THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHESTER

An Open & Affirming Congregation of
The United Church of Christ
March 5, 10:00 a.m.
Second Sunday in Lent

PREPARATION FOR THE WORD

WELCOME — Diane Lindsay, Deacon

PRELUDE — *Panis Angelicus* — C. Franck

INTROIT — *Gathering Hymn* — M. Haugen

CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather this day to worship our God, whose words and ways challenge us: God invites us to lose our selfishness to find ourselves.

God calls us to be known as fools to the world to show forth the wisdom of Christ.

God urges us to empty ourselves to discover life's fulness.

God bids us to be obedient to a divine will so we might know true freedom.

We come to worship our Creator, seeking to have our faith challenged into growth.

We root our faith in worship seeking to find nourishment for our spirits in this growing season of Lent. Amen.

*HYMN — *Tell Me the Stories of Jesus* — 172

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, whose very name is Love, you know better than all others that, though we intend to do the good, even the best of our intentions are soon discarded. We try to be faithful, but we are diverted by many things. We want never to hurt anyone, but for lack of consideration, sometimes we hurt those we love the most. We will sympathize with people more often than we will be there with them, and for them. We are reluctant to accept the help of others because we are unwilling to admit our own needs.

Remind us once more of the power of your gospel, that you have spoken to us for our salvation. And with the ancient prophet, may we too know that by your righteousness, we may live by faith, and live faithfully throughout all eternity. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON — Jeremiah 11.18-23

ANTHEM — *Lenten Prayer* — G. Pergolesi

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON — Matthew 13.54-58

"Jesus came to his home town and began to teach the people in their synagogue, so that they were astounded and said, 'Where did this man get this wisdom and these deeds of power? Is not this the carpenter's son? Is not his mother called Mary? And are not his brothers James and Joseph and Simon and Judas? And are not all his sisters with us? Where then did this man get all this?' And they took offence at him. But Jesus said to them, 'Prophets are not without honor except in their own country and in their own house.' And he did not do many deeds of power there, because of their unbelief."

SERMON — *"All in the Family"* (The Gospel of Matthew) — Rev. W. Alan Froggatt

"Now all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations; and from David to the deportation to Babylon, fourteen generations; and from the deportation to Babylon to the Messiah, fourteen generations."
(Matthew 1.17)

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

OFFERTORY — *Bread of Heaven* — J. 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 — *Advice to a Prophet* — Richard Wilbur ©2004

*HYMN — *Now Let Us from This Table Rise* — 325

*BLESSING & BENEDICTION

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

LOOKING AHEAD

March 5	**11:00 am**	**Church Council Meeting**	March 9	10:00 am	Back Pack Program
				6:30 pm	Scouts – Wolf Den
	5:00 pm	Soup Kitchen		**7:00 pm**	**Choir Rehearsal**
March 6	5:15 pm	Scouts – Lions & Tigers	March 11	11:00 am	Margaret Weisenburger service
	6:30 pm	Irish Dance Group			
March 7	6:30 pm	Scouts – Webelos	March 12	**10:00 am**	**Worship**
				11:00 am	**Deacons Mtg.**
				5:00 pm	Soup Kitchen
March 8	6:00 pm	Scouts – Bear Den			

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.

The deacon for today is **Diane Lindsay.** The greeter this morning is **Judy Stevenson**. Flowers for the altar were provided by **Marian Bairstow**. Coffee Hour is being hosted by **Diane Lindsay** and **Jennifer Gill**.

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

March 5, 2023

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Tell Me the Stories of Jesus

Tell me the stories of Jesus I love to hear; things I would ask him to tell me if he were here: scenes by the wayside, tales of the sea, stories of Jesus, tell them to me.

First let me hear how the children stood round his knee, and I shall fancy his blessing resting on me; words full of kindness, deeds full of grace, all in the lovelight of Jesus' face.

Into the city I'd follow the children's band, waving a branch of the palm tree high in my hand; one of his heralds, yes, I would sing loudest hosannas, "Jesus is King!"

Now Let Us from This Table Rise

Now let us from this table rise, renewed in body, mind and soul; with Christ we die and live again, his selfless love has made us whole.

With minds alert, upheld by grace, to spread the Word in speech and deed, we follow in the steps of Christ, at one with all in hope and need.

To fill each human house with love, it is the sacrament of care; the work that Christ began to do we humbly pledge ourselves to share.

Then give us grace, Companion-God, to choose again the pilgrim way, and help us to accept with joy the challenge of tomorrow's day.