THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHESTER

An Open & Affirming Congregation of
The United Church of Christ
February 19, 10:00 a.m.
Transfiguration

PREPARATION FOR THE WORD

WELCOME — Jennifer Gill, Deacon

PRELUDE — *Be Thou My Vision (Slane)* — Irish Folk Tune B. Culli

INTROIT — *Rejoice in the Lord Always* — E. Tarner

CALL TO WORSHIP

The glory of the Lord transfigures the everyday.
The light of God transforms old familiar faces.
At the heights of our worship, may God's presence shine through the commonplace.
At the depths of our struggles and our challenges, may God's presence give us courage and hope.
May God's light, shining through the face of Christ, illumine all our days.
And may that same light shine brightly through each of us, that we may bring Christ's light to all the world. Amen.

*HYMN — *We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding* — insert

INVOCATION

Amazing God, whose glory outshines the sun, open our lives to the inspiration of your Spirit, that we may more fully reflect the glory of your love. It is a love that is more solid than the greatest mountains, more refreshing than the spring rain, warmer than the brightest flame, and as constant as the air we breathe. While our intentions and our prayers may occasionally be cloudy and fogged, clarify our hears and minds in your tender mercy; Amen.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON — Exodus 34.29-35; I Kings 19.9-15a

ANTHEM — *If You Love Me* — J. Raney

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON — Acts 7.51-8.1

Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, 'Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah'—not knowing what he said. While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. Then from the cloud came a voice that said, 'This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!' When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen.

SERMON — *"Moses' Mulligan, and Ours"* — Rev. W. Alan Froggatt

"Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him."
(Luke 9.32)

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

OFFERTORY — *Jubilate* — J. Michel

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 & LORD'S PRAYER *("trespasses")*

POEM — *Transfiguration* — Malcome Guite (1957 -)

*HYMN — *Be Still My Soul* — 95

*BLESSING & BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE — *Farewell Dear Friends* — (Israeli folk tune)

LOOKING AHEAD

February 19	5:00 pm	Soup Kitchen	February 23	10:00 am	Back Pack Program
				5:00 pm	Irish Dance Group
				7:00 pm	**Choir Rehearsal**
February 20	5:30 pm	Irish Dance Group	February 24	**8:15 am**	**Coffice Hours at The Villager**
February 21	6:30 pm	Scouts – Webelos	February 25	1:00 pm	Scouts – Pinewood Derby at Camp Hazen
February 22	**4:00 pm**	**Ash Wednesday Service**	February 26	**10:00 am**	**Worship**
	6:00 pm	Scouts – Bear Den		5:00 pm	Soup Kitchen

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**.

Lenten Devotionals are available in the narthex.

Save the Date! Un-Birthday Party – February 26th following the worship service! Please sign up for a month. The sign-up sheet is in the narthex.

The deacon for the month of February is **Jennifer Gill.** The greeter this morning is **Peggy Phillips**. Flowers for the altar were provided by **Peggy Phillips**. Coffee Hour is being hosted by **Judy Stevenson, Jane Zanardi** and **Bridget Forant.**

ALAN'S OFFICE HOURS: Wednesday-Friday 8:30 am-12:30 pm, other times by appointment

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

The United Church of Chester

United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Church

February 19, 2023

Reverend W. Alan Froggatt, Minister
Karli Gilbertson, Music Director and Organist
Post Office Box 383, Chester, Connecticut 06412 860-526-2697
E-mail: unitedchester@sbcglobal.net web site: www.uccchester.org

We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding

We have come at Christ's own bidding to this high and holy place, where we wait with hope and longing for some token of God's grace. Here we pray for new assurance that our faith is not in vain, searching like those first disciples for a sign both clear and plain.

Light breaks through our clouds and shadows, splendor bathes the flesh-joined Word, Moses and Elijah marvel as the heavenly voice is heard. Eyes and hearts behold with wonder how the Law and Prophets meet; Christ with garments drenched in brightness, stands transfigured and complete.

Strengthened by this glimpse of glory, fearful lest our faith decline, we, like Peter, find it tempting to remain and build a shrine. But true worship gives us courage to proclaim what we profess, that our daily lives may prove us people of the God we bless.

Be Still My Soul

Be still, my soul: For God is on your side; bear patiently the cross of grief or pain. Trust in your God, your savior and your guide, who through all changes faithful will remain. Be still, my soul: your best, your heavenly friend through thorny ways leads to a peaceful end.

Be still, my soul: for God will undertake to guide the future surely as the past. Your hope, your confidence let nothing shake; all now mysterious shall be bright at last. Be still, my soul: the waves and winds still know the voice that calmed them in this world below.

Be still, my soul: the hour is hastening on when we shall dwell with God forevermore, when disappointment, grief, and fear are gone, sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored. Be still, my soul: when change and tears are past, all safe and blessed we shall meet at last.