THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHESTER

An Open & Affirming Congregation of
The United Church of Christ
April 9, 2023 10:00 a.m.
Easter Day

PREPARATION FOR THE WORD

PRELUDE — *Sound the Trumpet* — H. Purcell
Patricia Hurley, trumpet

INTROIT — *Christ Is Risen Today* — D. Lokensgard

CALL TO WORSHIP
Rejoice, heavenly powers! Sing, choirs of angels!
Jesus Christ, our light, is risen! Sound the trumpet of salvation!
Rejoice, O earth, in shining splendor, radiant in the brightness of your Lord!
Christ has conquered, we are filled with glory, and night has vanished forever!
Rejoice, O servant church! Exult in glory! The risen Savior shines upon you!
Let this house resound with joy, echoing the mighty song of all God's people!
Alleluia and Amen!

*HYMN — *Christ the Lord Is Risen Today* — 205

Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia! Mortal tongues and angels say: Alleluia! Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia! Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply: Alleluia!

Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia! Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia! Dying once, he all doth save, Alleluia! Where thy victory, O grave? Alleluia!

Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia! Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia! Death in vain forbids him rise, Alleluia! Christ has opened Paradise, Alleluia!

Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia! Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!
Made like him, like him we rise, Alleluia! Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!

Hail the Lord of earth and heaven! Alleluia! Praise to thee by both be given, Alleluia!
Thee we great triumphant now, Alleluia! Hail, the Resurrection thou! Alleluia

INVOCATION

Giver of new life, we come this morning with our alleluias, our flowers, herald trumpet and song. We come to worship in beauty and truth because we know Christ is risen from the dead, and our hope is in the resurrection, his and our own. Continue to transform our lives that we may love and serve one another in Christ's name. Accept our worship, be present with us as a daystar, miracle and mystery, and may we always be your tender hands of grace. Amen.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Job 19.23-27

'O that my words were written down!
O that they were inscribed in a book!
O that with an iron pen and with lead they were engraved on a rock for ever!
For I know that my Redeemer lives, and that at the last he will stand upon the earth, and after my skin has been thus destroyed, then in my flesh I shall see God, whom I shall see on my side, and my eyes shall behold, and not another.'

ANTHEM *The Day of Resurrection* J. Carter

The day of resurrection! Earth tell it out abroad;
The Passover of gladness, the Passover of God.
From death to life eternal, from earth unto the sky,
Our Christ has brought us over with hymns of victory.

Our hearts be pure from evil, that we may see aright
The Lord in rays eternal of resurrection light.
And listening to his accents, may hear so loud and plain
His own "All Hail!" and hearing, may raise the victor strain.

Now let the heavens be joyful, let earth her song, her song begin,
The round world keep high triumph and all that is therein;
Let all things seen and unseen their notes together blend,
For Christ the Lord is risen, our joy that has no end.

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON I Corinthians 15.20-26

SERMON *"Present Perfect"* Rev. W. Alan Froggatt

"The last enemy to be destroyed is death."
(I Corinthians 15.26)

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

OFFERTORY *Shout Hallelujah to the Risen Lamb* V. Johnson

Shout Hallelujah to the Risen Lamb! Shout and give thanks unto the great I AM!
Shout hallelujah, rejoice and sing, Hallelujah to the risen King!

King Jesus hung on the cruel tree, He gave his life for you and me.
The women came at the break of day, the angel rolled the stone away.
My Savior rose up from the grave. In his hands was all power to save.
The Lord reigns in victory, He has risen, indeed!

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 *Easter Peace*

*HYMN *Thine Is the Glory* 214

Thine is the glory risen, conquering Son; endless is thy victory thou o'er death hast won. Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away, kept the folded grave-clothes where thy body lay.

Refrain:
Thine is the glory risen, conquering Son; endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.

Lo! Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb; lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom; let the church with gladness hymns of triumph sing, for our Christ now liveth; death has lost its sting.

Refrain

No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of life! Life is nought without thee; aid us in our strife; make us more than conquerors, through thy deathless love; bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above.

Refrain

BLESSING & BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE *From All That Dwell* G. Young

LOOKING AHEAD

April 9	10:00 am	Easter Day	April 13 6:30 pm	Scouts – Wolf Den
April 10	5:15 pm	Scouts – Lions & Tigers	April 14 **8:15 am**	**No Coffice Hours**
	6:30 pm	Irish Dance Group		
			April 16 **10:00 am**	**Worship**

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 April is **Diane Lindsay.** Flowers were provided on the altar as dedications for loved ones as referenced in the insert. The greeter this morning is **Deb Calamari**

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

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: Sally is away on vacation and will return on Thursday, April 20th.

Are you interested in learning more about, or considering membership at the United Church of Chester? Alan and some of our Deacons will be hosting an after-church conversation about membership later this Spring. If you'd like to be part of the conversation, please speak to Alan after the service, or call or email the church office.