

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 6, 2020

Our vocalist today 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.

CHIMING OF THE BELLS

WELCOME

Rev. Nancy Dawson

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Nancy Dawson

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

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

arr. Thomas

LIGHTING OF ADVENT WREATH

Elizabeth Plucker

DISCIPLES GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

Gerald Doyle, Liturgist

L: A voice cries in the wilderness,

P: Prepare the way of the Lord; make God's way clear.

L: The God of hope fills us with peace as we watch and wait.

P: The Holy Spirit empowers us to worship and serve in humble trust.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Gerald Doyle, Liturgist

Loving God, you sent your prophet John to prepare your way among us, to call us to repentance that all may see your reign of peace. As we gather in your presence, strengthen us to live lives of steadfast love as we await the Messiah's return. 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.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Gerald Doyle, Liturgist

Let us lay before God and one another the distances between us, the impatience, idolatries, and lack of compassion that form our confessions this day. For if we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves. Yet in mercy, God will forgive us and renew us.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gerald Doyle, Liturgist

Gracious Lord, you came to set the power of salvation in the center of our lives. Yet our lives are full of that which doesn't last. With our tongues we speak evil against others. By our actions we disobey your will. Our anger continues in spite of Christ's forgiveness and peace. Forgive our misuse of your mercy and in Christ, hear our prayer. AMEN

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

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Gerald Doyle, Liturgist

The reign of God has come near; the repentant will be judged with righteousness. You are forgiven. Be filled with peace, believing in the power of the risen Christ to bring you to new life. Rejoice and believe.

Choral Response Hymn #347

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence (verse 1)

Let all mortal flesh keep silence,

and with fear and trembling stand;

ponder nothing earthly minded,

for with blessing in his hand

Christ our God to earth descendeth,

our full homage to demand.

DISCIPLES LISTEN TO THE WORD OF GOD

SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 1:1-8

Evelyn Glass, Lector

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight" ', John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, 'The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.'

ANTHEM

Come Thou, Dear Redeemer

Franck

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 40:1-11

Nancy Dawson

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries out: 'In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.' A voice says, 'Cry out!' And I said, 'What shall I cry?' All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, 'Here is your God!' See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

SERMON

Preparations

Nancy Dawson

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: Apostle's Creed

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 #106

Prepare the Way, O Zion

1 Prepare the way, O Zion,
your Christ is drawing near!
Let every hill and valley
a level way appear.
Greet One who comes in glory,
foretold in sacred story.

Refrain:

O blest is Christ who came
in God's most holy name.
2 He brings God's rule, O Zion;
he comes from heaven above.

His rule is peace and freedom,
and justice, truth, and love.
Lift high your praise resounding,
for grace and joy abounding. [Refrain]
3 Fling wide your gates, O Zion;
your Savior's rule embrace,
and tidings of salvation
proclaim in every place.
All lands will bow rejoicing,
their adoration voicing. [Refrain]

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PARTAKE OF THE ELEMENTS AS DIRECTED

PRAYER OF RESPONSE

DEDICATION OF PLEDGE CARDS AND OFFERINGS (UNISON)

Gracious God, we come to this season of Advent with expectant and thankful hearts. We come this day to dedicate our pledges and offerings to you. Use them to spread the good news that Christ has come and will come again so that all may dwell in peace. We dedicate ourselves as we wait for your return. AMEN

HYMN #93

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

1 Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates;
behold the King of glory waits;
the King of kings is drawing near;
the Savior of the world is here.
2 Fling wide the portals of your heart;
make it a temple, set apart

from earthly use for heaven's employ,
adorned with prayer and love and joy.
3 Redeemer, come! I open wide
my heart to thee; here, Lord, abide.
Let me thy inner presence feel;
thy grace and love in me reveal.

BENEDICTION

Nancy Dawson

POSTLUDE

Prepare the Royal Highway

arr. Mansfield