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## THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHESTER

An Open & Affirming Congregation of

The United Church of Christ

February 18, 2024 10:00 a.m.

*First Sunday in Lent*

### PREPARATION FOR THE WORD

WELCOME

Michele Procko, Deacon

PRELUDE

*Sweet Hour of Prayer*

W. Bradbury

INTROIT

*Amazing Grace*

arr K. Gilbertson

CALL TO WORSHIP

Glorious God, you spoke to Jesus at his baptism in the Jordan

**You called Him your beloved Son.**

Glorious God, you spoke to us at our baptism,

**Calling us your beloved sons and daughters.**

Glorious God, this morning we affirm our baptism.

**Teach us throughout Lent and all our days never to forget we are your beloved children.**

\*HYMN

*I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry*

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I was there to hear your borne cry, I'll be there when you are old. I rejoiced the day you were baptized, to see your life unfold.

I was there when you were but a child, with a faith to suit you well; in a blaze of light you wandered off to find where demons dwell.

When you heard the wonder of the word I was there to cheer you on; you were raised to praise the living God, to whom you now belong.

If you find someone to share your time and you join your hearts as one, I'll be there to make your verses rhyme from dusk till rising sun.

In the middle ages of your life, not too old, no longer young, I'll be there to guide you through the night, complete what I've begun.

When the evening gently closes in and you shut your weary eyes, I'll be there as I have always been with just one more surprise.

I was there to hear your borning cry, I'll be there when you are old. I rejoiced the day you were baptized, to see your life unfold.

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

#### PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

##### HEBREW BIBLE

Psalm 25 1-10

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul. O my God, in you I trust; do not let me be put to shame; do not let my enemies exult over me. Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame; let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous. Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths. Lead me in truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long. Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and of your steadfast love, for they have been from of old. Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for your goodness' sake, O Lord! Good and upright is the Lord; therefore he instructs sinners in the way. He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way. All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.

##### ANTHEM

*Poor Wayfaring Stranger* (American Folk Song)

J. Estes

##### NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Mark 1 9-15

(p. 912)

##### SERMON

Rev. Eileen Sypher

## RESPONSE TO THE WORD

OFFERTORY

*Lonesome Valley*

J. Graham and B. Nix

\*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 & LORD'S PRAYER (*"trespasses"*)

POEM

*"Ozymandias"*

Shelley

\*HYMN

*Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley*

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Jesus walked this lonesome valley, he had to walk it by himself; O, nobody else could walk it for him, he had to walk it by himself.

We must walk this lonesome valley, we have to walk it by ourselves; O, nobody else can walk it for us, we have to walk it by ourselves.

You must go and stand your trial, you have to stand it by yourself, O, nobody else can stand it for you, you have to stand it by yourself.

\*BLESSING & BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

*Go Forth in Love*

G. Young

## LOOKING AHEAD

February 18	<b>10:00 am</b> <b>11:00 am</b> 5:00 pm	<b>Worship</b> <b>Un-Birthday</b> <b>Party</b> Soup Kitchen	February 22	6:30 pm  <b>7:00 pm</b>	Scouts – Wolf Den <b>Choir Rehearsal</b>
February 20	8:30 am 6:30 pm	Yoga Scouts - AOL	February 23	<b>8:15 am</b> <b>6:00 pm</b>	<b>No Coffice</b> <b>Hours</b> <b>Scouts –</b> <b>Pinewood Derby</b> <b>Set-up</b>
			February 25	<b>10:00 am</b> 5:00 pm	<b>Worship</b> 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.**

This deacon for the month of February is **Michele Procko**. The greeter this morning is someone special. Flowers on the altar were provided by **Deron Grabel** in memory of his grandparents Frank and Thelma Zerfoss.

**ALAN'S OFFICE HOURS:** Alan is on sabbatical until March 27th. Please contact Eileen Sypher for pastoral care. Eileen can be contacted via phone 860 391-1860 (cell) or [esypher@comcast.net](mailto:esypher@comcast.net) (email).

**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:** Tuesday - Friday 9am-1pm.