

**Worship at Berkeley Friends Church  
December 6, 2020 11:00 AM – 12:15 PM**

**Presider - Steve Sims**

**Meditation**

**Prayer**

**Hymn - In The Bleak Midwinter**



In the bleak midwinter frosty wind made moan,  
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;  
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,  
In the bleak midwinter, long ago.

Our God, heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;  
heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign.  
In the bleak midwinter a stable bed sufficed  
God, the Lord Almighty, Jesus Christ.

Angels and archangels may have gathered there,  
cherubim and seraphim filled the air;  
but his mother lowly, in her maiden bliss,  
worshipped the beloved with a kiss.

What can I give him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;  
If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;  
yet what I can I give him: give my heart.



**Praises & Petitions**

**Musical Offering - Comfort Ye My People - Micah Bales**

**Scripture - Isaiah 40:1-11, Mark 1:1-8**

**Message - "Comfort My People" - Faith Kelley**

## Open Worship

*Christ is ministering to us in the silence. Nothing needs to be said, unless there is a clear leading to speak. After a period of centering down, if you feel a leading to speak, please be obedient to it: Speak clearly, loudly, and succinctly. Allow time for a message to settle before another message is offered.*

## Hymn - Fairest Lord Jesus!

Fairest Lord Jesus!

Ruler of all nature!

O Thou of God and man the Son!

Thee will I cherish,

Thee will I honor,

Thou, my soul's Glory, Joy, and Crown!

Fair are the meadows

Fairer still the woodlands,

Robed in the blooming garb of spring:

Jesus is fairer,

Jesus is purer,

Who makes the woeful heart to sing!

Fair is the sunshine,

Fairer still the moonlight,

And all the twinkling starry host:

Jesus shines brighter,

Jesus shines purer,

Than all the angels heav'n can boast!

Beautiful Savior!

Lord of the nations!

Son of God and Son of Man!

Glory and honor,

Praise, adoration,

Now and forevermore be Thine.



## Welcome – Announcements- Offering

*God is the Great Giver and has given much to us. The contributions you make are vital to the life of the meeting. Please consider offerings through mail or the Donate Now button on the church's website.*

## Welcome

We are a welcoming and inclusive congregation. We trust that your heart may be warmed by the Lord's Presence as we worship together. If you have prayer needs or spiritual concerns, please call or email the pastors, Micah Bales and Faith Kelley, or any member of Ministry and Council.

## Church Announcements

**Bible Study** starts 7:30 PM on Tuesdays via Zoom. We are discussing David Johnson's book, "Jesus, Christ and Servant of God: Meditations on the Gospel According to John." You do not need to have read or have a copy of the book available as we read a discussion and then discuss.

**Quaker Theological Discussion Group, Dec 11-12.** Due to COVID-19, this year's Quaker Theological Discussion Group (QTDG) sessions will occur entirely online, as with most events this year. We hope this will make it possible for many Friends to join us who would not otherwise be able to be there.

[Register here](#). We will send a Zoom link in the days ahead of the panels.

Find the time in your time zone [here](#).

**Panel 1:** What is a Quaker pastoral theology, and how is it enfolded/embodyed in community?

**Time:** 8am PST / 11am EST Friday, December 11, 2020

**Panelists:** Ashley Wilcox, C. Wess Daniels, Oscar Lugusa Malande, Derek Brown, and Phil Baisley

**Panel 2:** What is a Quaker theology of vocational ministry, and how is it enfolded/embodyed in community?

**Time:** 8am PST / 11am EST Saturday, December 12

**Panelists:** Ben Brazil, Robin Mohr, Kristina Keefe-Perry, Emily Provance, and Lloyd Lee Wilson

**Casting Call: We need you!** BFC is putting on an intergenerational Christmas pageant, "Do Not Be Afraid."

We are looking for actors of all ages to record a short scene with members of their household or bubble.

The recording will be played during worship on Sunday December 20. Reach out to Faith Kelley with questions or fill out [the interest form](#).

**Christmas Eve Service at 5:00 PM on December 24** on Zoom. Engage with the Christmas story, sing songs and rejoice that God with us and so we fear not! A time for people of all ages as we celebrate the birth of our Savior.

Keep up with BFC throughout the week. Join the announcement listserv by emailing Faith at [pastor@berkeleyfriendschurch.org](mailto:pastor@berkeleyfriendschurch.org) and follow us on Facebook.

## Praises and Petitions of Berkeley Friends Church December 6, 2020

- We **thank you that** into the dark depths of our fear and anguish, **you reach out to us**. You give us guidance this day and every day.
- We pray for **loved ones** in our circles of care: All those diagnosed with, suffering from, or recovering from serious illnesses including **Liz's classmate Allie, Joe Williams, Dianna's friend**

**Sebastian, Robbie Williams, Marilyn's friend Bruce, Faith's cousin Vicki, Veneita Porter and Stanley Chagala Ngesa.**

- We ask for God's presence with **Friends not able to be with us: Julie Rowlette, Charles Blue, Janice Wells and Joe Williams.**
- We pray for **all those who are currently sick with COVID-19.** Give their doctors and nurses wisdom on treatments. Comfort the family who can't be with them. Provide the resources that are needed to care for them well and safely. We grieve all those who have died and ask for an end to this pandemic.
- We pray for **Veneita Porter** as she continues to heal from her knee surgery. Please lessen her pain. Minimize the complications that have come up. Help her get the kind of care she needs to feel better and regain mobility.
- We pray for **Stanley Chagala Ngesa.** We ask that he be able to have the surgery he needs before he has to leave the country and return to Kenya on December 24. May he find the resources he needs to cover the cost of the surgery in time.
- We pray that the **Kelley and Bales family** will be able to close on time on their new house. Help their move to go smoothly. May the timeline of pest work, new appliances and getting out of their old place all work together easily.
- We pray for **all of us who feel lonely and disconnected** in this time of social distance. It is so easy to feel all alone as we stay apart. Help us to connect to each other. May we create a network of care and love around us.
- We pray for our county, state and country as we try and combat the **Covid pandemic.** Help our leaders to make good decisions. Give us the fortitude and wisdom to do the things we must to keep each other safe. Give energy and protection to healthcare workers and other essential workers. We have been told this will be a dark, hard winter. May we be beacons of your light in the midst of it.
- As the voice cried out in the wilderness, God, you enter our lives and call to us to be open to hearing the cries of people who feel lost and alienated, who feel that no one cares or ever will care about them. We have been given that opportunity to reach out through the ministries and mission of our church bringing hope and peace to all. **Get us ready to become pathways of peace and life-transforming love** in your name.



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Friends Church

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Meeting Clerk: John Maurer

Ministry & Counsel Committee:

Peter Brewer, Nikki Nahmens Gage, Dorothy Kakimoto,

John Maurer, Louise Neal (clerk), Giuseppe Rensi