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
August 27, 2023, 9:00 a.m.
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

WELCOME — Daphne Stitt, Deacon

PRELUDE — *St. Anthony Chorale* — J. Haydn

INTROIT — *Let the Words of My Mouth* — W. Wiersbe

CALL TO WORSHIP — (Iona Abbey Worship Book)

The world belongs to God,
The earth and all its people.
How good it is, how wonderful,
To live together in community.
Love and faith come together,
Justice and peace join hands.
If Christ's disciples keep silent,
These stones would shout aloud.
Open our lips, O God,
And our mouths shall proclaim your praise. Amen.

* HYMN — *O For a World* — 500

O for a world where everyone respects each other's ways, where love is lived and all is done with justice and with praise.

O for a world where goods are shared and misery relieved, where truth is spoken, children spared, and equality achieved.

We welcome one world family and struggle with each choice that opens us to unity and gives our vision voice.

The poor are rich, the weak are strong, the foolish ones are wise. Tell all who mourn: outcasts belong, who perishes will rise.

O for a world preparing for God's glorious reign of peace, where time and tears will be no more, and all but love will cease.

*INVOCATION

Gracious and holy God, we come to you because you have first come to us. We know you because you have revealed yourself. Give us in this morning of worship a new sense of your Spirit breathing through us. Lift our hearts with the wings of song; heal our souls with the balm of prayer; enliven our minds with the words of scripture and interpretation; and newly enable us to dedicate our strength, our substance, and our service to your work in the world. We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Genesis 16.7-15

ANTHEM *Shout to the Lord* D. Zschach
Bridget Forant (soloist)

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON Matthew 5.1-12

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:
'Blessed are you poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
'Blessed are you who mourn, for they will be comforted.
'Blessed are you meek, for they will inherit the earth.
'Blessed are you who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.
'Blessed are you merciful, for they will receive mercy.
'Blessed are you pure in heart, for they will see God.
'Blessed are you peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.
'Blessed are you who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
'Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

SERMON *"Sabbatical Suprises"* Rev. W. Alan Froggatt
(**Five to Seven for Good Behavior – VI**)

"Blessed are you who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for you will be filled."
(Matthew 5.6)

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

OFFERTORY *Pastorale* R. Lay

*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 AND LORD'S PRAYER *("trespasses")*

POEM *If Once You Have Slept on an Island* Rachel Field (1894-1942)

*HYMN *This Is My Song* 515

This is my song, O God of all the nations, a song of peace for lands afar and mine. This is my home, the country where my heart is; here are my hopes, my dreams, my holy shrine; but other hearts in other lands are beating with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.

My country's skies are bluer than the ocean, and sunlight beams on cloverleaf and pine; but other lands have sunlight too, and clover, and skies are everywhere as blue as mine. O hear my song, O God of all the nations, a song of peace for their land and for mine.

This is my prayer, O Ruler of all nations: let your reign come; on earth your will be done. In peace may all earth's people draw together, and hearts united learn to live as one. O hear my prayer, O God of all the nations; myself I give you; let your will be done.

*BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE *Go Now In Peace* D. Besig

LOOKING AHEAD

August 27	5:00 pm	Soup Kitchen	September 1	**8:15 am**	**Coffice Hours at Simon's Marketplace**
August 29	8:30 am 4:00 pm	Yoga Montessori School Pot Luck	September 3	**10:00 am** 5:00 pm	**Worship** Soup Kitchen
August 31	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 this week is **Daphne Stitt.** Our Greeter for today is **Deb Calamari**. Flowers on the altar were provided by **Susanne Spellacy.**

Worship Service returns to 10:00 am starting next Sunday

Rally Day – September 10th
All are invited! Bring a dish to share for a church picnic following the worship service! There will be games and lots of fun!

Closer to Free Fundraiser
On September 9th our parking lot will be used as a rest stop for the Closer to Free Fundraiser bicycle ride for Smilow Cancer Center. If you are interested in volunteering please contact the church office at 860 526-2697.

ALAN'S OFFICE HOURS: Wednesday – Friday 8:30 am – 12:30 pm, or by appointment

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