Reverend W. Alan Froggatt, Minister
Karli Gilbertson, Music Director and Organist
Post Office Box 383, Chester, Connecticut 06412 860-526-2697
E-mail: unitedchester@sbcglobal.net web site: www.uccchester.org

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHESTER

An Open & Affirming Congregation of
The United Church of Christ
January 26, 2025 10:00 a.m.
Third Sunday after Epiphany

PREPARATION FOR THE WORD

WELCOME — Jennifer Gill, Deacon

PRELUDE

INTROIT — *Spirit of the Living God* — D. Iverson

CALL TO WORSHIP
People of God, look around and see the faces of those we know and love;
Neighbors and friends, sisters and brothers, a community of kindred hearts.
People of God, look around and see the faces of those we hardly know;
Strangers, sojourners, forgotten friends, the ones who need an outstretched hand.
People of God, look around and see all the images of God assembled here!
In ourselves, in you, in all humanity, God's spirit shines for all to see.
People of God, come:
Let us worship together!

*HYMN — *Rejoice, O Pure in Heart* — 29

Rejoice, O pure in heart; rejoice, give thanks and sing; your festal banner wave on high, your praise to Christ now bring. Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice, give thanks and sing.

Bright youth and snow-crowned age, strong souls and spirits meek, raise high your free, exulting song, God's wondrous praises speak. Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice, give thanks and sing.

With voice as full and strong as ocean's surging praise, send forth the hymns the saints have loved, the psalms of ancient days. Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice, give thanks and sing.

Yes, on through life's long path, still chanting as you go, from youth to age, by night and day, in gladness and in woe. Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice, give thanks and sing.

INVOCATION

Loving God, open our hearts that we may feel the breath and play of your Spirit. Unclench our hands that we may reach out to one another, to touch and be healed. Open our lips that we may drink in the delight and wonder of life. Open our eyes that we may see Your image in friend and stranger alike. Breathe your Spirit into us, and touch our lives with the life of Christ in whose name we pray, Amen.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Leviticus 19, selected verses

The Lord spoke to Moses, saying: Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them: You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy.

When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap to the very edges of your field, or gather the gleanings of your harvest. You shall not strip your vineyard bare, or gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the poor and the alien: I am the Lord your God.

You shall not hate in your heart anyone of your kin; you shall reprove your neighbor, or you will incur guilt yourself. You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord.

When an alien resides with you in your land, you shall not oppress the alien. The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the alien as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God.

ANTHEM *The Spirit of the Lord* P. Scholtes

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON Matthew 5. 38-48

SERMON *"Recalculating…"* Rev. W. Alan Froggatt

"For the Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who is not partial and takes no bribe, who executes justice for the orphan and the widow, and who loves the strangers, providing them with food and clothing. You shall also love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt."
(Deuteronomy 10 17-19)

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

OFFERTORY *His Beautiful Hands* C. Nygard, Jr.

*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 *To a Stranger* Walt Whitman (1819-1892)

*HYMN *Make Me a Channel of Your Peace* insert

Make me a channel of your peace. Where there is hatred let me bring your love.
Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord, and where there's doubt, true faith in you.
Refrain: Master, grant that I may never seek so much to be consoled as to console, to be understood, as to understand, to be loved, as to love with all my soul.

Make me a channel of your peace. Where there's despair in life let me bring hope.
Where there is darkness, only light, and where there's sadness ever joy.
Refrain

Make me a channel of your peace. It is in pardoning that we are pardoned, in giving of ourselves that we receive, and in dying that we're born to eternal life.
Refrain

*BLESSING & BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE *May the Road Rise to Meet You* A. Lovelace

(* all who are able may stand)

LOOKING AHEAD

January 26	**10:00 am** 5:00 pm	**Worship** Soup Kitchen	January 30	8:30 am **7:00 pm**	Yoga **Choir Rehearsal**
January 27	5:30 pm	Irish Dance	January 31	**8:15 am**	**Coffice Hours – Simon's Marketplace**
January 28	8:30 am 6:00 pm 6:00 pm	Yoga Scouts Chester Garden Club	February 2	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**.

This deacon for the month of January is **Jennifer Gill.** Chancel Flowers were provided by **Marie Ready** in memory of her father Al and to remember all others who have succumbed to or are still struggling with alcohol or drug addiction.. Coffee Hour is being hosted by **Pat** and **Rick Holloway**

Un-Birthday Party – February 9th
Our annual Un-Birthday Party celebration is coming on February 9th where everyone celebrates a birthday! Please join us following the worship service for coffee, camaraderie and cake! There are sign up sheets in the narthex and fellowship hall if you would like to bring a cake for the celebration!

2025 Offering Envelopes are available in the narthex. Please see **Diane Lindsay** if you need a supply of envelopes.

ALAN'S OFFICE HOURS: Wednesday-Friday 8:30 am-12:30 pm, other times by appointment

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