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## THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHESTER

An Open & Affirming Congregation of  
The United Church of Christ

July 9, 2023, 9:00 a.m.  
*Sixth Sunday after Pentecost*

WELCOME

Diane Adams, Deacon

PRELUDE

INTROIT

*Holy Ground*  
Claudia Epright, soloist

arr Walt Harrah

CALL TO WORSHIP

People of God, look about and see the faces of those we know and love;

**Neighbors and friends, sisters and brothers, a community of kindred hearts.**

People of God, look about and see the faces of those we hardly know;

**Strangers, sojourners, forgotten friends, the ones who need an outstretched hand.**

People of God, look about and see all the images of God in every human face;

**In ourselves, in you, in all humanity, God's spirit shines for all to see.**

People of God, come:

**Let us worship God together! Amen.**

\* HYMN

*In the Midst of New Dimensions*

363

In the midst of new dimensions, in the face of changing ways, who will lead the pilgrim peoples wand'ring in their sep'rate ways? God of rainbow, fiery pillar, leading where the eagles soar, we your people, ours the journey now and ever, now and ever, now and evermore.

Through the flood of starving peoples, warring factions and despair, who will lift the olive branches? Who will light the flame of care? God of rainbow, fiery pillar, leading

where the eagles soar, we your people, ours the journey now and ever, now and ever, now and evermore.

Though we reach the highest heavens, holding worlds at our command, we are yet a desert people searching for the promised land. God of rainbow, fiery pillar, leading where the eagles soar, we your people, ours the journey now and ever, now and ever, now and evermore.

Should the threats of dire predictions cause us to withdraw in pain, may your blazing phoenix spirit resurrect the church again. God of rainbow, fiery pillar, leading where the eagles soar, we your people, ours the journey now and ever, now and ever, now and evermore.

**\*INVOCATION**

**God who called Abraham and Sarah, Moses and Miriam, Isaiah and Jeremiah and Esther; this morning we are grateful that you also choose to call us. You call us to places at once familiar yet strange; you call us to ministries we know by name – to teaching and healing and nurturing – as well as to missions with new names – to righteous advocacy, to restorative justice, to gender equality. Still, you continue to do what you have always done: equip each of us and all of us to hear and to follow your call wherever it leads. Thank you for making us your disciples, and thank you for calling us to practice discipleship in every corner of your creation, the ones we know well and the ones that still await us. In the strength and vigor we find in Jesus Christ we pray, Amen.**

**PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD**

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON      Isaiah 45.20-23; Zechariah 8.20-23

ANTHEM      *I Don't Know How to Love Him*      A.L. Webber

NEW TESTAMENT LESSONS      Matthew 28.16-20

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshipped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'

Luke 10.25-28

Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. ‘Teacher,’ he said, ‘what must I do to inherit eternal life?’ He said to him, ‘What is written in the law? What do you read there?’ He answered, ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.’ And he said to him, ‘You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live.’

SERMON

*“Searching for Titus Coan”*

**(Five to Seven for Good Behavior – I)**

“Thus says the LORD of hosts: Peoples shall yet come, the inhabitants of many cities; the inhabitants of one city shall go to another, saying, ‘Come, let us go to entreat the favor of the LORD, and to seek the LORD of hosts; I myself am going.’”

(Zechariah 8.20-21)

## RESPONSE TO THE WORD

OFFERTORY

*I Come to the Garden Alone*

A. Miles

\*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

*blue butterfly skies*

Bettie Page

\*HYMN

*We Are Walking in the Light of God*

366

We are walking in the light of God, we are walking in the light of God. We are walking in the light of the light of God. We are walking, walking, we are walking, we are walking in the light of God.

Si ya hamb’ e ku kha nyen’ kwen khos;, si ya hamb’ e ku kha nyen’ kwen khos. Si ya hamb’ e ku kha nyen’ kha nyen’ kwen khos. Si ya hamba, hamba, si ya hamba, hamba, si ya hamb’ e ku kha nyen’ kwen khos.

\*BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

*God Be With You*

arr Walt Harrah

## LOOKING AHEAD

July 9	5:00 pm	Soup Kitchen	July 14	8:15 am	Coffee Hours at Simon's Marketplace
July 11	8:30 am	Yoga	July 16	9:00 am 5:00 pm	Worship Soup Kitchen
July 13	8:30 am 2:30 pm	Yoga Chester Alumni Assoc.			

## 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 **Diane Lindsay**. Flowers on the altar were provided by **Diane Adams** in celebration of her mother **Rita Adam's 97<sup>th</sup> birthday**. Coffee hour is being hosted by **Ruth Mowrey** and **Claudia Epright**.

**Reminder: Lady Doak** donations will continue to be accepted until this Tuesday July 11<sup>th</sup>.

### **Closer to Free Fundraiser**

On September 9<sup>th</sup> 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, other times by appt.

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