Reverend W. Alan Froggatt, Pastor & Teacher
Every Member of the Congregation, Ministers
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THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHESTER

An Open & Affirming Congregation of
The United Church of Christ
June 18, 2023 10:00 a.m.
Third Sunday after Pentecost

PREPARATION FOR THE WORD

PRELUDE — *Amazing Grace* — J. Newton

INTROIT — *This is the Day* — L. Garrett

CALL TO WORSHIP (Micah 6.6-8)

With what shall we come before the Lord, and bring ourselves before God on high?
Shall we bring the Lord burnt offerings and sacrifices?
Shall we dedicate our first born, the fruit of our bodies for the sin of our souls?
No, but God <u>has</u> shown us what is right and good;
And what, then, does the Lord require of us?
To do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with our God. Amen.

*HYMN — *God of Justice, God of Mercy* — 504

God of justice, God of mercy, make us merciful and just! Help us see all your creation as from you a sacred trust. And when people cry in anguish for their own or other's pain, show us ways to make a diff'rence. O dear God, make us humane!

How can we, as people chosen by your grace for service here how endure another's hardship without offering hope or cheer! God, forgive us, we beseech you, when our love fails to empower. Teach us how to be more faithful in this present crucial hour.

You have formed us, God of rainbows, in your image for your will. Seeing our diverse reflections, trusting you, we marvel still; for our colors, strengths and talents show what one alone would lack, calling us to work together – brown, red, golden, white and black.

Grant all people work with meaning, strength to care for those they love. Food for table, truth for telling, challenges to rise above. But remind us, God of justice, this is now our work, our call! Changing life's oppressive systems into ones empow'ring all.

So the vision you have planted in each human mind and heart now becomes the spark of action calling us to do our part. Keep that vision clear before us: men and women, girls and boys, valued in response and witness, sharing challenges and joys.

INVOCATION Deb Calamari, Deacon

God of liberation and love, you have created us all in your image; you have given us your vision of love, peace and dignity for all. Yet so many of your children have suffered unjust persecution, extreme poverty and violence; today we remember and pray for the refugees, asylum seekers and immigrants. We remember that you have called us to be your hands and feet in the world, to feed the hungry, to clothe the naked and to set the captives free. Lord, hear our prayer for peace, for justice and for liberation; hear our prayer for the coming of your realm; be with us, empower us, guide and sustain us in our mission to welcome every neighbor as we would be welcomed; in Jesus' name, Amen.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Isaiah 1.16-20
Deuteronomy 10.16-19

ANTHEM *Lift Every Voice and Sing* J.W and J.R. Johnson

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON Revelation 7.9-12
James 2.1-9

SERMON *"JEDI: Keeping Peace in the Universe"* Rev. W. Alan Froggatt

"Learn to do good; seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, plead for the widow. "
(Isaiah 1.17)

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

OFFERTORY

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

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS (insert)
Hilarie Clark Moore, Jeffrey Moore, Ernest Phillips, May Phillips, Stephen Roach and Susanne Spellacy.

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Pastor: We rejoice that the following people have indicated their desire to covenant with us in this household of faith. They are here to profess their faith, to affirm their baptism and to join us in Christ's ministry of love.

(As the pastor announces the names of those being received, they are asked to come forward.)

Friends in Christ, we are all received into the church through the sacrament of baptism. Jesus Christ has chosen you and in baptism has joined you to himself. He has called you, together with us, into the church, which is his body. Now, he has brought you to this time and place to unite with us in the ministries and blessings of this congregation. As you come into our midst, we invite you to reaffirm your faith as members of the church of Jesus Christ.

Hilarie and Jeff, Ernest and May, Stephen and Susanne do you desire to affirm your baptism into the faith and family of Jesus Christ? **I do.**
Do you reaffirm your faith in God as your Creator, in Christ as your Lord and Savior and in the Holy Spirit as your Strength? **I do.**
Do you promise to participate in the life and mission of this family of God's people, sharing regularly in the worship of God and enlisting in the work of this congregation as it serves the community and the world? **I promise, with the help of God.**

Deacon: Owning of the Covenant (All who are able please stand and say together):
We covenant one with another to seek and respond to the Word and Will of God, and to walk together in the ways of the Lord, made known and to be made known to us. We hold it to be the mission of the Church: "Relying on the Holy Spirit to lead us and empower us, we worship God, and witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ with loving service and commitment to justice and peace."

All: We welcome you with joy as partners in the common life of this church. We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. May God grant that together we may continue to grow in the knowledge, faith and love as we are witnesses of our risen Lord.

Pastor: In the name of Jesus Christ and on behalf of the United Church of Chester, we extend to you the hand of Christian love, welcoming you into the company of this congregation.

(The deacon shall extend the right hand of fellowship to the new members.)

Pastor: Go forth to serve God and one another. May the peace of God which passes all understanding keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Amen.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

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

POEM *to the Diaspora* Gwendolyn Brooks (1917-2000)

*HYMN *O Day of God, Draw Near* 516

O day of God, draw near in beauty and in power, come with your timeless judgement now to match our present hour.

Bring to our troubled minds, uncertain and afraid, the quiet of a steadfast faith, calm of a call obeyed.

Bring justice to our land, that all may dwell secure, and finely build for days to come foundations that endure.

Bring to our world of strife your sovereign word of peace, that war may haunt the earth no more and desolation cease.

O day of God, draw near as at creation's birth; let there be light again, and let your judgement reign on earth.

BLESSING & BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE *Shalom To You* Traditional Spanish melody

LOOKING AHEAD

June 18	5:00 pm	Soup Kitchen	June 23	**8:15 am**	**No Coffice Hours**
June 20	8:30 am	Yoga	June 25	**10:00 am**	**Worship**
				11:00 am	**Trustees Meeting**
				5:00 pm	Soup Kitchen
June 22	8:30 am	Yoga			

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 **Sue Germini-Humble**. Flowers on the altar were provided by **Sue Germini-Humble** in celebration of our new members! Coffee hour is being hosted by **Diane Lindsay.**

Summer Worship Service Hours
July is just around the corner and our Sunday worship service will move from 10:00 am to 9:00 am beginning July 2nd.

Welcome New Members: Hilarie Clark Moore, Jeffrey Moore, Ernest Phillips, May Phillips, Stephen Roach and Susanne Spellacy.

Happy 50th anniversary to Claudia and Ed Epright who were married on June 22, 1973.

ALAN'S OFFICE HOURS: Alan will be working remotely this week.

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