

# 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;  
Second Sunday of Advent; December 5, 2021  
*Our Vocal Leader is Helen Ford.*

THE CHANCEL FLOWERS this Sunday are given by Buck Ford and his family to the glory of God in loving memory celebrating the life of Shirley Ford.

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

*Savior of the Nations, Come*

arr. Manz

LIGHTING OF ADVENT WREATH

Sam & Josie Miller

**Week Two: Peace**

- One: In the light of the dawning day, the Lord spoke to Mary: "Do not be afraid, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will great, and will be called the Son of the Most High."

*light the first advent candle*

- One: First the tinder ... then the kindling.
- Another: First the spark ... then the flames.

**All: Light!**

- One: One voice singing, "A promise fulfilled."
- Another: One fire beckoning, "Come, may justice reign."

**All: Peace!**

*light the second advent candle*

- One: And so with the peace of an expectant mother, Mary sang: "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

**All: A spark of peace lights the way—despite our fast-fast-fading courage, we will follow the voice calling us in the wilderness toward Shalom. Amen.**

## DISCIPLES GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Gerald Doyle, Liturgist

L: Arise, O Jerusalem, stand upon the height; look towards the east,

P: And see your children gathered from west and east at the Word of the Holy One, rejoicing that God has remembered them.

L: For God has ordered that every high mountain and the everlasting hills be made low.

P: And the valleys filled up to make level ground, so that Israel may walk safely in the glory of God.

L: For God will lead Israel with Joy, in the light of his glory.

P: Mercy and righteousness come from God whom worship!

### \*HYMN #82

*Come Thou, Long-Expected Jesus*

1 Come, thou long-expected Jesus,  
born to set thy people free;  
from our fears and sins release us;  
let us find our rest in thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation,  
hope of all the earth thou art;  
dear desire of every nation,  
joy of every longing heart.

2 Born thy people to deliver,  
born a child and yet a king,  
born to reign in us forever,  
now thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By thine own eternal Spirit  
rule in all our hearts alone;  
by thine all-sufficient merit  
raise us to thy glorious throne.

### \*CALL TO CONFESSION

Gerald Doyle, Liturgist

In Advent, we prepare for the coming of Christ, full of grace and truth. Trusting in God's unfailing grace, let us tell the truth about ourselves joining in our prayer of confession:

### \*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gerald Doyle, Liturgist

Holy God, we might need to confess that we have forgotten what this story is about – the story of the birth of Jesus. We've been confused, so we wrap ourselves with so much planning, and shopping, and gift giving and sending, with so much decorating and card-writing and partying that we haven't left any time to sit in the dark, to sit in silence, to contemplate the Incarnation, to give thanks for this one life that changed the world. We have celebrated so many Christmases, and yet – Yet we still need You to remind us what this is all about, to turn us around and set us in the right direction. May the generosity that drives us this season be present all year. May the intentional reaching out to the far-flung and to the stranger continue past the holidays. May our hearts, so full of so much, be mostly full of love For You, for each other, and for ourselves. Heal us, we pray. Amen

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

### \*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Gerald Doyle, Liturgist

Friends in Christ, hear this Good News! God could not love you any more than God loves you at this very moment. You are that beloved. So know that wrapped in that love is graced forgiveness, and a call to go out into the world to love. 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

## DISCIPLES LISTEN TO THE WORD OF GOD

### SCRIPTURE READING:

Malachi 3:1-4

Gerald Doyle, Lector

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

### ANTHEM

*Come Thou, Dear Redeemer*

*Franck*

### SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 3:1-6

Anghaarad Teague Dees

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, 'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."'

### SERMON

Prepare!

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 #87

*Comfort, Comfort Now My People*

1 "Comfort, comfort now my people;  
tell of peace!" So says our God.  
"Comfort those who sit in darkness  
mourning under sorrow's load.  
To my people now proclaim  
that my pardon waits for them!  
Tell them that their sins I cover,  
and their warfare now is over."  
2 For the herald's voice is crying  
in the desert far and near,  
calling us to true repentance,  
since the reign of God is here.

O, that warning cry obey!  
Now prepare for God a way.  
Let the valleys rise in meeting  
and the hills bow down in greeting.  
3 Straight shall be what long was crooked,  
and the rougher places plain.  
Let your hearts be true and humble,  
as befits God's holy reign.  
For the glory of the Lord  
now on earth is shed abroad,  
and all flesh shall see the token  
that God's word is never broken.

## SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

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.

BREAKING OF BREAD & SHARING OF THE CUP

PRAYER AFTER ALL ARE SERVED

### PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Holy God, we long for your peace, and trust in your promise; we hear your call to turn toward you, to change our lives and welcome you in. So, we dedicate ourselves to loving and serving in your name. Fill us with your wisdom and grace that we would be up to the challenge of proclaiming your Kingdom, come. In the name of the One who is coming we pray. Amen!

### \*HYMN #105

*People, Look East*

1. People, look east. The time is near  
Of the crowning of the year.

Make your house fair as you are able,  
Trim the hearth and set the table.

People, look east and sing today:  
Love, the guest, is on the way.

2. Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,  
One more seed is planted there:

Give up your strength the seed to nourish,  
That in course the flower may flourish.

People, look east and sing today:  
Love, the rose, is on the way.

3. Birds, though you long have ceased to build,  
Guard the nest that must be filled.

Even the hour when wings are frozen

God for fledging time has chosen.

People, look east and sing today:

Love, the bird, is on the way.

4. Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim

One more light the bowl shall brim,

Shining beyond the frosty weather,

Bright as sun and moon together.

People, look east and sing today:

Love, the star, is on the way.

5. Angels, announce with shouts of mirth

Christ who brings new life to earth.

Set every peak and valley humming

With the word, the Lord is coming.

People, look east and sing today:

Love, the Lord, is on the way.

BENEDICTION

Anghaarad Teague Dees

POSTLUDE

*Prepare the Royal Highway*

arr. Mansfield