

LOOKING AHEAD

November 27	5:00 pm 8:00 pm	Soup Kitchen AA
November 29	6:30 pm	Scouts – Arrows of Light
November 30	6:00 pm 6:00 pm	Scouts – Bear Den “Nutty” Nut Ball Night with Margie
December 1	10:00 am 6:30 pm	Back Pack Program Scouts – Wolf Den
December 3	9:00 am	Christmas Fair
December 4	10:00 am 5:00 pm 8:00 pm	Worship Soup Kitchen 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.**

Advent Wreath Lighting Volunteers Needed – We are looking for families or groups to participate in the annual Advent Wreath lighting ceremony. The dates are December 4 and Christmas Eve. See Alan or the church office if interested.

This month’s deacon is **Barbara-Jan Wilson**. Flowers are provided by **Claudia Epright** in celebration of our church family. Our greeters this morning are **Joe Ferjak** and **Jane Stevens**.

ALAN’S OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 8:30 am-12:30 pm, other times by appointment

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

The United Church of Chester

An Open and Affirming Church

November 27, 2022



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

An Open & Affirming Congregation of
The United Church of Christ
November 27, 2022 10:00 a.m.
First Sunday of Advent

PREPARATION FOR THE WORD

WELCOME Barbara-Jan Wilson, Deacon

PRELUDE *Sing Praise to God* E. Broughton

INTROIT *Lord Listen To Your Children* K. Medema

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH Diane Lindsay and Peggy Phillips
Reader: Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

**All: A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,
Make straight in the desert a highway for our God."**
(The first candle is lit)

All: Holy God, we seek your comfort and your solace, not the easy comfort and soft solace the world offers us, but comfort in the face of conflict, and the solace of the peace that passes all understanding. As we stand at the threshold of Advent, begin to prepare a place for your Christ-light in each of us, and in all of us. Amen.

(Sing together, "One Candle is Lit" v. 1:)

"Come surely, Lord Jesus, as dawn follows night, our hearts long to greet you, as roses the light, Salvation draw near us, our vision engage, One candle is lit for the hope of the age."

*HYMN *Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones* 11

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, who comes to us once more this Advent in the person of Jesus: keep us from finding our comfort and security in the world's false promises of wealth and prestige. Rather, teach us to lean on you in times both bright and dark, to live our lives in ways that bring comfort and security to your children most in need. Then, in satisfying their great longings, let us be satisfied as well, for you are enough for us, and for all. In your many great names we pray Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Isaiah 40.1-5

ANTHEM *Keep Your Lamps* A. Thomas

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON Matthew 24.36-44

'But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.'

SERMON *"Discomfort Zone"* Rev W. Alan Froggatt
(Getting a Handle on Messiah – I)

"Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour."
(Matthew 24.44)

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

ANTHEM *A Christmas Plainsong* H. Kihlken

JOYS AND CONCERNS

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

POEM *Come Sunday* Duke Ellington, 1943

*HYMN *Comfort, Comfort, Ye My People* 115

*BLESSING & BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE *Lead Me Lord* S. Wesley

Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones

Ye watchers and ye holy ones, bright seraphs, cherubim and thrones, raise the glad strain, Alleluia! Cry out, dominions, principedoms, powers, virtues, archangels, angels' choirs, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

O higher than the cherubim, more glorious than the seraphim, lead their praises, Alleluia! Thou bearer of the eternal Word, most gracious, magnify the Lord, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Respond, ye souls in endless rest, ye patriarchs and prophets blest, Alleluia, Alleluia! Ye holy twelve, ye martyrs strong, all saints triumphant, raise the song, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

O friends, in gladness let us sing, supernal anthems echoing, Alleluia, Alleluia! To God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit, Three in One, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Comfort, Comfort, Ye My People

Comfort, comfort ye my people, speak ye peace, thus saith our God; comfort those who sit in darkness mourning 'neath their sorrows' load. Speak ye to Jerusalem of the peace that waits for them; tell them that their sins I cover, and their warfare now is over.

Hark, the voice of one that crieth in the desert far and near, bidding all to true repentance since the reign of God is here. Oh, that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God away; let the valleys rise in meeting and the hills bow down in greeting.

Make ye straight what long was crooked, make the rougher places plain; let your hearts be true and humble, as befits this holy reign. For the glory of the Lord now o'er the earth is shed abroad; and all flesh shall see the token that God's word is never broken.