THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHESTER

An Open & Affirming Congregation of
The United Church of Christ
February 5, 10:00 a.m.
Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

PREPARATION FOR THE WORD

WELCOME — Jennifer Gill, Deacon

PRELUDE — *Shepard Song* — L. Hodges and J. Coates

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

CALL TO WORSHIP (Bruce Prewer)

False shepherds smile their way around; wolves in sheep's clothing always abound.
Political masters steal sheep and goats, jumping the fences, buying our votes.
Stock exchange gurus backing the odds, laundering souls for speculative gods.
Experts on everything on our TV screen, smoothly dogmatic, proud to be seen.
Voices - more voices - filling the air; shepherds for hire… deal if you dare.
One lonely Shepherd out on a hill, bearing the load, footing the bill.

*HYMN — *Draw Us In the Spirit's Tether* — 318

INVOCATION

Lord, it is time to look away from our difficulties and worries, time now to lift our eyes and hearts to our wonderful God who is ceaseless in your care for us and painstaking with our salvation. It is time to put aside ego and focus on the Holy One who, in earth or heaven, is the only one worthy of our worship. Lord, make us to lie down in your green pastures, and lead us beside your still waters. Restore our souls and lead us on the right paths for your name's sake. We ask you this in the name of Jesus the Good Shepherd, Amen.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON — Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul.
He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.
Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff—they comfort me.
You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

ANTHEM — *Shine Down on Me* — Larson, Mercun, Potter

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON — Luke 15.1-7; John 10.11-18

SERMON — *"Out to Pastor"* — Rev. W. Alan Froggatt

"So there will be one flock, one shepherd."
(John 10.16c)

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

OFFERTORY — *One At the Feast* — Courtney and Martin

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")*

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

POEM — *The Shepherd* — William Blake

*HYMN — A*s We Gather at Your Table* — 314

*BLESSING & BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE — *Sent Forth by God's Blessing* — (tune-Ash Grove)

LOOKING AHEAD

February 5	**11:00 am**	**Trustees**	February 8	10:00 am	Backpack Program
	5:00 pm	Soup Kitchen		6:00 pm	Scouts – Bear Den
February 6	5:15 pm	Scouts Lions & Tigers	February 9	6:30 pm	Scouts – Wolf Den
	6:30 pm	Irish Dance Group	February 10	**8:15 am**	**Coffice Hours at The Villager**
February 7	6:30 pm	Scouts – Webelos	February 12	**10:00 am**	**Worship**
				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**.

Offering envelopes have been ordered but have not yet arrived.

The deacon for the month of February is **Jennifer Gill.** The greeter this morning is **Sue Germini-Humble**. Flowers for the altar were provided by **Sue Germini-Humble**. Coffee Hour is being hosted by **Jennifer Gill** and **Claudia Epright**.

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 5, 2023

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Draw Us In the Spirit's Tether

Draw us in the Spirit's tether, for when humbly, in your name, two or three are met together, you are in the midst of them; Alleluia! Alleluia! Touch we now your garment's hem.

As disciples used to gather in the name of Christ to sup, then with thanks to God the giver break the bread and bless the cup, Alleluia! Alleluia! So now bind our friendship up.

All our meals and all our living make us sacraments of you, that by caring, helping, giving, we may be disciples true. Alleluia! Alleluia! We will serve with faith anew.

As We Gather To Your Table

As we gather at your table, as we listen to your word, help us know, O God, your presence; let our hearts and minds be stirred. Nourish us with sacred story till we claim it as our own; teach us through this holy banquet how to make Love's victory known.

Turn our worship into witness in the sacrament of life; send us forth to love and serve you, bringing peace where there is strife. Give us, Christ, your great compassion to forgive as you forgave; may we still behold your image in the world you died to save.

Gracious Spirit, help us summon other guests to share that feast where triumphant Love will welcome those who had been last and least. There no more will envy blind us nor will pride our peace destroy, as we join with saints and angels to repeat the sounding joy.