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 22, 2024 10:00 a.m.
Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

PREPARATION FOR THE WORD

WELCOME — Deb Calamari, Deacon

PRELUDE

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

CALL TO WORSHIP (Galatians 3.28, adapted)

So then there is no longer Jew or Greek;
There is no longer friend or enemy;
There is no longer slave or free;
There is no longer white or black;
There is no longer male or female;
There is no longer gay or straight;
For we are all one in Christ Jesus;
And if we belong to Christ, then we are heirs according to God's promise.
Amen.

*HYMN — *Arise, Your Light Has Come* — 167

Arise, your light has come! The Spirit's call obey; show forth the glory of your God which shines on you today.

Arise your light has come! Fling wide the prison door; proclaim the captive's liberty, good tidings to the poor.

Arise, your light has come! All you in sorrow born, bind up the broken-hearted ones and comfort those who mourn.

Arise, your light has come! The mountains burst in song! Rise up like eagles on the wing, God's pow'r will make us strong.

INVOCATION

We come into your presence this morning, O Holy Mystery, proclaiming the power of your love:
The power of God who created the world is the power of love;
The power in Jesus which redeems the world is the power of love;
The power of the Spirit uniting us as one is the power of love;
This is how we come into your presence this morning, O Holy Mystery, proclaiming the power of your love. Amen.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Isaiah 61.1-3

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me, and has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display God's glory.

ANTHEM *O Give Thanks* H. Hopson

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON Luke 4.14-21 (p.938)

SERMON *"Can't Pray a Lie: The Barefoot Prophet"* Rev. W. Alan Froggatt

"Cast your bread upon the waters, for after many days you will get it back."
(Ecclesiastes 11.1)

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

OFFERTORY *Peace I Leave with You* W. A. Mozart

*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 *Ode to Stephen Dowling Bots, Dec'd.* Emmeline Grangerford (Mark Twain)

*HYMN *Community of Christ* 502

Community of Christ, who make the cross your own, live out your creed and risk your life for God alone: the God who wears your face, to whom all worlds belong, whose children are of every race and every song.

Community of Christ, look past the church's door and see the homeless, see the hungry, and the poor. Take hands with the oppressed, the jobless in your street, take towel ad water, that you wash your neighbor's feet.

Community of Christ, through whom the word must sound cry out for justice and for peace the whole world round: disarm the powers that war and all that can destroy, turn bombs to bread, and tears of anguish into joy.

When menace melts away, so shall God's will be done, the climate of the world be peace and Christ its Sun; our currency be love and kindliness our law, our food and faith be shared as one for evermore.

*BLESSING & BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE *Go Now in Peace* D. Besig

LOOKING AHEAD

September 22	**10:00 am** 5:00 pm	**Worship** Soup Kitchen	September 26	8:30 am 6:30 pm **7:00 pm**	Yoga Scouts **Choir Rehearsal**
September 23	5:30 pm	Irish Dance Classes	September 27	**8:15 am**	**Coffice Hours at Simon's Marketplace**
September 24	8:30 am 6:30 pm	Yoga Scouts	September 29	**10:00 am** **11:00 am** 5:00 pm	**Worship** **Trustees Mtg** Soup Kitchen
September 25	6:00 pm	Scouts			

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 **Norma Stearns.** Chancel Flowers were provided by **Sue Germini Humble** in celebration of her dad's birthday. Coffee Hour is being hosted by

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