

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  
September 3, 2023, 10:00 a.m.  
*Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

WELCOME

Peggy Phillips, Deacon

PRELUDE

INTROIT

*Lonesome Valley, Part 1*  
Diane Adams (guitar)

(American Spiritual)

CALL TO WORSHIP

On this Labor Day weekend, let our efforts be in union with God's all-inclusive love;

**Let all our works be united to God's great Work of Creation, and may our work be perfected in it.**

As a breath of fresh air fills us and then becomes part of the atmosphere,

**So may our labors become the building blocks of God's work on earth.**

And in the same way may those among whom we live and work also be drawn into God's embrace,

**That we may understand how all of us work together for good. Amen.**

\*HYMN

*Though I May Speak (The Gift of Love)*

68

Though I may speak with bravest fire, and have the gift to all inspire, and have not love,  
my words are vain, as sounding brass, and hopeless gain.

Though I may give all I possess, and striving so my love profess, but not be given by  
love within, the profit soon turns strangely thin.

Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control, our spirits long to be made whole. Let inward  
love guide every deed; by this we worship, and are freed.

**\*INVOCATION**

Dear God, our souls thirst for your living water, and our spirits yearn for you. For your sake, help us sustain loving relationships and create a just society. Come to us in Christ, and show us the way to true life. Empower us by your spirit that we may take part in your labor to bring new life of earth. Come quickly, Lord Jesus, bright Morning Star of the world, and shine on us, and in us, with your unquenchable light! Amen.

**PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD**

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Psalm 7.1-8

O LORD my God, in you I take refuge; save me from all my pursuers, and deliver me, or like a lion they will tear me apart; they will drag me away, with no one to rescue. O LORD my God, if I have done this, if there is wrong in my hands, if I have repaid my ally with harm or plundered my foe without cause, then let the enemy pursue and overtake me, trample my life to the ground, and lay my soul in the dust. Rise up, O LORD, in your anger; lift yourself up against the fury of my enemies; awake, O my God; you have appointed a judgement. Let the assembly of the peoples be gathered around you, and over it take your seat on high. The LORD judges the peoples; judge me, O LORD, according to my righteousness and according to the integrity that is in me.

ANTHEM

*Pass It On*

Kurt Kaiser

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Galatians 5.16-25

SERMON

*“Virtue Won’t Hurt You”*

Rev. W. Alan Froggatt

“The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. There is no law against such things.”

(Galatians 5.22-23)

**RESPONSE TO THE WORD**

OFFERTORY

*Take Our Bread*

Joe Wise

**\*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*”)

# THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

POEM

*On Virtue*

Phyllis Wheatley (1753-1784)

\*HYMN

*I Would Be True*

472

I would be true, for there are those who trust me; I would be pure, for there are those who care; I would be strong, for there is much to suffer; I would be brave, for there is much to dare, I would be brave, for there is much to dare.

I would be friend of all the foe, the friendless; I would be giving, and forget the gift; I would be humble, for I know my weakness; I would look up, and laugh, and love, and lift, I would look up, and laugh, and love, and lift.

\*BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

*Lonesome Valley, Part Two*

(American Spiritual)

## LOOKING AHEAD

September 3	5:00 pm	Soup Kitchen	September 8	8:15 am	Coffee Hours at The Villager
September 5	8:30 am	Yoga	September 10	10:00 am 11:15 am 5:00 pm	Worship Rally Day Soup Kitchen
September 7	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 Greeter for today is Ruth Mowrey. Flowers on the altar were provided by **Diane Lindsay**. Coffee Hour will be hosted by **Diane Lindsay**.

### **Rally Day – September 10<sup>th</sup>**

All are invited! Bring a dish to share for a church picnic following the worship service! There will be games and lots of fun!

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

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