



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
March 31, 2024 10:00 a.m.
Easter Day

PREPARATION FOR THE WORD

PRELUDE *Thine is The Glory* from Judas Maccabeus G.F. Handel
(Patricia Hurley, Trumpet)

INTROIT *Alleluia* from Lilies of the Dawn Maryott

EMPTY TOMB Mark 16.1-8

*HYMN *Christ the Lord Is Risen Today* 205

Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia! Mortal tongues and angels say: Alleluia! Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia! Sing, ye heavens and earth reply: Alleluia!

Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia! Where, O death is now thy sting? Alleluia! Dying once, he all doth save, Alleluia! Where thy victory, O grave? Alleluia!

Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia! Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!
Death in vain forbids him rise, Alleluia! Christ has opened Paradise, Alleluia!

Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia! Following our exalted Head, Alleluia! Made
like him, like him we rise, Alleluia! Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!

Hail the Lord of earth and heaven! Alleluia! Praise to thee by both be given, Alleluia!
Thee we greet triumphant now, Alleluia! Hail, the Resurrection thou! Alleluia!

PRAYER OF ADORATION

Alleluia! God, may every tongue in every place praise your name, for you have brought life out of death, and hope out of despair. You have raised Jesus Christ from the dead to be the first fruit of resurrection and the pledge of your victory of love over evil. Wise God, you know our doubts, our fears, and our failures, which we bring to the tomb on Easter morning. Through your Spirit, nurture the small growth of hope, courage and faith within us, that we may forever live to praise and serve you, in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Savior; Amen.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Mark 8.22-25

They came to Bethsaida. Some people brought a blind man to Jesus and begged him to touch him. He took the blind man by the hand and led him out of the village; and when he had put saliva on his eyes and laid his hands on him, he asked him, 'Can you see anything?' And the man looked up and said, 'I can see people, but they look like trees, walking.' Then Jesus laid his hands on his eyes again; and he looked intently and his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly.

ANTHEM

Alleluia! Jesus is Risen!

M. Burkhardt

SCRIPTURE LESSON

John 5.2-9a

Now in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate there is a pool, called in Hebrew Bethsaida, which has five porticoes. In these lay many invalids—blind, lame, and paralyzed. One man was there who had been ill for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had been there a long time, he said to him, 'Do you want to be made well?' The sick man answered him, 'Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; and while I am making my way, someone else steps down ahead of me.' Jesus said to him, 'Stand up, take your mat and walk.' At once the man was made well, and he took up his mat and began to walk.

SERMON

‘It’s a Process:

Rev. W. Alan Froggatt

Two-Factor Resurrection Authentication”

“Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures,
he was buried, and was raised on the third day.”

(I Corinthians 15.3-4)

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

OFFERTORY

Shout for Joy, Loud and Long

Mowbry/Hobson

*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

Briefly It Enters, and Briefly Speaks Jane Kenyon (1947-1995)

*HYMN

The Day of Resurrection

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The day of resurrection! Earth, tell it out abroad; the Passover of gladness, the Passover of God. From death to life eternal from sin’s dominion free, our Christ has brought us over with hymns of victory.

Our hearts be pure from evil, that we may see aright our Christ in rays eternal of resurrection light; And, listening to his accents, may hear so calm and plain his own “All hail,” and, hearing, may raise the victor strain.

New let the heavens be joyful, let earth her song begin, the world resound in triumph, and all that is therein; Let all things seen and unseen their notes of gladness blend, for Christ the Lord is risen, our joy that has no end.

BLESSING & BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

The Trees of the Field

S. Dauermann

* - those who are able may stand

LOOKING AHEAD

March 31	10:00 am 5:00 pm	Worship – Easter Day Soup Kitchen	April 4	6:30 pm 7:00 pm	Scouts – Bear Den Choir Rehearsal
April 1	6:30 pm	Irish Dance	April 5	8:15 am	Coffee Hours at Simon’s Marketplace
April 2	8:30 am 6:30 pm	Yoga Scouts – AOL	April 6	9:00 am	Rummage Sale Set-up Begins
			April 7	10:00 am 5:00 pm	Worship 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 March is **Cheryl Archer**. Flowers were provided on the altar by the **Deacons** in honor of our many treasured members. The greeter this morning is **Stephen Roach**. No coffee hour today.

Rummage and Bake Sale – Saturday April 13th

Our Rummage and Bake Sale returns on Saturday, April 13th from 9 am to 1 pm. Sign-up sheets are in Fellowship Hall for helping to set-up the week prior to the Rummage Sale and for baking items for the Bake Sale. Any questions please contact Judy Schondorf at 860-399-7772.

ALAN’S OFFICE HOURS: Wednesday-Friday 8:30am-12:30pm, other times by appt.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday – Friday 9:00 am – 1:00 pm