Reverend W. Alan Froggatt, Minister
Karli Gilbertson, Music Director and Organist
Post Office Box 383, Chester, Connecticut 06412 860-526-2697
E-mail: unitedchester@sbcglobal.net web site: www.uccchester.org

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHESTER

An Open & Affirming Congregation of
The United Church of Christ
December 7, 2025 10:00 a.m.
Second Sunday of Advent

PREPARATION FOR THE WORD

WELCOME — Cheryl Archer, Deacon

PRELUDE

INTROIT — *In the Lord I'll be Ever Thankful* (Taize chant)

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH — Deb Calamari and Sue Germini Humble

Zechariah 9.10: God will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the war horse from Jerusalem; the battle bow shall be cut off, and God shall command peace to the nations. God's dominion shall be from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth.

Peace / is the absence of conflict / or / peace / is a spiritual connection / or better still / peace / is a way of living / a commitment to something important / but / peace / as a wild eyed radical / screaming its way / to revolution / isn't quite the peace / we had in mind..../ is it? / we light a candle for peace.

[The candles are lit. (2 Purple)]

Let us pray: Dear God, As we journey down this Advent road, grant us the courage to make peace. Peace in our hearts, peace in our homes, peace in our communities. Amen.

*HYMN *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* 121

Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free; from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.

Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art; dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver, born a child, and yet a king, born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.

By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone; by thine all sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, take all our sorrows and use them to show us the nature of your joy. Take all our sins and, forgiving them, use them to show us the ways of true pleasantness and the path of true peace. Take all our clouds of sadness and calamity and make from them your sunset glories. Take our night and make it bright with stars. Take our illness and pain until they accomplish your purpose as much as health could achieve. Take us as we are with impulses, strivings, longings so often frustrated and thwarted, and even with what is broken and imperfect, make your dreams come true, through him who made of human life a sacrament, of thorns a crown, of a cross a throne, even through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Isaiah 40.1-8

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken." A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever.

ANTHEM *In Hope We Wait, Emmanuel* D. Wagner

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON John 1.1-5, 10-14 (p. 968)

SERMON *"Jesus, God ncarnate"* Rev. W. Alan Froggatt
(The Missing i)

"And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory,
the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth."
(John 1.14)

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

OFFERTORY *Carol of the Birds* (Bas-Quercy)

*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")*

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

POEM *First Coming* Madeleine L'Engle (1918-2007)

*HYMN *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence* 119

Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand; ponder nothing early minded, for with blessing in his hand, Christ our God to earth descendeth, our full homage to demand.

King of kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth he stood, Lord of lords, in human vesture, in the body and the blood, he will give to all the faithful his own self for heavenly food.

Rank on rank the host of heaven spreads its vanguard on the way, as the Light of light descendeth from the realms of endless day, that the powers of hell may vanish as the darkness clears away.

At his feet the six-winged seraph; cherubim, with sleepless eye, veil their faces to the presence, as with ceaseless voice they cry, "Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Lord most high!"

*BLESSING & BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE *God Be With You Till We Meet Again* Rankin

(*all who are able may stand)

LOOKING AHEAD

December 7	**10:00 am** 5:00 pm	**Worship** Soup Kitchen	December 12	**8:15 am**	**Coffice Hours at The Villager**
December 8	4:30 pm	Irish Dance Group	December 13	**10:00 am**	**Stuff-A-Cruiser Toy Drive**
December 9	8:30 am	Yoga	December 14	**10:00 am** 5:00 pm	**Worship** Soup Kitchen
December 11	8:30 am	Yoga			

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 the month of December is **Cheryl Archer**. The flowers in the chancel were provided by **Peggy Phillips**. The greeter this morning is **Peggy Phillips**. Thank you all!

Christmas Fair – Thank you
Many thanks to all who helped with the set-up, making, baking, sorting, pricing and clean-up, etc. for this year's Christmas Fair. Special thanks to our co-chairs Judy Schondorf and Brenda Johnson!

Stuff-A-Cruiser – Saturday, December 13th
The Outreach Committee will be accepting toys and gift cards this Saturday from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm to benefit local Chester families. There are also tags for specific gift requests in Fellowship Hall. Please consider picking up a tag or two.

Holiday Sunday School – December 14th
Families with young children (ages 2-5) are invited to a Sunday school holiday kickoff on Dec 14 (10-11 am). After a welcome from Pastor Alan and a festive song with Karli and the choir, we will go to fellowship hall for yoga with Megan, music with Margie and Christmas crafts. Join us! Bring friends!

Christmas Cantata – December 21
This year's cantata is *"The Voices of Christmas"* by Joseph Martin. Please join us at 10:00 am on the 21st for this wonderful gift of music from our choir!

ALAN'S OFFICE HOURS:. Wednesday – Friday 8:30 am – 12:30 pm, or by appointment.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday – Friday 9:00 am – 1:00 pm