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THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHESTER

An Open & Affirming Congregation of
The United Church of Christ
April 14, 2024 10:00 a.m.
Third Sunday of Easter

PREPARATION FOR THE WORD

WELCOME — Pat Holloway, Deacon

PRELUDE — *Ave Verum Corpus* — W.A Mozart
Alan Froggatt, violin

INTROIT — *Come and Fill Our Hearts* — Taize

CALL TO WORSHIP
Children of God, you are a chosen race;
We are the royal priesthood of all believers.
Indeed, you are God's own people, that you may proclaim the good news and wonderful works of God.
For God has called us out of darkness into this marvelous light.
When you belonged to yourselves, you were nobody;
Now that we belong to God, we are God's very own;
When you belonged to yourselves, you did not know how to trust in grace and mercy;
Now that we belong to God, we live and breathe in the abundant grace of our merciful God. Amen.

*HYMN — *Crown Him with Many Crowns* — 210
Crown him with many crowns, the Lamb upon the throne; Hark! How the heavenly anthem drowns all music but its own. Awake, my soul, and sing of Christ who died for you, and to your risen Savior bring your thanks for life made new.

Crown him whose love has flowed down hands and feet and side. Look past the peak of Calvary's road to Christ the glorified. The sun that lights the sky is pale before that sight. At prayer we glimpse, then turn the eye from mysteries to bright.

Crown him the truth, the life who triumphed o'er the grave and rose victorious in the strife, this fallen world to save. Christ's glories now we sing, Christ's name we magnify, who died eternal life to bring, and lives that death may die.

Crown him who rules in peace, whose power a sceptre sways from pole to pole, that wars may cease, and all be prayer and praise: Christ's reign shall have no end, for 'round those wounded feet a fragrant garden shall extend forever green and sweet.

Crown him who holds the years, embracing space and time, Creator of the rolling spheres, ineffably sublime: all hail, Redeemer, hail! For you have died for me; your praise shall never, never fail throughout eternity.

INVOCATION

God, you are the source of our life, and creator of every life on earth. Gather us now, we pray, in the presence of the resurrected, living Christ. Form us into a holy community of your own people, molding us by the breath of your Holy Spirit, and revealing in the faces of this family of faith the face of your anointed Christ; Amen.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON I Samuel 8.4-22

ANTHEM *All In the April Evening* H. Robertson

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON John 19.8-11a

"Now when Pilate heard the crowds, he was more afraid than ever. He entered his headquarters again and asked Jesus, 'Where are you from?' But Jesus gave him no answer. Pilate therefore said to him, 'Do you refuse to speak to me? Do you not know that I have power to release you, and power to crucify you?' Jesus answered him, 'You would have no power over me unless it had been given you from above."

SERMON *"Christian Nationalism is Neither"* Rev. W. Alan Froggatt

But the people refused to listen to the voice of Samuel; they said, 'No! but we are determined to have a king over us, so that we also may be like other nations, and that our king may govern us and go out before us and fight our battles.'

(I Samuel 8.19-20)

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

OFFERTORY *When Brighter Suns and Milder Skies* H. Smart
Rick and Pat Holloway, vocalists

*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 *Church and State* William Butler Yeats (1865-1939)

*HYMN *Diverse in Culture, Nation, Race* 372

Diverse in culture, nation, race, we come together by your grace. God, let us be a meeting ground where hope and healing love are found.

God, let us be a bridge of care connecting people ev'rywhere. Help us confront all fear and hate and lust for pow'r that separate.

When chasms widen, storms arise, O Holy Spirit, make us wise. Let our resolve, like steel, be strong to stand with those who suffer wrong.

God, let us be a table spread with gifts of love and broken bread, where all find welcome, grace attends, and enemies arise as friends.

*BLESSING & BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE *My Peace I Leave You* Taize

LOOKING AHEAD

April 14	**10:00 am** 5:00 pm	**Worship** Soup Kitchen	April 18	8:30 am 6:30 pm **7:00 pm**	Yoga Scouts – Pack Mtg **Choir Rehearsal**
April 15	6:30 pm	Irish Dance	April 19	**8:15 am**	**Coffice Hours at Simon's Marketplace**
April 16	8:30 am 6:30 pm	Yoga Scouts – AOL	April 21	**10:00 am** 5:00 pm	**Worship** 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**.

The deacon for the month of April is **Pat Holloway.** The greeter this morning is **Sue Germini Humble.** Flowers on the altar were provided by **Sue Germini Humble** in loving memory of her treasured friend Joyceann.

Essex Piano Trio – April 28th
Please join us here at United Church of Chester for the return of the Essex Piano Trio on Sunday, April 28th at 3:00 pm.

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

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