



# Chester Bethel UMC

January 19, 2025

9:30 AM

## **Sharing in Worship Leadership this morning:**

Guest Preacher: Rev. Chelsea Spyles  
Organist: Carmella Lynch  
Bell choir Director: Pam Manochio  
Special Music: Pam and Carmella  
Greeter: Nancy Storer  
Usher: Dora Greer  
Worship Leader: Sylvia Illuzzi

*Altar flowers are given to the  
glory of God*

## **Prayer Joys and Concerns:**

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

Victims of wildfires (and their families) in CA (L); Linda Lyons (H); KFK (O); 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 Ladd (H); MaryAnn Rumford (LT); Rick Browne (LT); all peoples impacted by war (LT)

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



*Espiritu Sancto* by Maximino Cerezo Barredo

2619 Foulk Rd., Wilmington, DE 19810

<http://www.chesterbethel.org>

Live-Streamed on Facebook

**Reverend Kelly Conner**

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\*CLOSING HYMN – “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”  
vv. 1,3,& 4      UMH #89

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

\*Standing, in body or spirit

*Music licensing CCLI #1642131, Streaming license CCLI #20705544*

### Announcements

- Today, after worship, there will be a Missions meeting in Room 1. Committee members and anyone who is interested please attend.
- There will be a CPR/AED Demonstration led by Sylvia Illuzzi on January 25, Saturday, at 10 am at the church. Save a life!
- We’re assembling a phone list for folks that prefer church communications by call. Please sign up on the list in the Narthex. We want everyone to stay in touch!

### Dates to remember:

- Jan 20 –Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Remembrance and Service
- Jan 21 –Trustees Mtg at 2:30 PM
- Feb. 9 –Souper Bowl Sunday (shelf stable food for Claymont Community Center’s food pantry)

January 19, 2025                      9:30 AM  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

\*CALL TO WORSHIP            (based on Psalm 36)

Leader: When we pass through the waters,

People: **God is there with us.**

Leader: When we are joyful and celebratory,

People: **God is there with us.**

Leader: Whether we feel triumphant or defeated,

People: **God is there with us.**

Leader: Whether we see the new thing or not,

People: **God is there with us, always.**

All: **Come, let us worship our God.**

\*OPENING HYMN – “Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”  
vv. 1-3                      UMH #103

OPENING PRAYER IN UNISON

**Creator of the universe, we stand amazed at your power and glory. We are eager to worship you and offer our praise, but we are often reluctant to answer when we hear you calling our name. We sing our songs of tribute in the sanctuary, but shy away from the river, lest we be baptized with the fire of the Holy Spirit. Forgive us when we forget your promise to be with us always, O God. Renew us with the power of your ever-present love and strengthen us to proclaim your justice throughout the world. Amen.**

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 catholic Church,<sup>1</sup> the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

SPECIAL MUSIC

GOSPEL LESSON: John 15: 1-11

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Isaiah 43:1-7, 14-19

CONTEMPORARY READING: **For a New Beginning**

by John O'Donohue

In out of the way places of the heart,  
Where your thoughts never think to wander,  
This beginning has been quietly forming,  
Waiting until you were ready to emerge.

For a long time it has watched your desire,  
Feeling the emptiness growing inside you,  
Noticing how you willed yourself on,  
Still unable to leave what you had outgrown.

It watched you play with the seduction of safety  
And the gray promises that sameness whispered,  
Heard the waves of turmoil rise and relent,  
Wondered would you always live like this.

The the delight, when your courage kindled,  
And out you stepped onto new ground,  
Your eyes young again with energy and dream,  
A path of plenitude opening before you.

Though your destination is not yet clear  
Your can trust the promise of this opening;  
Unfurl yourself into the grace of beginning  
That is at one with your life's desire.

Awaken your spirit to adventure;  
Hold nothing back, learn to find ease in risk;  
Soon you will be home in a new rhythm,  
For your soul senses the world that awaits you.

SERMON Rev. Chelsea Spyres

SPECIAL MUSIC

\*HYMN OF RESPONSE – “They’ll Know We Are Christians by Our Love”  
TFWS #2223

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!*

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<sup>1</sup>“Catholic” in this instance means “universal.”