THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHESTER

An Open & Affirming Congregation of
The United Church of Christ
May 5, 2024 10:00 a.m.
Sixth Sunday of Easter

PREPARATION FOR THE WORD

WELCOME — Deb Germini Calamari, Deacon

PRELUDE — *Salve Regina* — G. Puccini

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

CALL TO WORSHIP

As a desert wanderer longs for springs of cool, fresh, water,
So do our thirsty souls reach out to you, O God.
How we long for a deep and refreshing sense of God's presence;
And for a faith that will embrace God without hesitation or reluctance.
In this hour, we set our hearts on God's all-sufficient goodness,
For in God our spirits are fully satisfied. Amen.

*HYMN — *Joyful Joyful, We Adore Thee* — 7

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love; hearts unfold like flowers before thee, opening to the sun above. Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive the dark of doubt away; giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.

All thy works with joy surround thee, earth and heaven reflect thy rays, stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise. Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea, chanting bird and flowing fountain, call us to rejoice in thee.

Thou are giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest, well-spring of the joy of living, ocean depth of happy rest! Source of grace and fount of blessing, all who live in love are thine; teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine.

Mortals, join the happy chorus which the morning stars began; God's own love is reigning o'er us, joining people hand in hand. Ever singing, march we onward, victors in the midst of strife, joyful music leads us sunward in the triumph song of life.

INVOCATION

Ever creating God, you who make all things new, change us this morning in ways we would never expect. When we are about to succumb to the dullness of routine, pique us with the whisper of abrupt originality. When our purpose seems misplaced, catch us in an act of impulsive charity. When earth's life-giving water tastes old and dusty, let us taste the wine of eternity, where we will eat and drink with you and all the saints. We seek this wine with all our spirits' thirst, in the name of the banqueting host, Jesus our Lord, in whom we pray, Amen.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Numbers 21.16-18

From there the Israelites continued to Beer; that is, the well of which the Lord said to Moses, 'Gather the people together, and I will give them water.' Then Israel sang this song: 'Spring up, O well!—Sing to it!— the well that the leaders sank, that the nobles of the people dug, with the sceptre, with the staff.'

ANTHEM *The Spirit of the Lord* P. Scholtes

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON John 4.5-30

SERMON *"The Well of Well-Being"* Rev. W. Alan Froggatt

"Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done!
He cannot be the Messiah, can he?"
(John 4.29)

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

OFFERTORY *In Remembrance of Me* B. Red

*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 *Well Water* Randall Jarrell (1914-1965)

*HYMN *I Have No Bucket and the Well is Deep* 394

I have no bucket, and the well is deep. My thirst is endless, and my throat is dry. I ask you , stranger, silent at my side, can words refresh my longings if you speak? I have no bucket, and the well is deep.

Can love unbar the strong-rooms of the mind and scour the tombs and warrens underground for toys and treasures lost, or never found, for all I cannot name, yet ache to find? I have no bucket, and the well is deep.

Who are you, strange yet friendly at my side, and can you see and judge, yet understand my hidden self, and heal with wounded hands? Are you the path, the gateway and the guide, the keys, the living water, and the light?

Come break the rock, and bid the rivers flow from deep unending wells of joy and worth, for tears, for drinking, drowning and new birth, and I shall find and give myself, and know the keys, the living water and the light.

*BLESSING & BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE *Now It's Spring,* v 3 Piae Cantiones, 1582

* all who are able may stand

LOOKING AHEAD

May 5	10:00 am 11:00 am 5:00 pm	**Worship** **Deacons' Meeting** Soup Kitchen	May 9	8:30 am 5:30 pm 6:30 pm **7:00 pm**	Yoga Scouts – Wolf Den Scouts – Bear Den **Choir Rehearsal**
May 6	6:30 pm	Irish Dance	May 10	**8:15 am**	**Coffice Hours at Simon's Marketplace**
May 7	8:30 am 6:30 pm 7:00 pm	Yoga Scouts – L&T Chester Garden Club	May 12	**10:00 am** 5:00 pm	**Worship** Soup Kitchen
May 8	6:30 pm	Scouts - Webelos			

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 **Sue Germini-Humble.** Flowers on the altar were provided by **Sue Germini-Humble**. Coffee hour is being hosted by **Cheryl Archer** and **Paul Indorf**.

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.