THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHESTER

An Open & Affirming Congregation of
The United Church of Christ
December 24, 2022, 5:00 p.m.
Christmas Eve

A Festival of Lessons and Carols

Welcome		Deb Calamari, Deacon
Prelude	*Christmas Eve: Rocking* (trad. Czech carol)	arr. H. Leonard
Introit	*Nativity Carol*	J. Rutter

Lighting the Christ Candle — Diane Adams & Jordan Adams Sack

Reader: "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: And suddenly there was with the angel, a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will among God's children."

(All five candles are lit)

All: Holy God, on this night of nights, let our voices join the heavenly choir, shouting our Hallelujahs and praising your name, because the glory given to you reflects on the mighty and the lowly alike. Peace on earth, good will to all. Amen.

(Sing together: *"One Candle is Lit" v. 5:*)
Come, listen, the sounds of God-with-us ring clear, and signs of a cross in the distance appear. The Word once made flesh, yet the Word ever near. One candle is lit for the Christ-birthday here.

*Carol	*O Come, All Ye Faithful*	132
Lesson	Isaiah 7.10-14	Daphne Stitt
	Isaiah 9.2-7	Diane Lindsay
Carols	*Angels We Have Heard on High*	135
	O Little Town of Bethlehem	151
Anthem	*African Christmas Spiritual*	Fromback/Lantz III
Lesson	Isaiah 11.1-6	Rick Holloway
Carols	*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*	137
	What Child is This?	153
Lesson	Matthew 1.18-25	Michele Procko
Poem	*The Work of Christmas*	Howard Thurman
Lesson	Luke 1.39-51	Deb Calamari
Carol	*It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*	149
Anthem	*Sleep Little Baby*	J.Martin
Lesson	Luke 2.1-20	Ed Sypher

Christmas Prayer

Increase of Light

*Hymn	*Silent Night, Holy Night*	(on reverse)

Peal of the Christmas Bell

Silent Night, Holy Night

Silent night, holy night
All is calm, all is bright
'Round yon virgin Mother and Child
Holy infant so tender and mild
Sleep in heavenly peace
Sleep in heavenly peace

Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight!
Glories stream from heaven afar;
Heavenly hosts sing Al-le-lu-ia!
Christ the Savior is born!
Christ the Savior is born!

Silent night, holy night
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace
Jesus, Lord at Thy birth
Jesus, Lord at Thy birth

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5 pm

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