Reverend W. Alan Froggatt, Pastor & Teacher
Every Member of the Congregation, Ministers
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
June 11, 2023 10:00 a.m.
Second Sunday after Pentecost

PREPARATION FOR THE WORD

PRELUDE

INTROIT *As We Are Gathered* J. Daniels

CALL TO WORSHIP
The Word of God is our Great Heritage,
And shall be ours forever.
We come from many backgrounds,
We come from many generations,
We come from many spiritual walks,
We come from many experiences.
Come, let us celebrate our unity in Jesus Christ;
Come, let us celebrate our diversity in Jesus Christ. Amen.

*HYMN *We Limit Not the Truth of God* 1

We limit not the truth of God to our poor reach of mind, by notions of our day and sect, crude, partial, and confined. No, let a new and better hope within our hearts be stirred: The Lord hat yet more light and truth to break forth from The Word.

Darkling those faithful pilgrims went the first steps of the way; 'twas but the dawning yet to grow into the perfect day. And grow it shall, our glorious sun more fervid rays afford: The Lord hat yet more light and truth to break forth from The Word.

The valleys passed, ascending, still, our souls would higher climb, and look down from supernal heights on all the bygone time. Upward we press, the air is clear, and the sphere-music heard: The Lord hat yet more light and truth to break forth from The Word.

O God, we pray that thou wilt send us increase from above; enlarge, expand all Christian souls to comprehend thy love, and make us to go on, to know with nobler powers conferred: The Lord hat yet more light and truth to break forth from The Word.

INVOCATION Deb Calamari, Deacon

Our God, this morning we come to you with hearts filled with gratitude and hope. We thank you for your word, which speaks to us in new and surprising ways whenever we come to it; and we thank you for your Word Jesus Christ, in whose name we are called to minister to all your children. We praise you for the sacrament that is life itself, the grace which you freely give us all, without pause and without reservation. Unite us Lord, in covenant with you and each other: may the promises we make be the promises we keep; may we be faithful to each other even as you are faithful to us. We ask you these things in the name of the resurrected Christ, who brings life and light; Amen.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Deuteronomy 21.18-21

ANTHEM *Let Us Build A House* arr Lloyd Larson

Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live, a place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive. Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the love of Christ shall end divisions. All are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where prophets speak, and words are strong and true, where all God's children seek to dream God's reign anew. Here the cross shall stand as witness and as symbol of God's grace; here as one we claim the faith of Jesus. All are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where hands reach beyond the wood and stone to heal and strengthen, serve, and teach, and live the Word they've known. Here the outcast and the stranger bear the image of God's face; let us bring an end to fear and danger. All are welcome in this place.

Come build a church with soul and spirit, come build a church of flesh and bone. We need no tower rising skyward; no house of wood or glass or stone. Come build a church with human frailty. Come build a church of flesh and blood. Jesus shall be its sure foundation. It shall be built by the hand of God.

Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and visions heard and loved and treasured, taught and claimed as words within the Word. Built of tears and cries and

laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace; let this house proclaim from floor to rafter: All are welcome in this place.

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON Matthew 5.27-30

"Jesus said, 'You have heard that it was said, "You shall not commit adultery." But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to go into hell."

SERMON *""Banned Bibles & Books"* Rev. W. Alan Froggatt

"Of the making of many books, there is no end."
(Ecclesiastes 12.12)

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

OFFERTORY *I Shall Not Be Moved* Alice Parker

Glory hallelujah, I shall not be moved. Anchored in Jehovah Chorus: I shall not be moved, just like a tree that's planted by the water.

In His love abiding, I shall not be moved. And in Him confiding…Though all hell assail me, I shall not be moved. Jesus will not fail me…Though the tempest rages, I shall not be moved. On the Rock of ages…

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

CHOIR APPRECIATION

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER *("trespasses")*

POEM *I Sing the Body Electric, str. 7* (from Leaves of Grass)
Walt Whitman, 1819-1892

*HYMN *Jesus Loves Me* 103

Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so. Little ones to him belong; they are weak and he is strong. Yes, Jesus loved me! Yes Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so!

Jesus loves me! This I know, as he loved so long ago, taking children on his knee, saying, "Let them come to me." Yes, Jesus loved me! Yes Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so!

Jesus loves me! Still today, walking with me on my way, wanting as a friend to give light and love to all who live. Yes, Jesus loved me! Yes Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so!

BLESSING & BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE *Bless The Lord, O My Soul* Ipalitov and Ivanov

LOOKING AHEAD

June 11 **11:00 am** 5:00 pm	**New Member Meeting** Soup Kitchen	June 15 8:30 am	Yoga
June 12 5:15 pm 6:30 pm	Scouts – Lions & Tigers Irish Dance Group	June 16 **8:15 am**	**Coffice Hours at The Villager**
June 13 8:30 am	Yoga	June 17**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 June is **Deb Calamari.** Our Greeter for today is **Daphne Stitt**. Flowers on the altar were provided by **Kim and Keith Howley** in celebration of all the graduates and the teachers and parents who support them.

Celebration of Allison Abramson
On June 25th from 2:00 – 5:00 pm at the Chester Meetinghouse there will be a celebration of Allison Abramson who has led the Tri-Town Youth Services for the past 7 years. This celebration will be family-focused and will kickoff Tri-Town Youth Services' "Friends of Tri-Town" initiative.

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

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