

Reverend W. Alan Froggatt, Pastor & Teacher
Every Member of the Congregation, Ministers
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THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHESTER

An Open & Affirming Congregation of
The United Church of Christ

July 23, 2023, 9:00 a.m.
Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

WELCOME

Diane Adams, Deacon

PRELUDE

At the Water's Edge
Sue Saltus, organist

Fauré

INTROIT

Stille Nacht
Diane Adams, soloist & guitar

Franz Gruber

CALL TO WORSHIP

Come all who are weary of wealth, of poverty, of power, of struggle, of division.

Come all who are heavy-laden with too much, with too little, with anxiety, with fear, with anger.

Come all who have hope for liberation, for peace, for freedom, for the kingdom.

Hear these words "See, I am making all things new."

* HYMN

The King of Love My Shepherd Is

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The King of love my shepherd is, whose goodness faileth never; I nothing lack if I am his, and he is mine forever.

Where streams of living water flow, my ransomed soul he leadeth, and where the verdant pastures grow, with food celestial feedeth.

Perverse and foolish oft I strayed, but yet in love he sought me, and on his shoulder gently laid, and home rejoicing brought me.

In death's dark vale I fear no ill, with thee, dear Lord, beside me: thy rod and staff my comfort still, thy cross before to guide me.

Thou spread'st a table in my sight, thy blessed grace bestoweth, and O what transport of delight from thy pure chalice floweth!

And so through all the length of days thy goodness faileth never; Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise within thy house forever.

*PRAYER

Forgive us for the times when we have failed to see you in the eyes of those whom we meet. Forgive us for forgetting to see your light shining inside of us. Forgive us for not loving You with our whole heart and our whole mind. Open our eyes and our hearts. Amen.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

HEBREW BIBLE READING Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Leviticus 19:18 (p. 162 , p 106)
Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God, The Lord alone. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise. Bind them as a sign on your hand, fix them as an emblem on your forehead, and write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself; I am the Lord.

ANTHEM *We Beseech Thee* Stephen Schwartz

NEW TESTAMENT READING Matthew 22:34-40 (p. 902)

SERMON Rev. Eileen Sypher

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

OFFERTORY *O Bless The Lord, My Soul* Stephen Schwartz

*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 *"Pied Beauty"* Gerard Manly Hopkins

*HYMN *Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant* 374

Won't you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you? Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant, too.

We are pilgrims on a journey, we are trav'lers on the road; we are here to help each other go the mile and bear the load.

I will hold the Christlight for you in the shadow of your fear; I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.

I will weep when you are weeping; when you laugh, I'll laugh with you. I will share your joy and sorrow till we've seen this journey through.

When we sing to God in heaven we shall find such harmony, born of all we've known together of Christ's love and agony.

Won't you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you? Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant, too.

*BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Edelweiss

Rogers & Hammerstein

LOOKING AHEAD

July 23	5:00 pm	Soup Kitchen	July 28	8:15 am	No Coffice Hours
July 25	8:30 am	Yoga	July 30	9:00 am	Worship
	6:30 pm	Chester Garden Club		5:00 pm	Soup Kitchen
July 27	8:30 am	Yoga			

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 July is **Diane Adams**. Flowers on the altar were provided by Susanne Spellacy. Coffee hour is being hosted by .

Closer to Free Fundraiser

On September 9th our parking lot will be used as a rest stop for the Closer to Free Fundraiser bicycle ride for Smilow Cancer Center. If you are interested in volunteering please contact the church office at 860 526-2697.

ALAN'S OFFICE HOURS: Friday 8:30 am to 12:30 pm or by appointment

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