



# Chester Bethel UMC

December 14, 2025

9:30 AM

## **Sharing in Worship Leadership:**

Preacher: Rev. Kelly Conner  
Organist: Carmella Lynch  
Bell Choir Director: Pan Manocchio  
Administrative Asst.: Beth Burnam  
Special Music: The Bell Choir  
Greeter: Lorraine MacMillan  
Usher: Bill White  
Worship Leader: Polly Brown

*Flowers are dedicated to  
the glory of God*

## **Prayer Joys and Concerns:**

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

David(H); Millie Burke(H);Enya Hoyer's Family(L); Janet & Thomas Canavan (H); Donahoe Family (L); Keith Saulsbury (H); Harry Taylor (H);The Barnhart Family (O);Steve Schellberg (H); Brione (H); Donna (H); Joseph Glasgow (H); Bill Hazel (H); KFK (O); Jean Andrews (H); Andrew R.(O); Bill and Doreen Jones (H); Mary Ann Box (H); Ramona Harlow (LT); Holly Dorner (H); Donna McCormick (H); DeBrock Family (O); Allison (H); Kim Nally; Amy (H); Gail Kracyla (H); Dominic King (LT); Jill Brownback (LT); Nancy Walker (LT); MaryAnn Rumford (LT); Rick Browne (LT); all peoples impacted by war (LT) and disasters.

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



2619 Foulk Rd., Wilmington, DE 19810  
302-475-3549 <http://www.chesterbethel.org>  
**Service Live-Streamed on Facebook**

**Office Hours:** Tues, Thurs, Fri, 9 AM – 1 PM;  
[secretarychesterbethel@gmail.com](mailto:secretarychesterbethel@gmail.com)

**Reverend Kelly Conner**  
[revkellyconner@gmail.com](mailto:revkellyconner@gmail.com) / Cell: 302-249-6157

## Announcements

- Poinsettias for the church and/or donations to a special Holiday Fund for 2025 operating costs may be dedicated to a loved one in the Christmas Eve bulletin. Forms are in the Narthex.
- The Thrift Shop will close on Dec. 21 and not re-open until January 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- There will be a Missions Meeting following the service today. The Mission Committee has designated the following charities for your financial giving through December 2025:
  - Friendship House
  - Sunday Breakfast Mission
  - Ministry of CaringPlease continue with your generous giving; we are helping people in need.

## Dates To Remember

December 16–Advent Bible Study.  
Zoom at 7pm  
18 –Advent Bible Study at 10 in Narthex  
23 & 24 – Live Nativity 5:30 – 7 pm  
24- Christmas Eve service at 7 p.m.  
28- Christmas Sweater & Shout Out Hymns  
January 4 – Wesleyan Covenant Renewal Service

December 14, 2025  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent

9:30 AM

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

\*CALL TO WORSHIP<sup>1</sup> (based on Isaiah 35)

Leader: Too long have we walked this dry desert wilderness searching for salvation.

People: **We've drunk the cup of sorrow, burned our feet upon the sands of misery, and watched as our children were devoured by jackals, lions, and beasts.**

Leader: "Be Strong! Do not fear! Here is our God! God will come and save you!" Today, we walk in the Holy Way, the highway of the wise!

People: **Where the lame leap as deer! Where grateful blind eyes see colors! And the speechless sing out to our merciful Lord!**

Leader: Blessed be the Lord our God!

All: **Praise the Lord, O Zion!**

\*OPENING HYMN – “Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus”  
UMH # 196

OPENING PRAYER

**Merciful God, who sent your messengers, the prophets, to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>1</sup> Written by the Rev. Nathan Decker, and posted on <http://www.gbod.org/lead-your-church/21st-century-liturgy/resource/call-to-worship-based-on-isaiah-351-10>.

<sup>2</sup> The *Episcopalian Book of Common Prayer*.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

MUSICAL RESPONSE – “O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

v. 3 UMH #211

SPECIAL MUSIC

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**In the hushed anticipation of your coming, O Lord, kindle in us the desire to remain awake; that we might be ready for your coming and eager to pray. Let us hear your Word and rejoice at what your Spirit reveals about the promised Messiah. Amen.<sup>3</sup>**

OLD TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 35:1-10

NEW TESTAMENT READING John 1:1-18

SERMON

SPECIAL MUSIC

\*HYMN OF RESPONSE – “It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”  
UMH #218

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 may place your cash or check offering into the plates we pass around at this time or mail your tithes and offerings to the church office. Thank you for working 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 – “O, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”  
vv. 1-4 UMH # 57

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*\*Standing in body or in spirit*

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

<sup>3</sup>Adapted from original written by Fr. Rick Morley:  
<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/worship-planning/toda-la-tierra-espera/first->

[sunday-of-advent-year-a-lectionary-planning-notes/first-sunday-of-advent-year-a-liturgical-resources.](https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/worship-planning/toda-la-tierra-espera/first-liturgical-resources)