

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

Our hearts praise you, O Lord, our spirits rejoice in God our savior, for you have remembered us, your humble servants. We celebrate and give thanks for the great things you have done for us. You have kept your promises to us and may we keep our promises to you. In Christ you have shown us how to love, how to serve, how to sacrifice. Accept know these gifts of our lives and our labors that we know return to you. Holy One, be the light in our darkness this day, that we might reflect your light into the dark corners of our world. Amen.

***HYMN #545** *Song of Simeon*

DISCIPLES DEPART TO SERVE GOD

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE** *Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers* arr. Mansfield

***Please stand if able**

THIS WEEK AT QUAKER:

Sunday, December 24 Christmas Eve

10:00 a.m. Worship
5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service

Monday, December 25 Christmas Day

Church Office Closed

Tuesday, December 26

Church Office Closed

Wednesday, December 27

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

Thursday, December 28

10:00 a.m. Comfort Table Support Group

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 Grace Jacob.

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

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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
Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 24, 2023

WELCOME Anghaarad Teague Dees
ANNOUNCEMENTS Anghaarad Teague Dees
*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
Angels from the Realms of Glory & It Came Upon a Midnight Clear
Handbells

DISCIPLES GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES The Webb family
Gather in love, people of God. Sing the Advent song!
Song of faith, song of trust, a song to welcome the Christ.

Gather in love, people of God and hear the prophet's song:
"I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord, forever; with my mouth I will
proclaim your faithfulness to all generations. I declare that your steadfast love
is established forever; your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens. Let the
heavens praise your wonders, O Lord, your faithfulness in the assembly of
the holy ones. For who in the skies can be compared to the Lord? Who
among the heavenly beings is like the Lord, a God feared in the council of the
holy ones, great and awesome above all who are around him?"
(Psalm 89: 1-2,5-7)

And so we love because we are loved!

Let us light the four candles of hope, peace, joy and love. Stand alert and be
ready to welcome the Christ. Let this be our prayer as we lift up our hearts:
prepare the way of the Lord! May we find the Lord on the edge of things
crossing borders with the foreigner...may we find the Lord among children
learning to finger paint...may we find the Lord with the worried and the
wearied...may we find the Lord on the wrong side of the tracks, finding a
place to lay his head among the lost...may we find the Lord singing lullabies
of justice and peace, offering bread to the hungry and sitting by
bedsides...may we find the Lord laughing at the powerful, welcoming those
who have nothing to the throne and comforting those who are broken,
faithless and afraid. May we join the Lord's lullaby of love.

Lullaby: *Coventry Carol*
Olivia Webb, soloist
Light the four candles (2 purple, pink, 1 purple) as the soloist sings the lullaby

Unison prayer:
**Here in the company of the neighbor whom we know and the stranger in our
midst, and the self from whom we turn, we ask to love as Jesus loved. As the
four candles shine brightly, we pray for those who feel hopeless, for those
who seek peace, for those who have no joy, and for those who do not feel
loved. May we shine brightly your hope, peace, joy and love to the world. Fill
us with Christ's spirit of service and self-forgetting love, that through us Christ
may become near to all people. Comfort us in our loving and remind us that in
the lullabies of love, your time will come for Christ comes on the 'morrow and
Christ is here. Amen.**

*HYMN #93 *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*

CALL TO CONFESSION Julia Bryan, Liturgist
We are waiting on you, God...we are still waiting and the darkness is deeper
but the natal star is beginning to shine...the everlasting light is creeping closer
and hope is in the air. Love is coming. Love divine, all loves excelling. Love
that has been waiting on us and it is that love that we bring our broken hearts
and broken spirits to this day.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION
Living God, Love Incarnate, we confess that we are not perfect. Your
faithfulness is from generation to generation. When we have lost our way, or
turned away, you have sought us out, in the least likely of places. We confess
that sometimes we would prefer that you stayed in the box we built for you,
keeping out of our affairs. The systems we have built work for us, and you
disrupt them with your insistence on lifting up the lowly and filling the hungry
while sending the rich away empty. Forgive our self-centered ways, our
narrow visions of justice, and our restricted love. Our hearts long for your
blessing and our world yearns for your presence. Come to us now with
forgiveness and love. Amen.

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

ASSURANCE OF PARDON Julia Bryan, Liturgist
The truth of Advent is this; God is coming to us! We are not alone. In Christ,
we are accepted, We are set free of the past. We are given to the future.
Love is coming.

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 Skip Wodke

DISCIPLES LISTEN TO THE WORD OF GOD

SCRIPTURE READING Romans 16:25-27 Bible, page 200
Julia Bryan

ANTHEM *Climb to the Top of the Highest Mountain* arr. Jennings
Chancel Choir

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 2:22-38 Bible, page 71

SERMON Simeon & Anna's Song of Promise 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 #110 *Love Has Come*

*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 *Still, Still, Still* arr. Ritter

*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.