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THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHESTER

An Open & Affirming Congregation of
The United Church of Christ
December 24, 2024, 5:00 p.m.
Christmas Eve

A FESTIVAL OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

WELCOME		Rev. W. Alan Froggatt
PRELUDE	*Wexford Carol*	(arr) H. Hopson
INTROIT	*Hark in the Darkness*	

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE Diane Adams & Jordan Adams Sack
Luke 2.1-7

Reader: Tonight is Christmas Eve, when we light the Christ Candle. May the light from this candle be the light that illumines the world. May it peer into every dark corner and bring the light of life and love into those places that beg for radiance and clarity, that every eye may see and every heart embrace the reality of God in Jesus Christ.

Lighting the Candle of Christ - *(Light all the candles: purple, purple, pink, purple and white.)*

Let us pray together:
Tonight we give you thanks for the gift of the Christ child, Jesus your son. May the joy and gladness which suffuses our Christmas celebrations last long beyond the season into the weeks and months to come. We ask your blessing on us tonight, Holy God, that we may be a blessing to all the world. Amen.

*CAROL	*O Come, All Ye Faithful*	132
LESSON	Isaiah 9.2-7	Claudia Epright
CAROL	*O Little Town of Bethlehem*	151
ANTHEM	*Angel Band*	P. Choplin
POEM	*A Christmas Carol*	Christina Rossetti (1830 – 1894)
LESSON	Isaiah 11.1-6	Bill Lostocco
CHRISTMAS MEDITATION	*Pifa (Pastoral Symphony)*	George Frederic Handel
LESSON	Matthew 1.18-25	Diane Lindsay
OFFERTORY	*Stars of Glory*	J. Rouse
CAROL	*It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*	149
POEM	*Christmas Trees (A Christmas Circular Letter)*	Robert Frost (1874-1963)
CHRISTMAS PRAYER		
LESSON	Luke 2.1-20	Ed Sypher
*CAROL	*Silent Night, Holy Night*	below

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