Reverend W. Alan Froggatt, Minister
Karli Gilbertson, Music Director and Organist
Post Office Box 383, Chester, Connecticut 06412 860-526-2697
E-mail: unitedchester@uccchester.org web site: www.uccchester.org

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHESTER

An Open & Affirming Congregation of
The United Church of Christ
May 19, 2024 10:00 a.m.
Pentecost Sunday

PREPARATION FOR THE WORD

WELCOME — Deb Germini Calamari, Deacon

PRELUDE — *Holy Spirit, Faithful Guide* — M. Wells, arr. R. Hughes

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

CALL TO WORSHIP

I came out of CVS yesterday and was asked for a dollar for food.
Who knows? Perhaps God called you for just such a time as this.
I handed out take-out meals in the pouring rain and went home soaked.
Who knows? Perhaps God called you to just such a place as this.
There are still too many people without jobs, with hungry families to feed;
We know that God has called us to just such a time as this.
And in those times we ourselves have to do without, when all we have is each other -
We know that God creates abundant grace in scarce times, in precisely such times as these. Amen.

*HYMN — *In Christ There Is No East or West* — 381

In Christ there is no east or west, in him no south or north; but one community of love throughout the whole wide earth.

In Christ shall true hearts everywhere their high communion find; his service is the golden cord close-binding human kind.

Join hands, disciples of the faith, what e'er your race may be; all children of the living God are surely kin to me.

In Christ now meet both east and west, in him meet south and north; all Christly souls are one in him throughout the whole wide earth.

INVOCATION

Gracious God, we ask your blessing presence among us. We gather this morning after a week filled with joys and sorrows, triumphs and disappointments. Yet each new week brims with excitement and anticipation, even if we remain wistful for rest and relaxation. Bless this church family: bless singers and prayers and workers and volunteers and servants of so many different kinds, that all our mission and ministry might be to your greater glory, and that our gifts of the spirit might build up the body of our Lord Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray, Amen.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Esther 1.1-4, 4.13-14 (p. 437)

ANTHEM *Fill-A Me Up!* P. Choplin

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON II Corinthians 11.25b-30

"Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I received a stoning. Three times I was shipwrecked; for a night and a day I was adrift at sea; on frequent journeys, in danger from rivers, danger from bandits, danger from my own people, danger from Gentiles, danger in the city, danger in the wilderness, danger at sea, danger from false brothers and sisters; in toil and hardship, through many a sleepless night, hungry and thirsty, often without food, cold and naked. And, besides other things, I am under daily pressure because of my anxiety for all the churches. Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is made to stumble, and I am not indignant? If I must boast, I will boast of the things that show my weakness."

SERMON *"Celebrating Katie Wilcox"* Rev. W. Alan Froggatt

"Who knows? Perhaps you have come to royal dignity for just such a time as this."
(Esther 4.14)

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

OFFERTORY *Follow Rain and Rivers* R. Gielas

*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 *When I Consider How My Light Is Spent* John Milton (1608-1674)

*HYMN *Blest Be the Tie That Binds* 368

Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love; the fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.

Before God's gracious throne we pour our ardent prayers; our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our comforts and our cares.

We share each other's woes, each other's burdens bear, and often for each other flows the sympathizing tear.

When we are called to part it gives us inward pain, but we shall still be joined in heart, and home to meet again.

*BLESSING & BENEDICTION

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

* all who are able may stand

LOOKING AHEAD

May 19	**10:00 am** **11:00 am** 5:00 pm	**Worship** **Annual Meeting** Soup Kitchen	May 23	8:30 am **7:00 pm**	Yoga **Choir Rehearsal**
May 20	6:30 pm	Irish Dance	May 24	**8:15 am** 2:00 pm	**Coffice Hours at Simon's Marketplace** Montessori Day care
May 21	8:30 am 6:30 pm	Yoga Scouts – L&T	May 25	**8:00 am to 2:00 pm**	**Townwide Tag Sale**
May 22	6:30 pm	Webelos	May 26	**10:00 am** **11:00 am** 5:00 pm	**Worship** **Trustees 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 **Daphne Stitt.** Flowers on the altar were provided by **Deb Calamari** in celebration of all the volunteers who do so much for the church! Coffee hour is being hosted by **Jennifer Gill** and **Laurel Johnson**.

If you are interested in becoming a member of UCC there will be an informational meeting after church on June 9th. If interested, 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.

Memorial Day Refreshments Needed
Sandwiches and cookies are needed for the reception at the Meeting House following the Memorial Day Parade on May 27. The parade starts at 10:00 am this year. Food can be dropped off between 9:00 – 10:00 am that day. Please consider making a little extra as the Valley high school band will be marching in the parade. Any questions contact janezanardi@comcast.net or call 860 526-9007

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

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