Reverend W. Alan Froggatt, Minister
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THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHESTER

An Open & Affirming Congregation of
The United Church of Christ
January 12, 2025 10:00 a.m.
First Sunday after Epiphany

PREPARATION FOR THE WORD

WELCOME — Jennifer Gill, Deacon

PRELUDE

INTROIT — *Spirit of the Living God* — D. Iverson

CALL TO WORSHIP — (Brian Wren)

We meet to worship God, and to remember, tell and show God's love.
Like a bright star in the night sky, the life of Christ lights up the whole world.
The star of hope shines on, and no darkness will overcome it.
The Light of Christ shows us who we are and what we can be; where we have been and where we should go.
MAY WE WALK TOGETHER IN THE LIGHT OF CHRIST, AND GIVE THANKS TO GOD. AMEN.

*HYMN — *We Three Kings of Orient Are* — 162

We three kings of Orient are, bearing gifts we traverse afar, field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.

Refrain: O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright, westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.

Born a king on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown him again, King forever, ceasing never over us all to reign.

Refrain

Frankincense to offer have I, incense owns a deity nigh; prayer and praising, voices raising, worshiping God on high.
Refrain

Myrhh is mine; its bitter perfume breaths a life of gathering gloom; sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone cold tomb.
Refrain

Glorious now behold him arise, King and God and Sacrifice; Alleluia! Alleluia! Sounds through the earth and skies
Refrain

INVOCATION (Brian Wren)

Holy and loving God, when your light shines, nothing is hidden; and when your light shines on us, there is joy in seeing and discomfort in being seen. Help us, by your love, to bear the light of your truth and your integrity, your forgiveness and your faithfulness. Bring us out of hiding, that we may become children of light, through Jesus Christ, the Light of the World. Amen.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Micah 5.2-5a

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labour has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace.

ANTHEM *Be Thou My Vision* (arr) The Martins

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON Matthew 2.1-12

SERMON *"The Magus of the Plains"* Rev. W. Alan Froggatt

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

OFFERTORY *In The Bleak Midwinter* H. Darke

*DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow / Praise God all creatures here below
Praise God for all that love has done / Creator, Christ and Spirit, One. Amen

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER *("trespasses")*

POEM *When Herod Is on the Throne* Diane Butler Bass (1959 -)

*HYMN *As With Gladness* 168

As with gladness men of old did the guiding star behold; as with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright; so, most gracious Lord, may we evermore be led to thee.

As with joyful steps they sped to that lowly manger bed, there to bend the knee before him whom heaven and earth adore; so may we with willing feet ever seek thy mercy seat.

As they offered gifts most rare, at the manger rude and bare, so may we with holy joy, pure and free from sin's alloy, all our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to thee, our heavenly King.

Holy Jesus, every day keep us in the narrow way; And, when earthly things are past, bring our ransomed souls at last where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glory hide.

*BLESSING & BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE *May the Road Rise to Meet You* A. Lovelace

(* all who are able may stand)

LOOKING AHEAD

January 12	**10:00 am** **11:00 am** **11:00 am** 5:00 pm	**Worship** **Deacons' Mtg** **Trustees' Mtg** Soup Kitchen	January 16	8:30 am 5:30 pm 6:30 pm **7:00 pm**	Yoga Scouts Scouts **Choir Rehearsal**
January 13	5:30 pm	Irish Dance	January 17	**8:15 am**	**Coffice Hours – Simon's Marketplace**
January 14	8:30 am 6:30 pm	Yoga Scouts	January 19	**10:00 am** **11:00 am** 5:00 pm	**Worship** **Council Mtg** Soup Kitchen
January 15	6:00 pm 6:30 pm	Outreach Scouts			

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**.

This deacon for the month of January is **Jennifer Gill.** Chancel Flowers were provided by **Deb Calamari** in celebration of a New Year with new hopes, new dreams and peace and health throughout the year. The greeter this morning is **Deb Calamari**. Coffee Hour is being hosted by **Elaine Gaudette** and **Bill Lostocco**.

Council Meeting – January 19th
There will be a Council Meeting, Sunday, January 19th following the worship service.

2025 Offering Envelopes are available in the narthex. Please see **Diane Lindsay** if you need a supply of envelopes.

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

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