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
October 1, 2023, 10:00 a.m.
World Communion Sunday

WELCOME — Daphne Stitt, Deacon

PRELUDE — *Reflection* — H. Kihlken

INTROIT — *Surely the Presence of the Lord is in this Place* — L. Wolfe

CALL TO WORSHIP
We come now to Christ, the living bread, who satisfies those who hunger and thirst for what is right.
We come now to Christ, who gives living water, that we may never thirst again.
We come now to Christ, that being filled ourselves, we may minister to the hunger and thirst of others.
We come now to God, in worship and praise, through Jesus Christ, who is our light and life. Amen.

*HYMN — *O Christ the Healer* — 402

O Christ, the healer, we have come to pray for health, to plead for friends. How can we fail to be restored when reached by love that never ends?

From every ailment flesh endures our bodies clamor to be freed; yet in our hearts we would confess that wholeness is our deepest need.

How strong, O Christ, are our desires, how weak our knowledge of ourselves! Release in us those healing truths unconscious pride resists or shelves.

In conflicts that destroy our health we recognize the world's disease; our common life declares our ills. Is there no cure, O Christ, for these?

Grant that we all, made one in faith, in your community may find the wholeness that, enriching us, shall reach the whole of humankind.

*INVOCATION (Madeleine L'Engle)

Whether we kneel or stand or sit in prayer, we are not caught in time nor held in space, but thrust beyond this posture we are where time and eternity come face to face; infinity and space meet in this place where crossbar and high upright hold the one in agony and in all Love's embrace. The power in helplessness that was begun when all the brilliance of the flaming sun contained itself in the small confines of a child now comes to us in this strange action done in mystery. Break us, break space, O wild and lovely power. Break us: thus are we dead, are resurrected now in wine and bread. Amen.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

GOSPEL LESSON Matthew 17.14-21

When they came to the crowd, a man came to Jesus, knelt before him, and said, 'Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is an epileptic and he suffers terribly; he often falls into the fire and often into the water. And I brought him to your disciples, but they could not cure him.' Jesus answered, 'You faithless and perverse generation, how much longer must I be with you? How much longer must I put up with you? Bring him here to me.' And Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of him, and the boy was cured instantly. Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, 'Why could we not cast it out?' He said to them, 'Because of your little faith. For truly I tell you, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, "Move from here to there", and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you.'

ANTHEM *Brother James' Air* W. Gardiner

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON Mark 10.17-31 (p. 923)

SERMON *"Plot Twists"* Rev. W. Alan Froggatt

"Nothing will be impossible for you." (Matthew 17.21)
"For God, all things are possible." (Mark 10.27)

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

OFFERTORY *Come to the Table of the Lord* J. Althouse

*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 *Holy Communion* Malcolm Guite (b. 1957)

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

*HYMN *Blest Be the Tie That Binds* 368

Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love; the fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.

Before God's gracious throne we pour our ardent prayers; our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our comforts and our cares.

We share each other's woes, each other's burdens bear, and often for each other flows the sympathizing tear.

When we are called to part it gives us inward pain, but we shall still be joined in heart, and hope to meet again.

*BENEDICTION

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

LOOKING AHEAD

October 1	5:00 pm	Soup Kitchen	October 5	8:30 am 10:00 am 6:30 pm **7:00 pm**	Yoga Backpack Program Scouts – Bear Den **Choir Rehearsal**
October 2	6:30 pm	Irish Dance	October 6	**8:15 am**	**No Coffice Hours**
October 3	8:30 am 6:30 pm 7:00 pm **7:00 pm**	Yoga Scouts –L&T Chester Garden Club Exec. Mtg **Outreach Mtg.**	October 8	**10:00 am** **11:00 am** **11:00 am**	**Worship** **Trustees Meeting** **Christmas Fair Meeting**

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 October is **Daphne Stitt.** Our Greeter for today is **Michele Procko**. Flowers on the altar were provided by **Laurel Johnson** in loving memory of **Scott Johnson.** Coffee hour is being hosted by **Judy Stevenson**.

Rev. George Easton will be celebrating his 90th birthday on October 8th. Please join us after church next week for a special celebration!

The **Outreach Committee** is designating the month of October to collect Adams foods cards in any denomination for the upcoming holiday season. Please consider picking up a food card. Any questions please contact Sue Germini-Humble at 860-395-4340 or the church office.

Chester Hose Company Craft Fair is on Saturday, October 14th at the Chester Fairgrounds.

Tellabration 2023 is returning on November 5th at 4:00 pm. There are sign-up sheets in the narthex and Fellowship Hall for this event. Any questions please contact Margie Warner at

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

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