THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHESTER

An Open & Affirming Congregation of
The United Church of Christ
May 12, 2024 10:00 a.m.
Seventh Sunday of Easter

PREPARATION FOR THE WORD

WELCOME — Deb Germini Calamari, Deacon

PRELUDE — *Longer* (A love song for all mothers) — D. Fogelberg

INTROIT — *Now It's Spring,* v 1 — Piae Cantiones, 1582

CALL TO WORSHIP

Let God now bend to us to be at home here with the humble.
May God take residence in our hearts, and conform us to the divine image.
God knows us and knows our hungers:
God loves us like a father and nurtures us like a mother.
God draws us to each other and claims us as the people of the promise;
Knowing this then, we worship God together. Amen.

*HYMN — *Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth* — 84

Mothering God, you gave me birth in the bright morning of this world. Creator source of ev'ry breath, you are my rain, my wind, my sun.

Mothering Christ, you took my form, offering me your food of light, grain of life, and grape of love, your very body for my peace.

Mothering Spirit, nurturing one, in arms of patience hold me close, so that in faith I root and grow until I flow'r, until I know.

INVOCATION — (Gaelic Prayer)

We are at peace because we know you love us, Lord. Because you love us, nothing can move us from our peace. Because you love us, we are as those to whom all good has come. As the hand is made for holding and the eye for seeing, so you have fashioned us for joy. Grant us the vision that will find that joy in every place: in the wild violet's beauty, in the melody of the lark, in the faces of faithful men and women, in the smile of a child, in a mother's love, and in the purity of Jesus Christ our Lord; Amen.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

GOSPEL LESSON — Mark 10.35-45

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, 'Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?' He said to him, 'Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Feed my lambs.' A second time he said to him, 'Simon son of John, do you love me?' He said to him, 'Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Tend my sheep.' He said to him the third time, 'Simon son of John, do you love me?' Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, 'Do you love me?' And he said to him, 'Lord,

you know everything; you know that I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Feed my sheep. Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go.' (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, 'Follow me.'

ANTHEM *Eatnemen Vuelie* Frode Fjellheim

Eatnemen Vuelie
Earth Song- (A Love Song for Mother Nature) Program Note: This anthem is inspired by the traditional Sami "Yoik" which is a very old vocal tradition among Sami people of Scandinavia and Russia. It features short melodic phrases that repeat endlessly. The Sami's say that the Yoik has no beginning and no end and often describes a person, emotion, or an element of nature.

GOSPEL LESSON John 21.15-19 (p 992)

SERMON *"Apron & Bibs"* Rev. W. Alan Froggatt

James and John came to Jesus and said to him, 'Teacher we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you.' And Jesus said, 'What is it you want me to do for you?' And they said to him, 'Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory.'
(John 21.15-19)

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

OFFERTORY *Come Away* M. Hayes

Come Away- lyrics: Arise my love my fair one and come away. Arise my love so beautiful and come away. For lo the winter is past, the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth. The time for singing has come! The voice of the turtle dove is hear in our land. The fig trees are bursting with buds and the promise of fruit. The grapevines are fragrant with blossoms. How delicious they smell, spring is here and my heart is filled with love. Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm. For love is as strong as death, and passion, fierce as the grave. Many waters cannot quench love. All the world's riches cannot buy love.

*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 Persistence of Scent* Cindy Williams Gutiérrez

*HYMN *I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry* 327

I was there to hear your borning cry, I'll be there when you are old. I rejoiced the day you were baptized, to see your life unfold.

I was there when you were but a child, with a faith to suit you well; in a blaze of light you wandered off to find where demons dwell.

When you heard the wonder of the word I was there to cheer you on; you were raised to praise the living God, to whom you now belong.

If you find some one to share your time and you join your hearts as one, I'll be there to make your verses rhyme from dusk till rising sun.

In the middle ages of your life, not too old, no longer young, I'll be there to guide you through the night, complete what I've begun.

When the evening gently closes in and you shut your weary eyes, I'll be there as I have always been with just one more surprise.

I was there to hear your borning cry, I'll be there when you are old. I rejoiced the day you were baptized, to see your life unfold.

*BLESSING & BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE *Now It's Spring,* v 2 Piae Cantiones, 1582

* all who are able may stand

LOOKING AHEAD

May 12	**10:00 am** 5:00 pm	**Worship** Soup Kitchen	May 16	8:30 am 6:30 pm **7:00 pm**	Yoga Scouts – Pack Mtg. **Choir Rehearsal**
May 13	6:30 pm	Irish Dance	May 17	**8:15 am** 2:00 pm	**Coffice Hours at The Villager** Montessori Day care
May 14	8:30 am 6:30 pm 7:00 pm	Yoga Scouts – AOL Chester Garden Club	May 19	**10:00 am** **11:00 am** 5:00 pm	**Worship** **Annual Meeting** 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 **Deb Calamari.** The greeter this morning is **Peggy Phillips.** Flowers on the altar were provided by **Barbara-Jan Wilson** and **Sarah Wilson Murcko** in celebration of all mothers everywhere especially their mother **Audrey Mae Coursen,** and new mothers **Sarah Elizabeth** and **Melissa Ann**. Coffee hour is being hosted by.

Katie Wilcox Day – Sunday, May 19th
We will be celebrating Katie Wilcox on Sunday, May 19th. This year donations will be accepted in the memory of Peg Lieberman. There are special envelopes in the narthex for this collection.

New Members will be received in United Church of Chester in June. If you are interested in becoming a member of UCC please speak with Alan or call the church office at 860-526-2697.

Chester Townwide Tag Sale – Saturday, May 25th.
United Church of Chester is participating in the townwide tag sale. There is a sign up sheet in Fellowship Hall for helping to set-up, clean-up and work the day of the sale. Please see Diane Lindsay for more information.

ALAN'S OFFICE HOURS: Wednesday – Friday 8:30 am – 12:30 pm

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

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