



Worship at Berkeley Friends Church
December 5, 2021 11:00 AM – 12:15 PM



Presider - Steve Sims

Meditation

Prayer

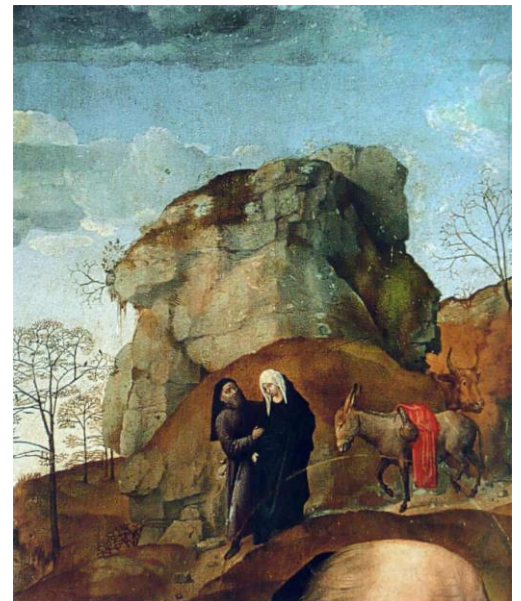
Hymn - People, Look East

People, look east. The time is near
Of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able,
Trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the guest, is on the way.

Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,
One more seed is planted there:
Give up your strength the seed to nourish,
That in course the flower may flourish.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the rose, is on the way.

Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim
One more light the bowl shall brim,
Shining beyond the frosty weather,
Bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the star, is on the way.

Angels, announce on this great feast
Him who cometh from the east.
Set every peak and valley humming
With the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the Lord, is on the way.



Praises & Petitions

Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord - Video

Scripture - Isaiah 40:3-5

Message - "Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord" - Louise Neal



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 - On Jordan's Bank The Baptist's Cry

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
Announces that the Lord is nigh.
Awake and harken, for he brings
Glad tidings of the King of kings!

Then cleansed be every life from sin:
Make straight the way for God within,
And let us all our hearts prepare
For Christ to come and enter there.

We hail you as our Savior, Lord,
Our refuge and our great reward.
O let your face upon us shine
And fill the world with love divine.

All praise to you, eternal Son,
Whose advent has our freedom won,
Whom with the Father we adore,
And Holy Spirit, evermore.



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

Sermon by Phone - Listen to the sermon each week on the website or our sermon by phone service. To listen to the sermon on your phone, **call 510-201-9143** at any time to hear each week's message. New sermons are uploaded on Sunday afternoons.

Bible Study starts 7:30 PM on Tuesdays via Zoom. We will be discussing the book "A Quaker Prayer Life" by David Johnson.

Becoming More Generous through Creative Giving Tools: An Everence and FUM Webinar will be held Thursday December 9 at 12-1:30 PM Pacific. Learn how to act creatively and more fully on our desires to give generously out of what God is provided for us. [Register here](#) by Monday, December 6.

What does it mean to live our faith in public? What's the connection between Quaker leadership and ministry? These are just some of the questions we'll discuss in our final **Quaker Changemaker event of 2021**, when FCNL Director of Quaker Leadership Alicia McBride is in conversation with outgoing General Secretary Diane Randall. [Register to join us online on Weds. Dec. 15 at 6:30 p.m. EST.](#) Their discussion will cover how Diane came to Quakerism and to FCNL, her leading to public ministry as the head of the organization, and her experiences of living into Quaker faith and practice while serving as the general secretary of FCNL for the last decade. Please join us to reflect and add your perspectives on living one's faith in the world. [Register now!](#)

Christmas Eve Service- December 24 at 5:00 PM. In person at the meeting house and online on Zoom. Join us for a time of singing, reading of the Christmas story and welcoming the Christ child.

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

Praises and Petitions of Berkeley Friends Church December 5, 2021

- We **thank you that you rescue us from darkness and free us from fear.** Like a refiner's fire, you make us shine with the brilliance of the purest gold and silver. You who began this work in us seeks to bring it to completion. May the day of Christ find us flawless and without blame.
- We pray for **loved ones** in our circles of care: All those diagnosed with, suffering from, or recovering from serious illnesses including **Liz's friend Allie, Dianna's friend Sebastian, Robbie**

Williams, Veneita Porter, Donna Bales, Faith K's cousin Ben, Faith Jansen Brewer and Stanley Chagala Ngesa.

- We ask for God's presence with **Friends not able to be with us: Charles Blue, Joe Williams, and Janice Wells.**
- **We pray for all those who are sick with Covid around the world.** May the vaccine be distributed more quickly and equitably. Give us wisdom and peace as we begin to return to some of our before-time routines. Protect those who can't get vaccinated from infection, particularly from the Delta strain. We particularly grieve the death of **Brenda Kelley's friend Dawn Barnhardt.**
- We continue to pray for **Mary, Michael and baby Frederick.** Give them rest and support. May they begin to process some of their fears and anxieties that his complicated entry into the world have produced. May **Fred and Louise** be of help as they enjoy becoming grandparents.
- We pray for **all of us who are struggling to make ends meet.** Please provide for all who are having trouble paying bills, making rent and accessing food. May those of us who have enough be generous in our help and support of each other.
- We ask for a great sense of your healing light for **those who are struggling with thoughts of suicide.** Calm our troubled minds and may we hold on to our great worth in you. This is a difficult time of year for many. May we check in on each other, offering support, counsel and help.
- In the midst of the business of this time of year, **give us a sense of your purpose and peace.** Give us a clear vision of what is important and what we should let go of. Make clear to us the value of rest and sabbath in a world that tells us we should always be doing more.
- God, darkness surrounds us like a cold stone tomb, until your light bursts into our lives like a clear, bright dawn. We cover our eyes; we're so unprepared for your coming. Your light blazes forth like a white-hot fire, consuming all that it touches. How can we stand before you, Lord? The road that we thought was straight and wide is now exposed as a twisted, crooked path, blocked by a mountain of sin. **Guide us back to the way of peace—the way that leads to you.**



Berkeley
Friends Church

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Meeting Clerk: _____
Ministry & Counsel Committee:
Dorothy Kakimoto, Nikki Nahmens Gage, Jayne Nichols,
Steve Sims and Louise Neal (clerk)