

LOOKING AHEAD

December 4	5:00 pm 8:00 pm	Soup Kitchen AA
December 5	5:15 pm	Scouts – Lions & Tigers
December 6	6:30 pm	Scouts - Webelos
December 7	6:00 pm	Scouts – Bear Den
December 8	10:00 am 6:30 pm	Backpack Program Scouts – Wolf Den
December 9	8:15 am	Coffice Hours at Simon’s Marketplace
December 10	10:00 am- 2:00 pm	Stuff-A-Cruiser
December 11	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.**

The deacon for the month of December is **Cheryl Archer**. Flowers for the altar are given by **Sue Germini-Humble** in celebration of all first responders and healthcare workers. Our greeter for today is **Sue Germini-Humble**.

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 4, 2022



SECOND 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
E-mail: unitedchester@uccchester.org web site: www.uccchester.org

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHESTER

An Open & Affirming Congregation of
The United Church of Christ
December 4, 2022 10:00 a.m.
Second Sunday of Advent

PREPARATION FOR THE WORD

WELCOME Cheryl Archer, Deacon

PRELUDE *Savior of the Nations, Come Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord* E. Walter/W.Kerr

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

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH Deb Calamari and Sue Germini-Humble

Reader: A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, Make straight in the desert a highway for our God."

All: 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.

(The first and second candles are lit)

All: Holy God, let all the earth be exalted, because you are Creator. Lift up your people who labor under oppression and injustice, and lift our own voices to speak for those who cannot speak for themselves. As we move along this advent journey, help us to understand the things that make for peace and righteousness in your world. Amen.

(Sing together: "One Candle is Lit" v. 2)

Come quickly, Shalom, teach us how to prepare for a gift that compels us with justice to care.

Our spirits are restless 'til sin and war cease. One candle is lit for the reign of God's peace.

*HYMN *Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates* 127

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Refiner of finest intentions, purifier of the human heart, in Advent, we wait for you. More than this, we are impatient with you. Insecure with the world and anxious for ourselves, we often wonder when you are going to act according to our plans. We have yet to consider that, come Advent, it is You who are waiting for us: waiting for some act of genuine contrition; waiting for us to quiet down and listen; waiting for us to respond with a burning passion for your truth, your justice, your mercy. Equip us with humble hearts and willing spirits to receive you as you come to us through all the experiences of human life. Amen.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSON Isaiah 40.7-9; Isaiah 60.1-3

The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, 'Here is your God!'

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

ANTHEM *Advent Processional* D. Greig

CAROL SING Karli Gilbertson

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

ANTHEM *In Hope We Wait, Emmanuel* Lee/Wagner

JOYS AND CONCERNS

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

Advent God, hear us as we pray for ourselves...

Advent God, hear us as we pray for our church...

Advent God, hear us as we pray for our community...

Advent God, hear us as we prayer for our neighbors and friends..,

Advent God, hear us as we pray for our nation...

Advent God, hear us as we pray for creation...

Advent God, hear us as we pray the words of our Lord Jesus, Our Father, who art in heaven...

POEM *December* (anonymous)

*HYMN *Oh Christ, How Shall I Meet You* 130

*BLESSING & BENEDICTION

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

Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates

Lift up your heads, O mighty gates; behold the King of Glory waits! The Prince of Peace is drawing near; the Savior of the world is here.

Fling wide the portals of your heart; make it a temple, set apart from earthly use for heaven's employ, adorned with prayer and love and joy.

Redeemer, come! I open wide my heart to you; here, Lord, abide! Let me your inner presence feel; your grace and love in me reveal.

So come, my Sovereign; enter in! Let new and nobler life begin; your Holy Spirit guide us on, until the glorious crown be won.

Oh Christ, How Shall I Meet You

O Christ, how shall I meet you, how welcome you aright?
Your people long to greet you, my hope, my heart's delight!
O kindle, Lord most holy, a lamp within my breast, to do
in spirit lowly all that may please you best.

Love caused your incarnation; love brought you down to me;
your thirst for my salvation procured my liberty: O
love beyond all telling, that led you to embrace in love all
love excelling our lost and fallen race.

A heav'nly hope you give me, a treasure safe on high, that
will not fail nor leave me as earthly riches fly. My heart
shall bloom forever with joyful praises new, and from your
name shall never withhold the honor due.