THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHESTER

An Open & Affirming Congregation of
The United Church of Christ
January 1, 10:00 a.m.
Second Sunday of Christmastide

PREPARATION FOR THE WORD

WELCOME — Deb Calamari, Deacon

PRELUDE — *He Is Born/Bring A Torch Jeannette Isabella* — (trad. French Carol)

INTROIT — *Sing We Noel* — (French Carol)
Sung by Jen Gill, Pat Holloway, Karli Gilbertson

CALL TO WORSHIP
Jesus said, "Behold, I am the beginning and the end."
At the end of the old year and at this beginning of the new, we look to Jesus.
Jesus said, "I am the Alpha and the Omega'"
Jesus, be at all our beginnings and our endings, that when old things die, new things may be born.
John wrote, "I saw a new heaven and a new earth."
We long for the day when heaven and earth will be one; in the meanwhile, make your church and your people new every morning. Amen.

*HYMN — *Angels From the Realms of Glory* — 136

INVOCATION
Creative God, you make all things new in heaven and on earth. We come to you in a new year with new desires and old fears, new decisions and old worries, new dreams and old weaknesses.

Because you are a God of hope, we know that you create all the possibilities of the future; because you are a God of love, we know that you accept all the mistakes of our past; because you are the God of our faith, we enter your sanctuary with thanksgiving and praise, with gladness and a joyful noise. And because you are our God we serve and bless you by serving and blessing one another, from the greatest to the least of all our brothers and sisters; in Jesus' name, Amen.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Isaiah 25.6-10a
On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-matured wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-matured wines strained clear. And on this mountain God will destroy the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; and will swallow up death for ever. Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken. It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God, for whom we have waited, so that we might be saved. This is the Lord for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in God's salvation.

ANTHEM — *Touro- louro- luoro* (French Carol)

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON Revelation 21.1-7

SERMON — *"New Year, New Church"* — Rev. W. Alan Froggatt
"And the One seated on the throne said, 'Look! I am making all things new!' I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life."
(Revelation 21.5, 6)

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

ANTHEM — *The Slumber of the Infant Jesus* — Gevaert

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 — *To the New Year* — W. S. Merwin

*HYMN — *In the Bleak Midwinter* — 154

*BLESSING & BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE — *Sing We Noel*

LOOKING AHEAD

January 2	5:15 pm	Scouts – Lions & Tigers
January 3	6:30 pm	Scouts – Arrows of Light
January 4	10:00 am	Backpack Program
	6:00 pm	Scouts – Bear Den
January 5	6:30 pm	Scouts – Wolf Den
January 6	**8:15 am**	**Coffice Hours at Simon's Marketplace**
January 8	**10:00 am**	**Worship**
	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 Remembrance Tree is in the narthex. Feel free to add a heart to the tree to remember a loved one.

Offering envelopes have been ordered but have not yet arrived.

This deacon for the month of January is **Debra Calamari.** The greeter this morning is **Daphne Stitt.**

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

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

The United Church of Chester

United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Church

January 1, 2023

Reverend W. Alan Froggatt, Minister
Karli Gilbertson, Music Director and Organist
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Angels from the Realms of Glory

Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth; as you sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Refrain: Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.

Shepherds, in the fields abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night, God with us is now residing; yonder shines the infant light:
Refrain

Sages, leave your contemplations, brighter visions beam afar; seek the great desire of nations; you have seen Christ's natal star:
Refrain

Saints before the altar bending, watching long in hope and fear, suddenly the Lord, descending, here among us shall appear:
Refrain

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.

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

Angels and archangels may have gathered there, cherubim and seraphim thronged the midnight air; but his mother only, 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 give him; give my heart.