LOOKING AHEAD

Dec 18	10:00 am	**Cantata**	Dec 23	8:15 am	**No Coffice Hours**
	5:00 pm	Soup Kitchen			
Dec 20	6:30 pm	Scouts – Webelos	Dec 24	5:00 pm	**Christmas Eve Service**
Dec 21	6:00 pm	Scouts – Bear Den			
Dec 22	10:00 am	Backpack	Dec 25	10:00 am	**Worship**
	5:00 pm	Montessori (FH)			

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 **Cheryl Archer.** Our Greeter for today is **Judy Stephenson.** Poinsettias on the altar for **those we remember, things we celebrate, and of prayers for peace & world health.**

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE: Please join us for A Festival of Lessons and Carols this Saturday December 24 at 5:00 pm for our traditional candlelight service.

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE: Please join us for an informal worship service on Sunday, December 25th at 10:00 am. Please bring a Christmas Memory to share.

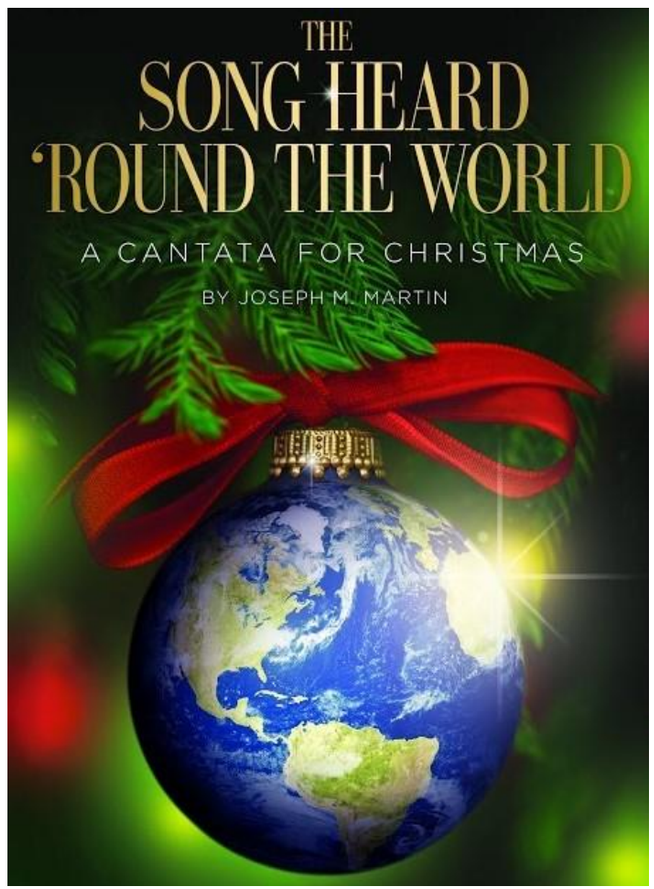
ALAN'S OFFICE HOURS: By appointment

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

UNITED CHURCH OF CHESTER

An Open and Affirming Church

December 18, 2022 Fourth 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 18, 2022, 10:00 a.m.
Fourth Sunday of Advent

WELCOME — Cheryl Archer, Deacon

PRELUDE — *Bred dina vida vingar/ O Come O Come Emanuel*
(Swedish folk song, 9th century Latin tune)

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

ADVENT WREATH CEREMONY — Claudia & Ed Epright

Reader: Then the angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and the angel spoke, and said to them:

All: "Do not be afraid, for behold: I bring you good news of a great joy for all the people; to you is born, in the city of David, a savior, who is Christ the Lord."

(All four advent candles are lit)

All: Holy God, we behold you with wonder and gratitude: wonder that you would bless all creation with your presence, and gratitude that you would come to us. Help us to see the wonder in every corner of your world, in the love of a friend and the heart of a stranger. And as you have come to bless us, may we too be a blessing in the lives of all your children. Amen.

(Sing together: *"One Candle is Lit" v. 4:*)

Come, wander where lion and lamb gently play, where evil is banished and faith takes the day,
A babe in a manger to fool the world's eyes. One candle is lit for God's loving surprise.

*HYMN — *Angels We Have Heard on High* — 135

INVOCATION AND BLESSING

"THE SONG HEARD 'ROUND THE WORLD"

A Cantata for Christmas by Joseph Martin
Directed by Karli Gilbertson and Narrated by Deb Calamari

- **A Joyful Journey of Carols** Including carols or melodies from Catalan, England, Czechoslovakia, Bohemia, Israel, France, West Indies and East Africa.
- **Hear the Song Heard 'Round the World** Traditional Catalonian melody
- **An Advent Prayer** Traditional Russian melody from 16th c.
- **Prepare the Way of the King** Traditional English melody
- **Gesu Bambino** By Pietro Yon and F. Martins
- **Rejoice! Christ is Born!** Traditional Finnish melody
- **A Unity Carol** Traditional Brazilian carol
- **Music of the Morning Star** Siyahamba/African Noel/KumBaYah
- **Prayer for Peace** Whole World/Dona Nobis Pacem/Stille Nacht

Choir: Claudia Epright, Bridget Forant, Abbey Weiss, Ruth Mowrey, Jennifer Gill, Susan Bird, Cheryl Archer, Pat Holloway, Paulina Hyla, Diane Adams, Margie Warner, Paul Indorf, Ed Epright, Richard Holloway, Jeff Lawrie, Joe Forst.

Instrumentalists: Patricia Hurley: trumpet; Leah Kisselbrack: flute; Adam Myers: trombone; Thomas Briggs: percussion; Christopher Howard: clarinet; Karli Gilbertson: piano.

*BENEDICTION