Reverend W. Alan Froggatt, Minister
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THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHESTER

An Open & Affirming Congregation of
The United Church of Christ
September 15, 2024 10:00 a.m.
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

PREPARATION FOR THE WORD

WELCOME — Deb Calamari, Deacon

PRELUDE

INTROIT — *As We Gather* — M. Fay and T. Coomes

CALL TO WORSHIP
We wait for God, who is the salvation of the world.
We are glad and rejoice in God's salvation.
God will wipe the tears from every face, and will swallow up darkness forever.
We are glad and rejoice in God's salvation.
God will take away all reproach and will make a feast for the peoples of the earth.
We will act with compassion, we will walk with justice and we will silence reproach; we will set a table for all people that God's feast may be well-prepared and deeply enjoyed. Amen.

*HYMN — *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name* — 107

All hail the power of Jesus' name! Let angels prostrate fall; bring forth the royal diadem, and crown him Lord of all. Bring forth the royal diadem, and crown him Lord of all.

O martyrs, prophets, seers of old, who from God's altar call, extol the Savior you foretold, and crown him Lord of all. Extol the Savior you foretold, and crown him Lord of all.

All heirs of Israel's faithful race, who heed the Gospel's call, proclaim the wonder of Christ's grace, and crown him Lord of all. Proclaim the wonder of Christ's grace, and crown him Lord of all.

Let every kindred, every tribe, on this terrestrial ball, to Christ all majesty ascribe, and crown him Lord of all. To Christ all majesty ascribe, and crown him Lord of all.

Before his cross, with heaven's throng, we on our knees will fall; we'll join the everlasting song, and crown him Lord of all. We'll join the everlasting song, and crown him Lord of all.

INVOCATION

Eternal God, out of a noisy and demanding world, we come now to this quiet place to worship you and praise you. You are never far from us, but sometimes we become distracted in heart and will, and thereby keep you at a distance. This is the hour of opportunity; this is the hour of grace; this is the hour of salvation. Open our minds and hearts, that with eager and responsive souls we might welcome you, and know we are welcomed by you, through Christ our Lord, Amen.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Isaiah 43.1-11

ANTHEM

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON Luke 23.32-43

Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with Jesus. When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. And they cast lots to divide his clothing. And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, 'He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!' The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, and saying, 'If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!' There was also an inscription over him, 'This is the King of the Jews.' One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, 'Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!' But the other rebuked him, saying, 'Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.' Then he said, 'Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.' He replied, 'Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.'

SERMON *"Jesus Saves"* Rev. W. Alan Froggatt

"For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior"
(Isaiah 43.3)

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

JOYS AND CONCERNS

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

POEM *The Real Prayers Are Not the Words, But the Attention that Comes First* (2005)
Mary Oliver (1935-2019)

*HYMN *When We Are Living* 415

When we are living, it is in Christ Jesus, and when we're dying, it is in the Lord. Both in our living and in our dying, we belong to God, we belong to God.

Through all our living, we our fruits must give. Good works of service are for offering. When we are giving, or when receiving, we belong to God, we belong to God.

'Mid times of sorrow and in times of pain, when sensing beauty or in love's embrace, whether we suffer, or sing rejoicing, we belong to God, we belong to God.

Across this wide world, we shall always find those who are crying with no peace of mind, but when we help them, or when we feed them, we belong to God, we belong to God.

Shalom to you now, shalom my friends. May God's full mercies bless you, my friends, in all your living, and through your loving, Christ be your shalom, Christ be your shalom.

*BLESSING & BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE *Go Now in Peace* D. Besig

LOOKING AHEAD

September 15	**10:00 am** 5:00 pm	**Worship** Soup Kitchen	September 19	8:30 am **7:00 pm**	Yoga **Choir Rehearsal**
September 16	5:30 pm	Irish Dance Classes	September 20	**8:15 am**	**Coffice Hours at The Villager**
September 17	8:30 am	Yoga	September 21	2:00 pm	Chester HS Alumni Reunion
			September 22	**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 September is **Deb Germini Calamari.** You were greeted this morning by **Marie Ready.** Chancel Flowers were provided by **Deb Germini Calamari**. Coffee Hour is being hosted by **Diane Lindsay** and **Jennifer Gill**

ALAN'S OFFICE HOURS: Wednesday - Friday 8:30 am to 12:30 pm or by appointment.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday - Friday 9:00 am to 1:00 pm