

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

July 30, 2023, 9:00 a.m.
Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

WELCOME

Diane Adams, Deacon

PRELUDE

Praeludium

Eileen Sypher, organist

INTROIT

Edelweiss

Rogers and Hammerstein

Margie Warner, guitar

CALL TO WORSHIP

We come diffidently, weighed down by the excesses and the sorrows of the past.

Grace and peace, from the God who is and who was and who is to come.

We come hopefully, knowing that the presence of God will not be limited by our human constructs.

Grace and peace, from the God who is and who was and who is to come.

We come thankfully, discovering abundance born not of possession, but of the heart.

Grace and peace, from the God who is and who was and who is to come. Amen.

* HYMN

I Greet Thee Who My Sure Redeemer Art

insert

I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art

207

*Attr. to John Calvin, 1509-1564
Tr. Elizabeth L. Smith, 1817-1898, alt.*

SONG 24 10.10.10.
Orlando Gibbons, 1583-1625

1 I greet thee, who my sure Re - deem - er art,
2 Thou art the King of mer - cy and of grace,
3 Thou art the life, by which a - lone we live,
4 Thou hast the true and per - fect gen - tle - ness,
5 Our hope is in no oth - er save in thee;

My on - ly trust and sav - ior of my heart,
Reign - ing om - ni - po - tent in ev - ery place;
And all our sub - stance and our strength re - ceive;
No harsh - ness hast thou and no bit - ter - ness;
Our faith is built up - on thy prom - ise free;

Who pain didst un - der - go for my poor sake;
So come, O King, and our whole be - ing sway;
Sus - tain us by thy faith and by thy power,
O grant to us the grace we find in thee,
Lord, give us peace, and make us calm and sure,

I pray thee from our hearts all cares to take.
Shine on us with the light of thy pure day.
And give us strength in ev - ery try - ing hour.
That we may dwell in per - fect u - ni - ty.
That in thy strength we ev - er - more en - dure. A - men.

Alternative tune, TOULON, No. 432

PRESENCE AND GUIDANCE

*INVOCATION

We praise you, our God, for your many deeds for our salvation. Your strong grace delivered your children Israel from bondage in Egypt, and in these days you come to us in your Son, Jesus of Nazareth, declaring in him a grace more than sufficient to deliver us from our own bondage to sin.

For His gift of the church to keep the story alive, and to bring us your marvelous grace, we your children are indeed thankful. We praise you for the fellowship of your church in this time and place, and for all opportunities for worship, learning and ministry that it offers.

Creator, Redeemer and Spirit, we praise you now and forever, Amen.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON
(p. 660)

Isaiah 44.21-28

ANTHEM
Dye

Wayfaring Stranger P.M.

John M.

NEW TESTAMENT LESSONS

Romans 5.18-21, 12-17

Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. For just as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous. But law came in, with the result that the trespass multiplied; but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, so that, just as sin exercised dominion in death, so grace might also exercise dominion through justification leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned— sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. Yet death exercised dominion from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who is a type of the one who was to come.

But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. And the free gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgement following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brings justification. If, because of the one man's trespass, death exercised dominion through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

SERMON

"An American in Paris"

Rev. W. Alan Froggatt

(Five to Seven for Good Behavior – III)

“Surely the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of the one man,
Jesus Christ, abound for the many.”

(Romans 5.15)

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

OFFERTORY

My Faith, It is an Oaken Staff

Thomas T. Lynch

*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

Grace

Joy Harjo (1951-)

*HYMN

God, Who Touches Earth with Beauty

398

God, who touches earth with beauty, make my heart anew. With your Spirit recreate me pure and strong and true.

Like your springs and running waters, make me crystal pure. Like your rocks of towering grandeur, make me strong and sure.

Like your dancing waves in sunlight, make me glad and free. Like the straightness of the pine trees, let me upright be.

Like the arching of the heavens, lift my thoughts above. Turn my dreams to noble action, ministries of love.

God, who touches earth with beauty, make my heart anew. Keep me ever, by your Spirit, pure and strong and true.

*BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

May The Lord, Mighty God

unknown

LOOKING AHEAD

July 30	10:00 am 5:00 pm	Trustees Mtg Soup Kitchen	August 4	8:15 am	Coffice Hours at The Villager
August 1	8:30 am	Yoga	August 6	9:00 am 5:00 pm	Worship Soup Kitchen
August 3	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**. Our Greeter for today is **Sue Germini-Humble**. Flowers on the altar were provided by **Sue Germini-Humble**. Coffee hour is being hosted by **Peggy Phillips**.

Chester Cemetery Association is hosting a Cemetery workday on August 1 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm at 28 Cedar Lake Road. Call the church office at 860 526-2697 for more information.

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: Wednesday – Friday 8:30 am – 12:30 pm, or by appointment.

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