



Chester Bethel UMC

December 15, 2024; 9:30 AM



Sharing in Worship Leadership this morning:

Preacher: Rev Kelly Conner
Organist: Carmella Lynch
Bell choir Director: Pam Manochio
Special Music: Bell Choir
Greeter: Nancy Storer
Usher: Dora Greer
Worship Leader: Yvonne Kaciuban

*Altar flowers are given
to the glory of God
by the Greer Family*

Prayer Joys and Concerns:

H=Health; L=Loss; LT=Long Term; O=Other

Linda Lyons (H); Nancy Storer (H); the family of Lillian Williams (L); Jean Andrews (H); Andrew R.(O); Bill and Doreen Jones (H); Mary Ann Box (H); Darene Hazel (H); Ramona Harlow (LT); Jane Dean (H); Holly Dorner (H); Donna McCormick (H); DeBrock Family (O); Laura White (H); Allison (H); Kim Nally; Amy (H); Gail Kracyla (H); Dominic King (LT); Jill Brownback (LT); Nancy Walker (H); Mabel & Alan Ladd (H); MaryAnn Rumford (LT); Rick Browne (LT); all peoples impacted by war.

Please add prayer requests and updates to the list in the Narthex

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www.chesterbethel.org
Follow us on Facebook!

December 15, 2024
3rd Sunday of Advent

Announcements

- Please join us for a Christmas Dessert party, today, December 15th. Help celebrate the season! Laura White is coordinating.
- If you would like to order a poinsettia for decorating the church for the season, order forms are available this Sunday; they are \$15 each. Place them in the marked jar outside the sanctuary door; thank you.
- We are collecting warm ‘Socks for Seamen’ to be taken to the Wilmington Seamen’s Center for crews on ships from around the world. Please help!
- Would you be a reader for Christmas Eve? If so, please speak to Pastor Kelly—thank you!

Dates to remember:

- Dec 15, 11 am –Missions Meeting
- Dec 15 following church – Christmas dessert potluck
- Dec. 17, 2:30 pm – Trustees mtg.
- Dec. 24, 7 pm – Christmas Eve service at Chester Bethel

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP¹ (based on Isaiah 12:2-6)

Leader: Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and will not be afraid;

People: **for the LORD is my strength and my might; He has become my salvation!**

Leader: Give thanks to the LORD; call on His name;

People: **make known his deeds among the nations; proclaim that His name is exalted.**

Leader: Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth!

All: **Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.**

*OPENING HYMN – “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” UMH #211

OPENING PRAYER

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.²

THE APOSTLES’ CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he arose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy

¹ Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, *Discipleship Ministries*, June 2024.

² The Episcopalian *Book of Common Prayer*.

catholic Church,³ the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

MUSICAL RESPONSE *(see bulletin insert)*

SPECIAL MUSIC

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Speak to us, Lord. Speak to us in the waiting, the watching, the hoping, the longing, the sorrow, the sighing, and the rejoicing. Speak to us by your Word in these Advent days, and walk with us until the day of your coming. Amen.⁴

OLD TESTAMENT READING Zephaniah 3:14-20

NEW TESTAMENT READING Luke 3:7-18

SERMON – Power and Promise: Ethics

SPECIAL MUSIC

*HYMN OF RESPONSE – “There’s Something About That Name”
UMH #171

THANKSGIVINGS AND INTERCESSIONS

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD’S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

You are invited to give in one of the following ways:

- 1. You may place your cash or check offering into the plates we pass around at this time*

- 2. You may mail your tithes and offerings to the church office
Thank you for your donations and the ways in which you all use your gifts to work as Christ’s hands and feet in the world!*

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY

UMH #94

Praise God from whom all blessings flow! Praise Him all creatures here below! Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise Him, the source of all our gifts; praise Jesus Christ whose power uplifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

*CLOSING HYMN – “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

UMH #224

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*Standing, in body or spirit

Music licensing CCLI #1642131, Streaming license CCLI #20705544

³ “Catholic” in this instance means “universal.”

⁴ <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2011/11/advent-prayer-of-illumination.html>.