THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHESTER

An Open & Affirming Congregation of
The United Church of Christ
March 19, 10:00 a.m.
Fourth Sunday in Lent

PREPARATION FOR THE WORD

WELCOME — Barbara-Jan Wilson, Deacon

PRELUDE — *Irish Song Medley*

INTROIT — *Gathering Hymn* — M. Haugen

CALL TO WORSHIP — (from John's gospel)

Jesus said, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

Jesus said, "I am the true vine; and every branch that bears fruit will be trimmed to bear even more fruit."

Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep."

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever believes in me, even though they die, will life, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die."

Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth and the life; whoever would come to God may come through me." Amen.

*HYMN — *Savior, Like a Shepherd, Lead Us* — 429

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, we confess our contingency upon you. You, who breathed into us and gave us the breath of life, are our everything. You are our morning sunrise, our day's purpose, our evening rest. You place joy in our hearts, you weep at our tears, you are the grin in our laughter. You who took on human flesh in Jesus our brother, inspire us to great acts of kindness, give us words us in difficult conversations, open our hearts to the least, the lost and the lonely, and fill our world with love. We ask this that every soul may know your deep abiding care for us and for all creation; Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON — Genesis 1.1-4; Exodus 3.13-14

ANTHEM — *Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song* — H. Sorenson

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON — John 18.1-9

After Jesus had spoken these words, he went out with his disciples across the Kidron valley to a place where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered. Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place, because Jesus often met there with his disciples. So Judas brought a detachment of soldiers together with police from the chief priests and the Pharisees, and they came there with lanterns and torches and weapons. Then Jesus, knowing all that was to happen to him, came forward and asked them, 'For whom are you looking?' They answered, 'Jesus of Nazareth.' Jesus replied, 'I am he.' Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them. When Jesus said to them, 'I am he', they stepped back and fell to the ground. Again he asked them, 'For whom are you looking?' And they said, 'Jesus of Nazareth.' Jesus answered, 'I told you that I am he. So if you are looking for me, let these men go.' This was to fulfil the word that he had spoken, 'I did not lose a single one of those whom you gave me.'

SERMON — *"Two Lies and a Truth"* — Rev. W. Alan Froggatt

(The Gospel of John)

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God… And the Word became flesh, and lived among us, and we have seen his glory… full off grace and truth."

(John 1.1, 14)

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

OFFERTORY — *Adagio in G Minor* — T. Albinoni, R. Giazotto

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 — *The Beautiful Changes* — Richard Wilbur

*HYMN — *Many Are the Lightbeams* — 389

*BLESSING & BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE — *The Blessing of Aaron* — N. Ramsey

LOOKING AHEAD

March 19	5:00 pm	Soup Kitchen
March 20	5:30 pm	Irish Dance Group
March 21	6:30 pm	Scouts – Webelos
March 22	6:00 pm	Scouts – Bear Den
March 23	10:00 am	Back Pack Program
	7:00 pm	**Choir Rehearsal**
March 24	**8:15 am**	**No Coffice Hours**
March 26	**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**.

One Great Hour of Sharing is this week. Please consider donating. Envelopes are provided in the bulletin.

Offering envelopes have arrived. Please contact Diane Lindsay to receive or request a box.

The deacon for the month of March is **Barbara-Jan Wilson.** The greeter this morning is **Sarah Wilson Murcko**. Flowers for the altar were provided from **Barbara-Jan** and **Sarah** in honor of their sons' (Scott, David and Coury) birthdays! Coffee hour is being hosted by **Peggy Phillips** and **Cheryl Archer.**

Alan will be on vacation next week. Any pastoral concerns please contact the church office.

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

The United Church of Chester

United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Church

March 19, 2023

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Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

Savior, like a shepherd lead us, much we need thy tender care; in thy pleasant pastures feed us, for our use thy folds prepare. Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, thou hast bought us, thine we are; blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, thou hast bought us, thine we are.

We are thine; in love befriend us; be the guardian of our way; keep thy flock; from sin defend us; seek us when we go astray. Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, hear thy children when we pray; blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, hear thy children when we pray.

Early let us seek thy favor; early let us do thy will; blessed Lord and only Savior, with thy love our spirits fill. Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, thou hast loved us, love us still; blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, thou hast loved us, love us still.

Many Are The Lightbeams

Many are the lightbeams from the one light. Our one light is Jesus. Many are the lightbeams from the one light; we are one in Christ.

Many are the branches of the one tree. Our one tree is Jesus. Many are the branches of the one tree; we are one in Christ.

Many are the gifts given, love is all one, Love's the gift of Jesus. Many are the gifts given, love is all one; we are one in Christ.

Many ways to serve God, the Spirit is one, servant spirt of Jesus. Many ways to serve God, the Spirit is one; we are one in Christ.

Many are the members, the body is one, members all of Jesus. Many are the members, the body is one; we are one in Christ.