proclaim it;

Hear how their song of joy arises:

Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior!

Love! Love!

Glory to God on high.

2 Love is born! Come share in the wonder;

Love is God now asleep in the hay.

See the glow in the eyes of His mother;

What is the name her heart is saying?

Love! Love! Love is the name she whispers;

Love! Love! Jesus, Emmanuel.

3 Love has come--He never will leave us!

Love is life everlasting and free.

Love is Jesus within and among us;

Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.

Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas;

Love! Love! Praise to You, God on high!

*CALL TO CONFESSION

Skip Wodke, Liturgist

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

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Skip Wodke, Liturgist

Loving God, our hearts ache for the comfort and hope of Christmas but we confess that life has been difficult. We have allowed fears and worries to creep into our souls and we doubt that you are truly with us. We long for the rest of the assurance of Christ with us but we look in all the wrong places for that assurance. We overlook the signs in our midst of your presence and love in our lives. Help us let go of the fear and embrace once again the hope of Christmas in the One promised.

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

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Skip Wodke, Liturgist

Let go of the fears. God is sending you God's richest blessings. This Child will bring peace. This Child will teach us of God's loving presence within each of us and bring healing to our wounds. Remember that we are all God's beloved children. **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:

Micah 5:2-5a

Skip Wodke, Lector

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace.

ANTHEM

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Hymn # 121

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 1:39-45

Anghaarad Teague Dees

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.'

SERMON

Love Surprises

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 #129

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

1 Lo, how a rose e'er blooming
from tender stem hath sprung,
of Jesse's lineage coming,
by faithful prophets sung.
It came, a floweret bright,
amid the cold of winter,
when half spent was the night.
2 Isaiah 'twas foretold it,
the rose I have in mind;
with Mary we behold it,
the virgin mother kind.

To show God's love aright
she bore for us a Savior,
when half spent was the night.
3 This flower, whose fragrance tender
with sweetness fills the air,
dispels with glorious splendor
the darkness everywhere.
Enfleshed, yet very God,
from sin and death he saves us
and lightens every load.

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

God of Grace and Surprise, today we embrace the miracle of the incarnation of your only begotten Son. We stand in awe and wonder for your fulfilling the promise given by the prophets of old. Help us to recognize the incarnation of your grace in the faces one another and may we shine your light in all that we do and say. May we fulfill our promises to you with the gifts of our lives and labor. Amen.

*HYMN #119

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

1 Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king,
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!"

Joyful, all ye nations, rise;
join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Refrain:

Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king!"

2 Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,

offspring of the virgin's womb.

Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;

hail the incarnate deity,

pleased in flesh with us to dwell,

Jesus, our Emmanuel. **[Refrain]**

3 Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!

Hail the sun of righteousness!

Light and life to all he brings,

risen with healing in his wings.

Mild he lays his glory by,

born that we no more may die,

born to raise us from the earth,

born to give us second birth. **[Refrain]**

BENEDICTION

Anghaarad Teague Dees

POSTLUDE

Come Thou Almighty King

arr. Smith