

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION (in unison)**

At the heart of our faith is a power that continues to speak to and transform us so that we might be a prophetic voice of hope in the world. Our joy is deeply rooted in our identity as the beloved children of God. As God's children we are bearers of light and love and generosity. May these gifts serve God in this world and may we be open to whatever God is inviting of us at this time in our lives. It is with joy that we pray this day. Amen.

***HYMN #105** *People, Look East*

DISCIPLES DEPART TO SERVE GOD

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE** *O Come, All Ye Faithful* arr. Broughton

***Please stand if able**

THIS WEEK AT QUAKER:

Sunday, December 17

- 9:00 a.m. Sunday School
- 10:00 a.m. Worship
- 11:15 a.m. Children's Choir
- 5:00 p.m. Candlelight Service & Buffet

Tuesday, December 19

- 10:00 a.m. Bible Study on Zoom

Wednesday, December 20

- No STAR Homeschool Group
- 11:00 a.m. Centering Prayer
- 11:30 a.m. Lunch Bunch
- 6:00 p.m. Prayer for Church Family at Home

Thursday, December 21

- 3:00 p.m. Communion at Valley View
- 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir rehearsal

Plan on joining us this evening for our Candlelight Service and Buffet. It is a wonderful service of scripture lesson and carols followed by fellowship and a tasty buffet of finger foods and desserts.

This month **Lunch Bunch** will head to Long Mountain Grill at 69 Barricks Lane in Rustburg. Join us this Wednesday, December 20 at 11:30 am. Bring a small, inexpensive gift for our annual gift exchange. We will need to give a final head count to the restaurant by tomorrow, December 18 so please RSVP to Sara Curtis by text, call 434-941-3349 or email her at buzzandsara@gmail.com.

THE CHRISTMAS WREATHS on the front doors are given in loving memory of Alma (Granny Maude) & Harold Webb by Andrea & David Webb.

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

OUR ACOLYTE TODAY is Sarah Robert.

OUR USHERS FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER are Eric Barringer, Sharon Barringer, Bob Lockridge & Maureen Lockridge.

OUR ELDERS ON DUTY FOR DECEMBER are Liz Huband & Elizabeth Plucker.

WORSHIP BAGS are available in a basket in the Narthex for children who stay in the sanctuary during worship. They contain tools for worship and items to foster creativity. Enjoy the bags, and at the end of worship, please return them to the basket.

HEARING DEVICES are available in the Narthex. Please see an usher for assistance.

LARGE PRINT HYMNALS AND BULLETINS are available from the ushers.

ONLINE GIVING now available! Scan this QR code or click the "Give Now" button on the front page of our website to go directly to our giving page.



QMPC Staff

Pastor: Rev. Anghaarad Teague Dees

Email: anghaarad@qmpc.org

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Phone: 239-2548 Fax: 239-6071

e-mail: office@qmpc.org; www.qmpc.org

Parish Associate	Richard Goodman	Organist / Adult Choir Director	Rose Peak
Office Administrator	Deborah Ashworth	Youth Choir Director	Casey Wood
Bookkeeper	Sheryl Kesselring	Children's Choir Director	Savannah Sorrels
Treasurer	Sara Curtis		

Quaker Memorial Presbyterian Church



Welcoming All Serving Christ Transforming Lives

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

For more than a century, Quaker Memorial has been committed to

Welcome to Worship at Quaker Memorial Presbyterian Church!

our mission of Welcoming All, Serving Christ, Transforming Lives. If you are seeking a church that offers abundant opportunities for spiritual and personal growth and Christian witness, we believe that you will find a home here.

The Service for the Lord's Day
Third Sunday of Advent
December 17, 2023

WELCOME Anghaarad Teague Dees
ANNOUNCEMENTS Anghaarad Teague Dees
MOMENT FOR MISSION Peggy Deyerle
*PASSING OF THE PEACE Anghaarad Teague Dees
*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 *Coventry Carol* arr. Ellson

DISCIPLES GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

Michael, Tami, Faith, Grace & Joy Jacob

Gather in joy, people of God. Sing the Advent song!
Song of faith, song of trust, a song to welcome the Christ.

Gather in joy, people of God and hear the prophet's song:
"When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream. Then our mouth was filled with laughter and our tongue with shouts of joy; then it was said among the nations, 'The Lord has done great things for them.' The Lord has done great things for us, and we rejoiced!"
(Psalm 126:1-3)

And so we rejoice!

Light the candles three as we sing our songs of joy! For the joy of the shepherds is in our hearts this day. We rejoice that God has come among us as a child born on Christmas morn. Our joy is deeply rooted in our identity as God's beloved and so our lullaby of joy is the mother's song who rocks her child with a promise of justice, a promise of good news and the coming of God's topsy-turvy, inside out, upside-down Kingdom.

Lullaby: Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star Faith, Grace & Joy Jacob
Light the first three candles (2 purple 1 pink) as the soloist sings the lullaby

Unison Prayer:

Lord of Light, we hope and pray for joy as we journey together deeper into this season of Advent. Our souls magnify the Lord, and our spirits rejoice in God our Savior, for he looks with favor upon us and sees our unrealized potential. To whatever God is inviting us at this time in our lives, and relying on God's grace, may respond with a joyful 'yes.' Comfort us in our responding and remind us that in the lullabies of joy, your time will come for Christ comes on the 'morrow and Christ is here. Amen.

*HYMN #129 *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

CALL TO CONFESSION

David Webb, Jr., Liturgist

In this season of waiting, in this time of preparation, we long to draw closer to God, as a comfort and as our savior. So often, we get in our own way; we make choices that trip us up as we move toward God. So then, let us make our confession together:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of light and love, we confess our lack of attention to the prophets and messengers you send. We confess that we allow too many things to clutter our hearts and lives, making it difficult to see and do your will. We hear the call to Rejoice! But we are too overwhelmed at times to join in the joy! We cry out because people are hurting. Injustice is a reality in this world...children are wounded by weapons of war...too many will sleep this night without a roof over their heads...people are suffering and the systems are broken. Help us, O God to hear the prophets and amplify their call for justice and restoration. Open our hearts, our eyes, our ears, and our minds to watch and listen for your Word being proclaimed among us this day and always. Call upon us, O God, to do our part, wherever we can, to hold one another in our grief, in our sorrows and in our healing. All this we pray in your name. Amen.

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

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

David Webb, Jr., Liturgist

If you are struggling, know that you are not alone. We know that God will not fix everything the way we want it. But we also know we are not alone. May we remember the times God has done great things for us, and hold on to the hope that good things will come again, even in our most difficult hour. May we be living hope for one another. Know that you are loved, you are forgiven, you are precious to God.

We are not alone, God comes to us in Emmanuel! Alleluia! Amen.

CHORAL RESPONSE *O Come, O Come Emmanuel (Refrain)*

Rejoice! Rejoice!

Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

TIME WITH CHILDREN

Elizabeth Plucker

DISCIPLES LISTEN TO THE WORD OF GOD

SCRIPTURE READING 1 Thessalonians 5:12-28 Bible, page 250
David Webb, Jr.

ANTHEM *Let All Mortal Flesh* arr. Davis
Chancel Choir

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 1:39-56 Bible, page 69

SERMON Mary's Song of Prophecy Anghaarad Teague Dees

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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.

HYMN #100 *Canticle of Turning*

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH Apostles' 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.

PRESENTATION OF OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Advent Meditation on DIVINUM MYSTERIUM* arr. Eliot

*DOXOLOGY Hymn #606

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.