

Reverend W. Alan Froggatt, Minister
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THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHESTER

An Open & Affirming Congregation of
The United Church of Christ

March 17, 2024 10:00 a.m.

Fifth Sunday in Lent

PREPARATION FOR THE WORD

WELCOME

Cheryl Archer, Deacon

PRELUDE

Danny Boy (Irish Air)

arr. R. Schram

sung by: Cheryl Archer, Pat Holloway, Diane Adams, Rick Holloway, Paul Indorf

INTROIT

When Jesus Wept

arr K. Gilbertson

CALL TO WORSHIP

Cheryl Archer

Our God is an awesome God who breathed into emptiness and created all that is.

With love and care, God shaped the world in all its diversity with mountains and valleys, rivers and deserts, and people of all colors and sizes.

And threading through it all are beautiful dreams of justice, compassion, liberation, and peace.

O God, creator of our past, our present, and our future, we thank you for the many blessings you bestow on us each moment.

Be with us now. Draw near to us as we draw near to you.

Lead us in paths of righteousness. Fill our hearts with compassion and a thirst for justice. Teach us to be co-creators, with You, of a world where all belong and share in the abundance you have given us.

Praise be to God.

Refrain: All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small, all things wise and wonderful, the Lord God made them all.

Each little flower that opens, each little bird that sings, God made their glowing colors, and made their tiny wings.

Refrain

The purple headed mountain, the river running by, the sunset, and the morning that brightens up the sky.

Refrain

The cold wind in the winter, the pleasant summer sun, the ripe fruits in the garden, God made them everyone.

Refrain

INVOCATION

Jennifer Gill

God, with great gentleness and care you call us to be your people and to do your work. We come, asking for your support in all that we do. We need your love, transforming our lives, our families, and our world in hope. Be with us now in our time of worship this day. Amen.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

OLD TESTAMENT (Unison)

Psalm 23 (KJV)

Jennifer Gill

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

ANTHEM

Behold the Lamb of God

J. Behnke

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Acts 10.9-23

Peggy Phillips (p. 1004)

SERMON

St. Patrick

Daphne Stitt

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

OFFERTORY

Gaelic Blessing

Pat Holloway
J. Rutter

*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

Diane Lindsay

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

Diane Lindsay

POEM

Deb Calamari

*HYMN

Be Thou My Vision

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Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart; nought be all else to me save that thou art.
Thou my best thought, by day or by night, waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word; I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
thou my Redeemer, my love thou hast won; thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.

Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise, thou mine inheritance, now and always; thou
and thou only, first in my heart, Ruler of heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of heaven, my victory won, may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's
Sun! Heart of my own heart, whatever befall, still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

*BLESSING & BENEDICTION

Deb Calamari

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

God be With You

R. Young

LOOKING AHEAD

March 17	10:00 am 11:30 am 5:00 pm	Worship Irish Dance Recital Soup Kitchen	March 21	6:30 pm 7:00 pm	Scouts – Pack Meeting Choir Rehearsal
March 18	6:30 pm	Irish Dance	March 22	8:15 am	No Coffice Hours
March 19	8:30 am 6:30 pm	Yoga Scouts – AOL	March 24	10:00 am 5:00 pm	Worship – Palm Sunday 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 March is **Cheryl Archer**. The greeter this morning is **Peggy Phillips**. Flowers on the altar were provided by **Anne Skagen**. Coffee Hour is being hosted by **Diane Lindsay**.

Congratulations to our yoga instructor Megan Spaulding who gave birth to a baby girl Kaya Rain on March 1st. The parents and baby are doing fine. While Megan is on leave, yoga classes will continue Tuesdays and Thursdays at 8:30 am in the Choir room using videos provided from Megan. There is no charge for the classes during this time. Contact Bob Luther at 203 640-3706 or Liz Luther at 203 640-9019 if you have any questions.

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

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