



CHESHIRE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

205 Academy Road, Cheshire, CT 06410

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**Welcome to the Cheshire United Methodist Church.
All are welcome (all means all)!**

The Reverend Doctor Steve Y.D. Kim, *Pastor* pastor@cheshireumc.com

Mara M. Weed, *Music Director*

Mara M. Weed, *Admin. Assistant* office@cheshireumc.com

Lisa Moran, *Sexton*

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

DECEMBER 14, 2025

10:00 A. M.

PRELUDE

“Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus”
Jubilate Ringers

arr. Larry Sue

OPENING PRAYER

WORDS OF WELCOME

The Pastor

♦ CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

Leader: The desert rejoices and blossoms.

People: The dry ground comes alive with color and song.

Leader: Strengthen your hands and steady your hearts.

People: The Holy One is drawing near with healing and hope.

Leader: Where fear once lived, courage rises.

People: Where sorrow weighed us down, joy finds its voice.

Leader: A sacred road opens in the wilderness.

People: A path of mercy gathers all who seek the way home.

Leader: Gladness and gratitude lead us forward.

People: We return with singing, for God’s renewal is already at work.

All: Let us worship the One who transforms barren places into living promise.

♦ OPENING HYMN #218

“It Came upon the Midnight Clear”

LIGHTING OF THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE

♦ CHILDREN’S HYMN

“Go Tell It on the Mountain”

CONVERSATION WITH THE CHILDREN & THE LORD’S PRAYER

“Jesus Loves Me”

(ushers collect green prayer cards)

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON (p. 623 OT)

Isaiah 35:1-10

CHRISTMAS CANTATA

“Kneeling in Bethlehem”

Michael Burkhardt
poetry by Ann Weems

PASTORAL PRAYER

OFFERTORY

♦ Doxology #95, Prayer of Dedication and Altar Call

- ◆CLOSING HYMN #230
- ◆THE BENEDICTION
- ◆PASSING OF THE PEACE
- ◆Stand, if you are able

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

<i>Usher:</i> Joe Driscoll	<i>Visual Arts Creator:</i> Carl Strand
<i>Ambassador:</i> Jim Jackson	<i>Visual Arts Engineer:</i> Mark Gilleylen
<i>Fellowship:</i> The Hong Family	<i>Livestream Tech:</i> Natalie Missakian
<i>Member Outreach:</i> Marge Jordan	<i>Counters:</i> Joe Driscoll, Ruth Veleber
<i>Nursery:</i> Derek LaRusso, Barb Heafy	<i>Prayer Cards:</i> Susan King
<i>Sunday School:</i> Gerry Connelly, Jerry Howard	<i>Advent Candle:</i> The McLean Family

Announcements.

The **altar flowers** are given to the Glory of God by Jim Jackson in memory of his parents, Bud and Ellen Jackson.

Many thanks to our **Chancel Choir** members for their dedication and gift of time to enable this musical Christmas offering. Thank you, also, to **Rose Kim** for preparing our children to be a part of our presentation.

Craft, Cookies and Movie will be on December 20th from 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. All children interested in attending, please sign up this Sunday, or call Dawn Deganis at (203) 272-1072. Bring a lunch, since it will be during lunchtime.

We have a new **YouTube channel** and you are encouraged to check it out. Links will be available on our church's website to access both our worship services in real-time as well as archived services beginning this past July.

Please mark your calendars for the following dates: December 21st for our **Christmas Pageant** to be presented during worship; and, Wednesday, December 24th for our **Christmas Eve Service** to be held at 5:00 p.m.

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.

Welcome!

This is a Welcoming, Reconciling congregation. We embrace diversity and affirm the dignity and worth of every person because we are all created by a loving God. We seek to live Christ's call for compassion, justice, healing and wholeness. Therefore, we welcome into our faith community persons of every race, gender, age, sexual orientation, nationality, ethnicity, marital status, mental and physical ability, economic and social position, gender identity and expression, level of education and family structure. We believe we can all love alike, even if we don't think alike. We invite all to share in the life, leadership, lay and ordained ministry, worship and sacraments, the covenant of committed love in holy matrimony, fellowship, blessings and joys of our congregation as we seek to grow together in faith and love.

Who We Are . . .

We are a church family that welcomes everyone through our doors no matter the political affiliation, no matter which forms of Christian thought you hold, no matter what - you are welcome here because we are all members of the family of God.

Like other families, we may not always agree on everything, but we are called to love one another enough to forgive one another, respect our differences, and work and minister together as we spread and live out the Gospel message of God's love offered to this world in the form of Jesus Christ, our risen Lord and Savior.

To this end, we aspire to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God (Micah 6:8).