

# 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;  
First Sunday of Christmas; December 27, 2020  
Our vocalist today is Bob Beilfus.

### CHIMING OF THE BELLS

### WELCOME

Amanda Stanbery

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Amanda Stanbery

### PASSING OF THE PEACE

As you are seated, the right side of the sanctuary will turn to the left side of the sanctuary and share the ancient words of the church: *"the peace of Christ be with you "*

Then the left side of the sanctuary will turn while seated and respond: *"And also with you."*

### PRELUDE

*Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light*

JS Bach

### DISCIPLES GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Sally Sease, Liturgist

L: We waited.

A: And imagined a savior.

L: We imagined power.

A: One like the world but stronger and on our side.

L: We imagined a king on a white horse wielding a sword.

A: We got a baby born in a stable among the livestock.

L: We imagined the work done for us through the destruction of our enemies.

A: We receive a baby who will teach us our calling to seek reconciliation and to love expansively.

L: Praise be to God for the unexpected babe of Bethlehem.

A: Praise to the wisdom of love.

## PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Sally Sease, Liturgist

Saving God, the prophet Anna and righteous Simeon sang your praise and proclaimed Jesus our Lord to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. Let us who seek redemption in this day prepare our hearts, that we may believe the good news of Jesus, receive the light of salvation, and live according to your word. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

## HYMN #133

### *O Come All Ye Faithful*

1 O come, all ye faithful,  
joyful and triumphant;  
O come ye; O come ye to Bethlehem!  
Come, and behold him, born the King of angels!

#### Refrain:

O come, let us adore him;  
O come, let us adore him;  
O come, let us adore him,  
Christ, the Lord!

2 True God from true God,

Light from light eternal,  
born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;  
very God, begotten, not created! [Refrain]  
3 Sing, choirs of angels;  
sing in exultation;  
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God, all glory in the highest! [Refrain]  
4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee,  
born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing! [Refrain]

## CALL TO CONFESSION

Sally Sease, Liturgist

Jesus our Lord came into an indifferent world, yet his life revealed the inner thoughts of many. Let us confess our sins before God and one another that we may receive release from our sin.

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Sally Sease, Liturgist

We confess, O God of the Christmas message of Hope, that we have often surrendered to the darkness turning away from the light you bring in Christ. We confess, O God of the Christmas song of Joy, that we are captive to discordant notes of complaint, refusing to sing because we fear our harmonies. We confess, O God of the Christmas promise of Peace, that we are a battlefield of conflicting desires, ignoring that kind of surrender which carries the seed of Victory. Forgive us this day as manger-memories begin to fade, for all in our lives which denies the Hope, the Song, the Peace, which Christ brings for we would be restored to a right spirit this day. In the spirit of your Son, Jesus Christ, we pray. **Amen**

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

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Sally Sease, Liturgist

Beloved of God, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, as a bride adorns herself with her jewels, God covers us with the robe of righteousness. Know that you are forgiven in Jesus Christ and live as God's beloved.

## CHORAL RESPONSE: Hymn #581

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.

Amen, amen.

## DISCIPLES LISTEN TO THE WORD OF GOD

### SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 148

David Sease, Lector

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the heights! Praise Him, all His angels, praise Him, all His hosts! Praise Him, sun and moon, praise Him, all you stars of light! Praise Him, you highest heavens and you waters above the heavens! Let them praise the name of the Lord, for He commanded and they were created. He also established them forever and ever; He made a decree which shall not pass away; He fixed their bounds which cannot be passed over. Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps! You lightning, hail, fog, and frost, you stormy wind fulfilling His orders! Mountains and all hills, fruitful trees and all cedars! Beasts and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds! Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers and judges of the earth! Both young men and maidens, old men and children! Let them praise and exalt the name of the Lord, for His name alone is exalted and supreme! His glory and majesty are above earth and heaven! He has lifted up a horn for His people giving them power, prosperity, dignity, and preeminence, a song of praise for all His godly ones, for the people of Israel, who are near to Him. Praise the Lord! (Hallelujah!)

### ANTHEM

*Mary and Joseph Came to the Temple*

Hymn #148

### SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 2: 22-40

Skip Wodke

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord'), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, 'a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.' Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, '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.' And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.' There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband for seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

### SERMON

Do You Speak Christmas?

Skip Wodke

**CHRISTMAS AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:** written by Nathan Nettleton, 1999

*We believe in God,  
the creator and giver of life,  
who brought all creation to birth,  
who mothers us and fathers us,  
protecting, nurturing,  
and cherishing us.*

*We believe in Jesus Christ:  
God born among us as a fragile baby,  
embodying both love and the need for love,  
and calling us to rest in God  
as trustingly as a tiny child.*

*We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
breathed into us at our birth,  
always drawing us on to be born again,  
encouraging, exhorting, comforting,  
nourishing our growth  
and inspiring our living.*

*We believe in the reconciliation  
of the world to God, through Christ.  
Hunted at birth  
and humiliated at death,  
Christ entered our fearful darkness*

*so that we might enter his glorious light  
and share the life of his resurrection.  
And we believe that each new child  
is a glimpse of the face of God,  
a sign of the life to come,  
and a call to live in peace  
and celebrate living together.  
Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to God's people on earth.  
Amen.*

## 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!

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION OF THE OFFERING (UNISON)

God of hope and joy, the gifts we offer to you pale when our minds try to grasp all that we have been given in this season...wholeness in our woundedness, hope in our despair, peace in our turmoil, forgiveness in our rebellion. Like Simeon, our eyes have seen your salvation, and you give us light in our darkness. God of mercy and compassion, as we bring our gifts this morning, we continue to bask in the warmth of our celebrations of Christmas, with tables surrounded by family and friends, tables filled with abundant food and joy. Alongside these blessings, let us also remember this story of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph fleeing as refugees at your direction to escape persecution in their homeland. We can only pray they found welcome and compassion in their flight, and we pray that the gifts we give and the lives we lead will offer compassion and welcome to your children, wherever they are in need. In Christ Jesus, who opens his arms to all. Amen

## HYMN #134

## *Joy to the World*

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her king;  
let every heart prepare him room,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.  
2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!  
Let all their songs employ,  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

3 No more let sins and sorrows grow,  
nor thorns infest the ground;  
he comes to make his blessings flow  
far as the curse is found,  
far as the curse is found,  
far as, far as the curse is found.  
4 He rules the world with truth and grace,  
and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders, wonders of his love.

## BENEDICTION

Skip Wodke

## POSTLUDE

*Angel Tidings*

arr. Sandra Eithun