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THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHESTER

An Open & Affirming Congregation of
The United Church of Christ
March 16 2025, 10:00 a.m.
Second Sunday in Lent

PREPARATION FOR THE WORD

WELCOME — Deb Calamari, Deacon

PRELUDE — *Give Me Jesus* (African American Spiritual arr. by D. Kidwell)

INTROIT — *Come and Fill Our Hearts* — Taize

CALL TO WORSHIP

Holy God, help us this morning to discover the holy in the ordinary;
Help us to recognize the sacred in the secular:
When a simple, unthinking act of charity warms a heart;
When a word, thoughtfully spoken, calms a troubled spirit.
Your presence in our lives is always transformative;
May we be the change we wish to see in our world. Amen.

*HYMN — *We Are Walking* — 366
Marching/Singing/Dancing/Praying

We are walking in the light of God, we are walking in the light of God. We are walking in the light of the light of God. We are walking, walking, we are walking, walking, we are walking in the light of God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Dear God, it is so difficult for us not to be anxious: we worry about work and money, about food and health, about weather and crops, about war and politics, about loving and being loved; we worry and fear about worry and fear themselves. Remind us that perfect love casts out all fear, and that the shadow of worry fades when we come to the light of Christ. Forgive us the anxiety that impedes faith, and receive us as we come to you with open hands, open hearts and open minds. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Psalm 27

ANTHEM *Joseph's Song* J. Martin
(Ed Epright, soloist)

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON Luke 10.38-42

Now as they went on their way, Jesus entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to what he was saying. But Martha was distracted by her many tasks; so she came to him and asked, 'Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me.' But the Lord answered her, 'Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her.'

SERMON *"Five Years Later"* Rev. W. Alan Froggatt

"The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? Be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!"
(Psalm 27.1, 14)

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

OFFERTORY *Hear My Prayer* M. Hogan

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 *Pandemic* Lynn Ungar (2020)

*HYMN *O Christ the Same*

O Christ the same, through all our story's pages, our loves and hopes, our failures and our fears; eternal Lord, the King of all the ages, unchanging still amid the passing years: O living Word, the source of all creation, who spread the skies, and set the stars ablaze, O Christ the same, who wrought our whole salvation, we bring our thanks for all our yesterdays.

O Christ the same, the friend of sinners, sharing our inmost thoughts, the secrets none can hide, still as of old upon your body bearing the marks of love, in triumph glorified: O Son of Man, who stooped for us from heaven, O Prince of life, in all your saving power, O Christ the same, to whom our hearts be given, we bring our thanks for this the present hour.

O Christ the same, secure within whose keeping our lives and loves, our days and years remain, our work and rest, our waking and our sleeping, our calm and storm, our pleasure and our pain: O Lord of love, for all our joys and sorrows, for all our hopes, when earth shall fade and flee, O Christ the same, beyond our brief tomorrows, we bring our thanks for all that is to be.

*BLESSING & BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE *My Peace* Taize

*(all who are able may stand)

LOOKING AHEAD

March 16	**10:00 am** **11:00 am** 11:30 am 5:00 pm	**Worship** **Council Mtg** Irish Dancers Soup Kitchen	March 20	8:30 am 6:30 pm **7:00 pm**	Yoga Scouts – All Pack Meeting **Choir Rehearsal**
March 17	5:30 pm	Irish Dance	March 21	**8:15 am**	**No Coffice Hours**
March 18	8:30 am 6:00 pm	Yoga Scouts	March 23	**10:00 am** **11:00 am** 5:00 pm	**Worship** **Trustees Mtg** 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 March is **Deb Germini Calamari.** Chancel Flowers provided by. You are greeted this morning by**.** Coffee hour is being hosted by. Thank you to all who volunteer!

Lenten Devotionals
"Into the Deep" Lenten devotionals are available in the narthex. One per family please.

ALAN'S OFFICE HOURS: Alan will be away this week and we are grateful to Cheryl Archer who will be leading us in worship next week.

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