LOOKING AHEAD

Dec 17	10:00 am	**Cantata**	Dec 21	10:00 am	Backpack
	5:00 pm	Soup Kitchen		4:00 pm	Montessori
				6:30 pm	Scouts – Pack Mtg
			Dec 22	8:15 am	**No Coffice Hours**
Dec 19	6:00 pm	Scouts – Arrows of Light	Dec 24	10:00 am	**Worship**
				5:00 pm	**Christmas Eve Service**

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 December is **Jennifer Gill.** Our Greeter for today is **Sue Germini-Humble.** Poinsettias on the altar for **those we remember, things we celebrate, and of prayers for peace & world health.** Coffee Hour is being hosted by **Karla Tessitore**.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE: Please join us for A Festival of Lessons and Carols this Sunday December 24 at 5:00 pm for our traditional candlelight service. If anyone would like to participate in a reading during this service please contact Alan.

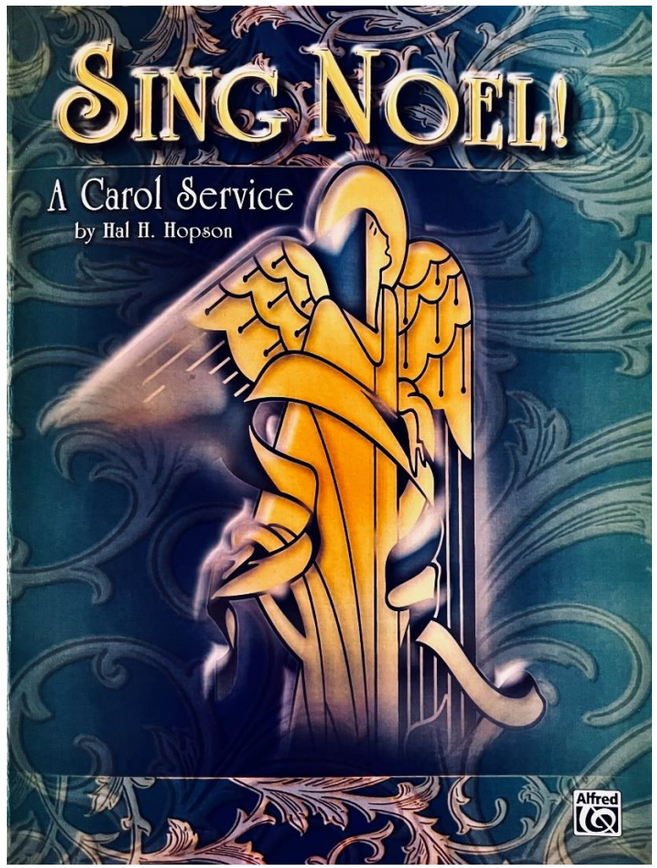
ALAN'S OFFICE HOURS: Wednesday – Friday 8:30 am – 12:30 pm

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

UNITED CHURCH OF CHESTER

An Open and Affirming Church

December 17, 2023 Third Sunday of Advent



The Reverend W. Alan Froggatt Minister
Karli Gilbertson, Music Director and Organist
Post Office Box 383, 29 W. Main St., Chester, Connecticut 06412
860-526-2697 E-mail: unitedchester@uccchester.org

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHESTER, U.C.C.

An Open & Affirming Congregation of
The United Church of Christ
December 17, 2023, 10:00 a.m.
Third Sunday of Advent

WELCOME

PRELUDE

ADVENT WREATH CEREMONY Claudia and Ed Epright

Leader: Today is the third Sunday of Advent - the Sunday of Joy.
People: Our joy is in God and in the son Jesus Christ. Like peace, joy is a gift from God. It overtakes us and fills us when we remember what God has done, and what God still promises to do.

Leader: We light this candle today to remind us that Christ came, and is coming, so that all people might have a rich and abundant life. We thank God for the hope given us, for the peace Christ bestows, and for the joy that pours into our hearts.

(Light the First, Second, and Third Candle)

All: O God of Joy, Emmanuel, send your light into our hearts at this time. Help us to be ready for the time of Christ's appearing. Fix our hearts and our minds upon those things you have done and those you have promised to do that we may have the joy you have promised. As we worship you, strengthen us so that we may always do your will and so bless you and the world you have made. Amen.

(Sing verse 3, *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence,* # 119)

OFFERTORY *(during hymn introduction)*

*HYMN *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

CANTATA (insert)

Sing Noel!
A Carol Service By Hal Hopson
Presented by the United Church of Chester Choir

Carol Prelude
Sing Noel a traditional African carol
Prepare the Way, O Zion from the Swenska Psalmboken (1697)
The Angel Gabriel From Heaven Came, a Basque carol
The First Noel a traditional English carol
Ding! Dong! Merrily on High a 16th century French carol
O Little Town of Bethlehem by L. H. Redner (1868)
The Christ-Child's Lullaby a traditional Scottish carol
March of the Kings a 13th century French carol
O Come, Joyfully (O Come All Ye Faithful, Joy To The World)
Silent Night, Holy Night
by Franz Gruber and text by Joseph Mohr

*BENEDICTION

The UCC Choir would like to acknowledge the generous donation made in longtime chorister Steve Williams' memory which made the purchase of our cantata scores possible.