THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHESTER

An Open & Affirming Congregation of
The United Church of Christ
June 4, 2023 10:00 a.m.
Trinity Sunday

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

PREPARATION FOR THE WORD

PRELUDE *Air* J.S. Bach

INTROIT *As We Are Gathered* J. Daniels

CALL TO WORSHIP

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.
Behold, our God is the Creator.
In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
Behold, our God is the Redeemer.
The earth was without form, and void, and darkness was upon the face of the deep; and the Spirit of God was moving over the face of the waters.
Behold our God is the Spirit.
Let us worship the God who is one in three, three in one;
Let us worship the God who heals our brokenness and gathers up all our meanings. Amen.

*HYMN *O Morning Star, So Fair and Bright* 161

O Morning Star, how fair and bright, your beams shine forth in truth and light! Our Sovereign meek and lowly! O Root of Jesse, Promised One, our only Savior, you have won our hearts to serve you solely! You are holy, great and glorious, all victorious, rich in blessing, rule and might o'er all possessing.

Come heavenly Brightness, Light divine, and deep within our hearts now shine; there light a flame undying! In your one body let us be as living branches of a tree, your life our lives supplying. Longing for you does possess us; turn and bless us; here in sadness eye and heart long for your gladness.

INVOCATION Deb Calamari, Deacon

We praise you, God our Creator, for the richness of your creation, for the uniqueness of each person, for the creativity which sustains and renews our cultures, for your faithfulness toward your people. We praise you, Jesus our Lord, for your constant interest in our affairs, for your identification with the poor, for your sacrifice for all on the cross, for revealing the true face of humanity to all people. We praise you, God the Spirit, for your inspiration of life, for your insistence to draw us always to Christ, for the infusion of agitation among your people, for your patient preparation of the fulfillment of history. Amen.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Psalm 96.1-9

ANTHEM *Follow Rain and Rivers* R. Giles

Follow rain and rivers, gently flowing streams,
To the bluest ocean that you've ever seen.
Climb the hills and meadows; see the pure white snow.
From the highest mountains see the world below.

Whose gifts are these, so pure and lovely?
Whose love is this? Given so freely?
Look all around and share His mighty plan,
His love for you and for your fellow man.

Follow rain and rivers, gently flowing streams,
To the bluest ocean that you've ever seen.
Follow clouds and starlight thru the evening air.
See the world around us, made with loving care.

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON Romans 12.3-13

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgement, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness. Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

SERMON *"Basically Biblically Bach"* Rev. W. Alan Froggatt

"O sing to the Lord a new song, sing to the Lord all the earth –
sing and bless the name of the Lord!"
(Psalm 96.1-2)

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

OFFERTORY *How Beautiful* T. Paris and L. Larson

How beautiful the hands that served
The wine and the bread and the children of earth.
How beautiful the feet that walked
The long dusty roads and the hill to the cross,
How beautiful is the body of Christ.

And as He laid down His life, we offer this sacrifice,
That we will live just as He died, willing to pay the price.

How beautiful the feet that bring
The sound of good news and the love of the King.
How beautiful the hands that serve

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 *My Trinity* Robert William Service (1874-1958)

*HYMN *We Yearn, O Christ, For Wholeness* 395

We yearn, O Christ, for wholeness and for your healing touch; too long have we felt helpless; our burdens seemed too much. Forgetting all pretenses we make our pleadings heard, in hope and expectation await your gracious word.

We long to have companions who travel by our side, strong friends to call and answer with whom we are allied; as we lift up each other when struggles lay us low, community will flourish; our faith and caring grow.

We need your living presence, O Christ of Galilee, a presence that revives us and sets our spirits free. No longer are we fearful, your love pervades each place. Empower us with courage to claim your healing grace.

BLESSING & BENEDICTION

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

LOOKING AHEAD

June 4	5:00 pm	Soup Kitchen	June 8	8:30 am 10:00 am 6:30 pm 7:00 pm	Yoga Backpack Program Scouts – Wolf Den **Choir Rehearsal**
June 5	5:15 pm 6:30 pm	Scouts – Lions & Tigers Irish Dance Group	June 9	**8:15 am** **9:30 am**	**Coffice Hours at Simon's Marketplace** **Montessori Commencement**
June 6	8:30 am 6:30 pm	Yoga Scouts – Arrows of Light	June 11	**10:00 am** 5:00 pm	**Worship** Soup Kitchen
June 7	6:00 pm	Scouts – Bear Den			

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 June is **Deb Calamari.** Our Greeter for today is **Daphne Stitt**. Flowers on the altar were provided by **Deb Calamari** in celebration of her son's and grandson's birthdays this week. Coffee hour is being hosted by **Laurel Johnson**.

Interested in becoming a member of the church? Please join us in the parlor after the worship on Sunday, June 11th for a short meeting.

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.