

LOOKING AHEAD

December 11	5:00 pm	Soup Kitchen
	8:00 pm	AA
December 12	5:15 pm	Scouts – Lions & Tigers
December 13	6:30 pm	Scouts – Arrows of Light
December 14	6:00 pm	Scouts – Bear Den
December 15	10:00 am	Backpack Program
	6:30 pm	Scouts – Scout Pack Meeting
December 16	8:15 am	Coffice Hours at The Villager
December 18	10:00 am	Worship - Cantata
	5:00 pm	Soup Kitchen
	8:00 pm	AA

NOTES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome! No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here at the United Church of Chester, an Open and Affirming Church and a member of the United Church of Christ. **The United Church of Chester is centered in Christ's love, embracing, nurturing, serving all, and committed to justice and peace.**

The deacon for the month of December is **Cheryl Archer**. Flowers for the altar are given by **Deb Calamari** in appreciation of everyone who was so giving to the Stuff-A-Cruiser yesterday. Our greeters for today are **Peter and Jane Zanardi**.

ALAN'S OFFICE HOURS: Wednesday – Friday 8:30 am – 12:30 pm or by appointment.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday-Friday 9am-1pm.

The United Church of Chester

An Open and Affirming Church

December 11, 2022



THIRD SUNDAY

OF

Advent

Reverend W. Alan Froggatt, Pastor & Teacher
Every Member of the Congregation, Ministers
Karli Gilbertson, Music Director and Organist

Post Office Box 383, Chester, Connecticut 06412 860-526-2697
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THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHESTER

An Open & Affirming Congregation of
The United Church of Christ
December 11, 2022 10:00 a.m.
Third Sunday of Advent

PREPARATION FOR THE WORD

WELCOME Cheryl Archer, Deacon

PRELUDE *The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came* (Basque 18th cent.) arr. J. Kerr

INTROIT *Lo How a Rose E'er Blooming* M. Praetorious

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH Daphne Stitt

Reader: Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.

All: Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all the people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.

(The first three candles are lit)

All: Holy God, In this season when you reveal yourself as a mortal to mortals, reveal to us your intent and purpose for our lives. Show us the places where we can make a real difference in this world, and may our Advent and Christmas be a bit less merry, and a bit more blessed. Amen.

(Sing together: "One Candle is Lit" v. 3:)

Come, festively sing while awaiting the birth. Join angels in dancing from heaven to earth. Wave banners of good news, lift high thankful praise. One candle is lit for the joy of these days.

*HYMN *"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"* 119

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O Holy God, our very waiting in Advent is itself a confession: If we are waiting for Emmanuel, we are not yet with you; if we are waiting for Jesus, we need a Savior, if we are waiting for a Messiah, the proud are still powerful, the mighty are still exalted, the hungry stand unheard at the door; if we are waiting for your incarnation in human form, we confess that we have not known you in our sister, we have not loved you in our brother, we have not served you in our neighbor.

In this time of great meaning, in the stillness of Advent love and light, hear our deepest confession, heal us and make us new through the good tidings of your presence in our lives. Amen.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSON 1 Thessalonians 5:15-22

See that none of you repays evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to all. Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the spirit. Do not despise the words of the prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil.

SCRIPTURE LESSON Luke 1: 39-56

ANTHEM *Bethlehem Wind* J. Martin

SERMON Rev Toni Smith

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

ANTHEM *Nova, Nova, Ave Fit ex Ava* Daw/Eicker

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER (*"trespasses"*)

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

POEM *The Messenger* Mary Oliver

*HYMN *"My Heart Sings Out With Joyful Praise"* 124

*BLESSING & BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE *For God Alone My Soul Waits in Silence* M. Lightfoot

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand; ponder nothing earthly-minded, for with blessing in his hand, Christ our God to earth descendeth, our full homage to demand.

King of kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth he stood, Lord of lords, in human vesture, in the body and the blood, he will give to all the faithful his own self for heavenly food.

Rank on rank the host of heaven spreads its vanguard on the way, as the Light of light descendeth from the realms of endless day, that the powers of hell may vanish as the darkness clears away.

At his feet the six-winged seraph; cherubim, with sleepless eye, veil their faces to the presence, as with ceaseless voice they cry, "Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Lord most high!"

My Heart Sings Out With Joyful Praise

My heart sings out with joyful praise to God who raises me, who came to me when I was low and changed my destiny. The Holy One, the Living God, is always full of grace to those who seek their Maker's will in ev'ry time and place.

The arm of God is strong and just to scatter all the proud. The tyrants tumble from their thrones and vanish like a cloud. The hungry all are satisfied; the rich are sent away. The poor of earth who suffer long will welcome God's new day.

The promise made in ages past at last has come to be, for God has come in pow'r to save, to set all people free. Rememb'ring those who wait to see salvation's dawning day, our Savior comes to all who weep to wipe their tears away.