

***DOXOLOGY**

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.

Hymn #606

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

Holy God, the new year has begun, the resolutions made, the festive decorations are coming down and life is returning to the ordinary time we travel through most of the year. This year, we pray that your light will shine brightly through us without fear or shame. Help us to keep watching and waiting with hope alive when times are difficult. May we light the path so that others may see and come to know the Christ we love and adore. And may all that we give and do and say be to Christ's glory. Amen.

HYMN #134*Joy to the World***DISCIPLES DEPART TO SERVE GOD*****BENEDICTION*****POSTLUDE***What Star Is This?*

arr. Ritter

Please stand if able.*THIS WEEK AT QUAKER:****Sunday, January 4**

9:00 a.m. Sunday School

10:00 a.m. Worship

Tuesday, January 6

9:00 a.m. Zoom Bible Study

10:00 a.m. Legacy Meeting in library

6:30 p.m. New Elder Training

Wednesday, January 7

11:00 a.m. Centering Prayer

6:00 p.m. Prayer for Church Family at Home

6:30 p.m. Women's Bible Study

Thursday, January 8

7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir rehearsal

OUR ELDERS ON DUTY FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY

are Peggy Deyerle & Sam Miller.

OUR USHERS FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY are Peggy Deyerle, Sally Sease, Anders Sunwall & Joan Woodroof.**OUR ACOLYTE TODAY** is Hannah Perkins.**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** 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.**Quaker Memorial Presbyterian Church****Welcome to Worship at 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 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.

**QMPC Staff**

Pastor: Rev. Anghaarad Teague Dees

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Parish Associate
 Office Administrator
 Bookkeeper
 Treasurer

Richard Goodman
 Deborah Ashworth
 Sheryl Kesselring
 Sara Curtis

Organist / Adult Choir Director
 Youth Choir Director
 Children's Choir Director

Rose Peak
 Casey Wood
 Savannah Sorrels

The Service for the Lord's Day
Second Sunday of Christmas
January 4, 2026

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 *To Follow the Star* Ritter

DISCIPLES GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

*CALL TO WORSHIP from Psalm 148 Josie Miller, Liturgist
The Magi followed the light of a star to the Christ Child.
May the glimmers of that same star draw us even closer by the light of faith.
For in this world...in our lives...in our work...in our relationships...in our longings
We are seeking light.
We are - we could be - people of your light.
As people of the light, may this new year dawn in us, may our hearts be filled with hope and excitement.
O Lord, guide us as we look to you and worship you.

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION Josie Miller, Liturgist
O star-flinging God, stop us often we pray: With news that is good, with hope that holds, with truth that transforms with a Word tailored to this trail we are on. And may this path Christ walked run through our lives and may we be the road Christ takes. Amen.

*HYMN #145 *What Child Is This*
*CALL TO CONFESSION Josie Miller, Liturgist
We are an incredibly stubborn people. Over and over we are told to shine the light...to open our eyes to injustice...to speak for the voiceless and yet we would rather seek our own desires and keep the light for ourselves. Let us come confessing our shortcomings as we pour out our hearts ready to be reconciled to the love of the Light of the world:

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION Josie Miller, Liturgist
Loving God, we confess that we have not always shone our light. We have been burned out, drained dry, run ragged. We are tired people, overburdened by our busyness and countless to-do lists. We are filled with worries and overwhelmed by the negative news in the world. Restore in us your Spirit so that we will be renewed and rekindled that we might shine brightly for you. May our hearts be filled with the awe and wonder of the season that in our lives and actions your light would shine brightly for all the world to see. In Jesus' name we pray. (Keep silence) Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON Josie Miller, Liturgist

Friends, the Light of the world has come and dwells within us and makes us new. We are called to shine that light brightly and now we are to live as loved, forgiven and free people.

Like the Magi on a quest, may we live our lives faithfully, hopefully, and generously. Thanks be to God! Amen!

*CHORAL RESPONSE #620

Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;
to his feet your tribute bring;
ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven, evermore his praises sing:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise the everlasting King.

TIME WITH CHILDREN Richard Goodman

DISCIPLES LISTEN TO THE WORD OF GOD

SCRIPTURE READING Ephesians 3:1-12 Bible, page 235
Josie Miller, Lector

ANTHEM *We Three Kings* Hopkins, Jr.
Men's Group

SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 2:1-12 Bible, page 2

SERMON Following Stars Anghaarad Teague Dees

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH from the Iona Community

We believe that God is present in the darkness before dawn;
in the waiting and uncertainty where fear and courage join hands,
conflict and caring link arms, and the sun rises over barbed wire.
We believe in a with-us God who sits down in our midst
to share our humanity.

We affirm a faith that takes us beyond the safe place:
into action, into vulnerability and into the streets.

We commit ourselves to work for change and put ourselves on the line;
to bear responsibility, take risks, live powerfully and face humiliation;
to stand with those on the edge; to choose life and be used by the spirit
for God's new community of hope. Amen.

RECEIVING OF STAR WORDS

You will be invited to come forward during communion to receive the sacrament as well as a star word to guide your year. If you do not wish to receive the sacrament, please come forward for a blessing and a star.

Our prayer is that this word has chosen us and will draw us closer to God in the coming days.

UNISON PRAYER

God, we acknowledge that we are not always ready to receive your best gifts for us. Our prayer is that this "star word" will draw us closer to you and in our searching, we will find you in the ordinary of our lives. It is too often our habit to turn aside, stumble over, or even reject experiences and encounters that we later understand to have been precious gifts. Help us to be open to the gift that you offer us now through our "star words." We acknowledge that we do not fully understand what this word might mean for our faith, but we receive it from you with gratitude and pray that your Spirit will enable us to live into our word with intention and faithfulness. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

*HYMN #150 *As with Gladness Men of Old*

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

The Lord be with you

And also with you

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 THE BREAD & SHARING OF THE CUP

PRAYER AFTER ALL ARE SERVED

DEDICATION OF TITHES AND OFFERING

OFFERTORY *The Snow Lay on the Ground*

arr. Hughes

2 Cents a Meal Offering