

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 24, 2023, 10:00 a.m.
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

WELCOME

Peggy Phillips, Deacon

PRELUDE

Blest Be the Tie That Binds

arr. R. Wilson

INTROIT

Surely the Presence of the Lord is in this Place

L. Wolfe

CALL TO WORSHIP

Your love, O God, reaches to the heavens, your faithfulness to the skies.

Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains, your justice like the great deep.
Earth's children, high and low, take refuge in the shadow of your wings.

We feast on the abundance of your house; you give us drink from your river of delights.

For with you is the fountain of life; in your light we see light.

Glory be to you, O God, our life and our light! Amen.

*HYMN

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

72

There's a wideness in God's mercy, like the wideness of the sea; there's a kindness in God's justice, which is more than liberty.

There is no place where earth's sorrows are more felt than up in heaven; there is no place where earth's failings have such kindly judgment given.

For the love of God is broader than the measure of our mind; and the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.

If our love were but more faithful, we would gladly trust God's word; and our lives would be illumined by the presence of our Lord.

***INVOCATION**

O God who makes all things new, you who are the sole constant in a world of change, we come to you today for refreshment and renewal. Let this morning be an awakening, a time for opening our eyes to the promises you have in store for each and all of us. Turn our faces to our future, and help us to see that as we become new in Jesus Christ, so too does our world become new every day, through your great faithfulness. Prepare us for the surprising, the unexpected, the transformation that can only come through faith in Christ our Savior, Amen.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

| | | |
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| OLD TESTAMENT LESSON | Deuteronomy 7.6-11 | (p. 163) |
| | Psalm 36.5-10 | (p. 499) |

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| ANTHEM | <i>Promised Land</i> | N. Sleeth |
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| NEW TESTAMENT LESSON | I Corinthians 1.3-9 |
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Grace to you and peace from God our Creator and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched, in speech and knowledge of every kind— just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you— so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. God will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of the Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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| SERMON | <i>"God Believes in You"</i> | Rev. W. Alan Froggatt |
| | "The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, God's mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness." (Lamentations 3.22-23) | |

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

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| OFFERTORY | <i>The Lord is My Shepherd</i> | J. Althouse |
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***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 *A Bird, came down the Walk* (359) Emily Dickinson

*HYMN *Great Is Your Faithfulness* insert

*BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE *Go In Peace* (Waters/White)

LOOKING AHEAD

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| September 24 | 5:00 pm | Soup Kitchen | September 28 | 8:30 am 10:00 am 7:00 pm | Yoga Backpack Program Choir Rehearsal |
| September 25 | 6:30 pm | Irish Dance | September 29 | 8:15 am | Coffee Hours at The Villager |
| September 26 | 8:30 am | Yoga | October 1 | 10:00 am | Worship |

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 Greeter for today is **Sue Germini-Humble**. Flowers on the altar were provided by **Sue Germini-Humble**. Coffee hour is being hosted by **Diane Lindsay**.

The Backpack Program started up this week. This year there are 16 children in the program. Twice the number of children in the program last year. Monetary donations are always welcome. Thank you.

We are currently out of Adams Food Cards and we have received requests for cards. Please consider donating a card in any amount. Thank you.

ALAN'S OFFICE HOURS: Wednesday and Friday 8:30 am – 12:30 pm, or by appointment. Alan will be on an all-day clergy retreat on Thursday.

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