

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
September 10, 2023, 10:00 a.m.
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

WELCOME

Peggy Phillips, Deacon

PRELUDE

Oliver

L. Bart

INTROIT

Surely the Presence of the Lord is in this Place

L. Wolfe

CALL TO WORSHIP

Deep inside us all, old and young alike, there is a place of faith.

A place of trust and hope and love, without which there can be no peace.

Jesus said, "Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven."

Hear us then, O God: we approach this hour as your children, with innocence of heart and unlimited hope,

With a trust which makes us vulnerable,

And with a love which is easily summoned and quickly given. Amen.

*HYMN

Gather Us In

250

Here in this place, the new light is streaming, now the dark night has vanished away. See in this space our fears and our dreamings, brought here to you in the light of this day. Gather us in, the lost and forsaken; gather us in; our spirits inflame. Call to us now, and we shall awaken; we shall arise at the sound of our name.

We are the young our lives are a mystery; we are the old, who yearn for your face. We have been sung throughout all of history, called to be light to the whole human race. Gather us in, the rich and the haughty; gather us in, the proud and the strong; give us a heart so meek and so lowly; give us the courage to enter the song.

Here we receive new life in your waters; here we receive the bread of new birth; here you shall call your sons and your daughters, call us anew to be salt for the earth. Give us to drink the wind of compassion, give us to eat the bread that is you; nourish us well, and teach us to fashion lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

Not just in buildings, small and confining, not in some heaven, light years away, here in this place the new light is shining; now is God present and now is the day. Gather us in and hold us forever; gather us in and make us your own; gather us in, all peoples together, fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

*INVOCATION

We are serene because You love us; because You love us, nothing can move us from peace; because You love us, we are those to whom all good has come. As the hand is made for holding and the eye for seeing, You have fashioned us for joy. Share now with us the vision that finds joy everywhere: in the wild violet's beauty; in the lark's melody; in the faces of faithful people; in the child's smile; in our love for each other; and in the purity of Christ; so we live and so we pray, Amen.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

GOSPEL LESSON

Mark 8.1-10

In those days when there was again a great crowd without anything to eat, he called his disciples and said to them, 'I have compassion for the crowd, because they have been with me now for three days and have nothing to eat. If I send them away hungry to their homes, they will faint on the way—and some of them have come from a great distance.' His disciples replied, 'How can one feed these people with bread here in the desert?' He asked them, 'How many loaves do you have?' They said, 'Seven.' Then he ordered the crowd to sit down on the ground; and he took the seven loaves, and after giving thanks he broke them and gave them to his disciples to distribute; and they distributed them to the crowd. They had also a few small fish; and after blessing them, he ordered that these too should be distributed. They ate and were filled; and they took up the broken pieces left over, seven baskets full. Now there were about four thousand people. And he sent them away. And immediately he got into the boat with his disciples and went to the district of Dalmanutha.

ANTHEM

Thanksgiving Song

M.C. Carpenter

EPISTLE LESSON

I Corinthians 11.17-22

(p 1047)

SERMON

“Pot Luck Theology”

Rev. W. Alan Froggatt

“They ate and were filled; and they took up the broken pieces left over, seven baskets full.

Now there were about four thousand people.”

(Mark 8.8, 9)

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

OFFERTORY

In The Highways

M. Carter

*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

Friendship IXX

Khalil Gibran (1883-1931)

*HYMN

Lord Dismiss Us With Your Blessing

333

Lord, dismiss us with your blessing; fill our hearts with joy and peace; let us each, your love possessing, triumph in redeeming grace; oh, refresh us, oh, refresh us, traveling through this wilderness.

Thanks we give and adoration for the gospel’s joyful sound; may the fruits of your salvation in our hearts and lives abound: ever faithful, ever faithful to the truth may we be found.

So that when your love shall call us, Savior, from the world away, fear of death shall not appall us, glad your summons to obey: may we ever may we ever reign with you in endless day.

*BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Go In Peace

(Waters/White)

LOOKING AHEAD

September 10	11:15 am 5:00 pm	Rally Day Soup Kitchen	September 15	8:15 am	Coffice Hours at The Villager
September 12	8:30 am 7:00 pm	Yoga Chester Garden Club	September 17	10:00 am	Worship
September 14	8:30 am 7:00 pm	Yoga Choir Rehearsal			

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 September is **Peggy Phillips**. Our Greeters for today are **Jane** and **Pete Zanardi**. Flowers on the altar were provided by **Deb Calamari** in celebration of her nephew's 36th birthday.

Remember that after today's worship service there will be a pot luck picnic. **Everyone is welcome** whether or not you brought a dish.

ALAN'S OFFICE HOURS: Wednesday – Friday 8:30 am – 12:30 pm, or by appointment

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