

Reverend W. Alan Froggatt, Pastor & Teacher
Every Member of the Congregation, Ministers
Karli Gilbertson, Music Director and Organist
Post Office Box 383, Chester, Connecticut 06412 860-526-2697
E-mail: unitedchester@uccchester.org web site: www.uccchester.org

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHESTER

An Open & Affirming Congregation of

The United Church of Christ

November 19, 2023, 10:00 a.m.

Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost

WELCOME

Diane Lindsay, Deacon

PRELUDE

INTROIT

Praise God

T. Tallis

CALL TO WORSHIP

Jesus said, "Follow me," but we don't always know what that means.

This is why faith, for us, is a journey of discovery.

We are here because we are called to be God's people;

We are here because parts of us are broken and want to be made whole again.

We are here to celebrate life, and God's presence in our lives.

So we worship God together, as one people, with thanksgiving and great joy!

Amen.

*HYMN

We Gather Together

23

We gather together to ask for your blessing, you chasten and hasten your will to make known; the wicked oppressing now cease from distressing. We praise you name, O God; forget not your own.

Beside us to guide us, O God, with us joining, ordaining, maintaining, redeeming our world; so from the beginning the fight we were winning; Lord, you were at our side; we trust in your word.

We all do extol you, our leader triumphant, and pray that you still our defender will be. Let your congregation escape tribulation. Your name be ever praised! O Lord, make us free!

INVOCATION

Mohawk prayer

Thank you, Creator of the Universe, for the people gathered around us today. We give thanks for the things of the earth that give us the means of life. Thank you for the plants, animals and birds that provide us with food and medicine. Thank you for the natural world, in which we find the means to be clothed and housed. Thank you Lord, for the ability to use these gifts of the natural world. Help us to see our place among these gifts, not to squander them or think of them as means for selfish gain. May we respect the life of all you have made. May our spirits be strengthened by using only what we need, and may we use our strength to help those who need us. Amen.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Jonah 3.1-10

ANTHEM

Praise the Lord In A Song

Mary McDonald

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Mark 1.14-20

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, ‘The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.’ As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake—for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, ‘Follow me and I will make you fish for people.’ And immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

SERMON

It's Not Pie

Rev. W. Alan Froggatt

“O Lord! This is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning, for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing.”

(Job 4.2)

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

Susanne Spellacy

OFFERTORY

Anthem of Gratitude

J. Martin

SERVICE OF DEDICATION

*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 AND LORD'S PRAYER (*"trespasses"*)

POEM

Perhaps the World Ends Here

Joy Harjo (1994)

*HYMN

Now Thank We All Our God

27

Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices, who wondrous things
hath done, in whom this world rejoices, who, from our mothers' arms, hath blessed
us on our way with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us, with ever joyful hearts and
blessed peace to cheer us, and keep us in all grace, and guide us when perplexed, and
free us from all ills in this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God almighty now be given; to God, the three-in-one, who
reigns in highest heaven, the one eternal God, whom earth and heaven adore, for
thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.

*BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Go Now in Peace

N. Sleeth

LOOKING AHEAD

November 19	11:00 am 5:00 pm	Annual Budget Meeting Soup Kitchen	November 22	10:00 am 6:30 pm	Backpack Program Scouts – Webelos No Choir Rehearsal
November 20	6:30 pm	Irish Dance	November 24	8:15 am	No Coffice Hours
November 21	8:30 am 6:30 pm	Yoga Scouts – AOL	November 26	5:00 pm	No Soup Kitchen

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 November is **Diane Lindsay**. Our Greeter for today is **Deb Calamari**. Flowers on the altar were provided by **Sue Germini-Humble** in celebration of **Peggy Phillips**. No coffee hour due to Budget Meeting.

Interfaith Service at Essex Baptist Church at 4:00 pm today. Please consider bringing cookies or sweets to the reception following the service.

Advent Wreath Lighting - Volunteers Needed

We are looking for 5 families or groups of folks to participate in the annual Advent Wreath lighting ceremony. The readings will be provided for you in advance. The dates are the 4 Sundays in Advent - December 3, 10, 17, 24 morning and Christmas Eve 5:00 pm. Please contact Alan or the church office if you are interested.

Our Christmas Fair is only a couple of weeks away. Please check out the sign-up sheets in Fellowship Hall.

The Chester Hose Company will be having their wreath sale on Saturday, December 2nd and Sunday, December 3rd from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm.

ALAN'S OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday and Wednesday 8:30 am-12:30 pm

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday - Wednesday 9am-1pm. Office is closed Thursday and Friday for the Thanksgiving holiday.