

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](mailto:unitedchester@uccchester.org) web site: [www.uccchester.org](http://www.uccchester.org)

## THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHESTER

An Open & Affirming Congregation of

The United Church of Christ

August 20, 2023, 9:00 a.m.

*Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost*

WELCOME

Deb Calamari, Deacon

PRELUDE

*Arioso*

C. Penfield

INTROIT

*Let the Words of My Mouth*

(anon)

Rick Holloway, soloist

CALL TO WORSHIP

The apostle Paul commends to us whatever is true and honorable and just.

**May we hear these words that we may be challenged.**

Paul also offers us whatever is pure and lovely and gracious.

**May we seek these ways that we may be blessed.**

We are to set before ourselves whatever is excellent and worthy of praise.

**May we think upon these things in our time together.**

**ALL: AND THE PEACE OF GOD WHICH PASSES ALL UNDERSTANDING WILL  
KEEP OUR HEARTS AND MINDS IN CHRIST JESUS OUR LORD. AMEN.**

\*HYMN

*God Is Here!*

253

\*INVOCATION

**Holy God, blessed are all who have travelled over the tempestuous sea of this mortal life, and have made the harbor of peace and felicity. Watch over us who are still on our voyage; and remember us when we are exposed to the rough storms of trouble and temptation. Our vessel is frail, and the ocean is wide; but as in your mercy you have set our course, so steer the vessel of our lives toward the everlasting shore of peace, and bring us at length to the quiet haven of our hearts' desires,**

where you, our God, are blessed, and live and reign forever with the Spirit and the Son, in whose name we pray, Amen.

## PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

APOCRYPHA LESSON

Wisdom of Solomon 13.10-19

But miserable, with their hopes set on dead things, are those who give the name ‘gods’ to the works of human hands, gold and silver fashioned with skill, and likenesses of animals, or a useless stone, the work of an ancient hand. A skilled woodcutter may saw down a tree easy to handle and skillfully strip off all its bark, and then with pleasing workmanship make a useful vessel that serves life’s needs, and burn the cast-off pieces of his work to prepare his food, and eat his fill. But a cast-off piece from among them, useful for nothing, a stick crooked and full of knots, he takes and carves with care in his leisure, and shapes it with skill gained in idleness; he forms it in the likeness of a human being, or makes it like some worthless animal, giving it a coat of red paint and coloring its surface red and covering every blemish in it with paint; then he makes a suitable niche for it, and sets it in the wall, and fastens it there with iron. He takes thought for it, so that it may not fall, because he knows that it cannot help itself, for it is only an image and has need of help. When he prays about possessions and his marriage and children, he is not ashamed to address a lifeless thing. For health he appeals to a thing that is weak; for life he prays to a thing that is dead; for aid he entreats a thing that is utterly inexperienced; for a prosperous journey, a thing that cannot take a step; for money-making and work and success with his hands he asks strength of a thing whose hands have no strength.

ANTHEM

*Lord Listen to Your Children Praying*

K. Medema

NEW TESTAMENT LESSONS

Acts 17.22-34

SERMON

*“Greece is the Word”*

Rev. W. Alan Froggatt

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

“Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said,  
‘Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way.’”  
(Acts 17.22)

## RESPONSE TO THE WORD

OFFERTORY

*Heavenly Display*

(Shaker song, 1838)

\*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

*Greece*

Oscar Wilde (1854-1900)

\*HYMN

*Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above*

25

\*BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

*Dona Nobis Pacem*

## LOOKING AHEAD

August 20	<b>10:00 am</b>  5:00 pm	<b>Deacon's Meeting</b> Soup Kitchen	August 25	<b>8:15 am</b>	<b>Coffee Hours at The Villager</b>
August 22	8:30 am	Yoga	August 27	<b>9:00 am</b> 5:00 pm	<b>Worship</b> Soup Kitchen
August 24	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 August is **Deb Calamari**. Our Greeter for today is **Sue Germini-Humble**. Flowers on the altar were provided by **Ed and Eileen Sypher** in memory of their mother **Elsie Sypher**. Coffee hour is being hosted by **Diane Lindsay**.

### **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, or by appointment

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