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

An Open & Affirming Congregation of
The United Church of Christ
April 6, 2025 10:00 a.m.
Fifth Sunday in Lent

PREPARATION FOR THE WORD

WELCOME		Diane Lindsay, Deacon
PRELUDE	*The Sound of Silence*	Simon and Garfunkel
INTROIT	*Come and Fill Our Hearts*	Taize

CALL TO WORSHIP
Our God, open us this morning to the powerful influence of your Spirit:
Open our eyes to the wonders of your creation.
Open our ears to words of justice and truth.
Open our mouths to words of love and compassion.
Open our arms to receive our brothers and sisters.
Open our hearts to be moved by your Spirit for service in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

*HYMN *In the Cross of Christ I Glory* 185

In the cross of Christ I glory, towering o'er the wrecks of time; all the light of sacred story gathers round its head sublime.

When the woes of life o'er take me, hopes deceive, and fears annoy, never shall the cross forsake me: lo! it glows with peace and joy.

When the sun of bliss is beaming light and love upon my way, from the cross the radiance streaming adds more luster to the day.

Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure, by the cross are sanctified; peace is there that knows no measure, joys that through all time abide.

In the cross of Christ I glory, towering o'er the wrecks of time; all the light of sacred story gathers round its head sublime.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord Christ, our teacher and our friend, we have not listened for your word amid the clamor of words all around us. We are more pleased to repeat familiar tunes than to listen for new melodies and strange harmonies. We try harder to defend what we think we know than to reach for what is beyond our grasp. Slow to trust, afraid of the unknown, we are cautious to hear and do your will. We pray for ears to hear the cries of our neighbors and for hearts which resonate with your Spirit. Silence us and instruct us until we learn afresh to sing the songs of faith, hope and love. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Isaiah 53.7-9

ANTHEM *Come By Here* K. Pederson

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON Mark 15.1-5

As soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. Pilate asked him, 'Are you the King of the Jews?' He answered him, 'You say so.' Then the chief priests accused him of many things. Pilate asked him again, 'Have you no answer? See how many charges they bring against you.' But Jesus made no further reply, so that Pilate was amazed.

SERMON *"Words Fail Me"* Rev. W. Alan Froggatt

"He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth… like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth."
(Isaiah 53.7)

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

OFFERTORY *How Beautiful* T. Paris

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")*

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

POEM *Silence* Billy Collins (1941 -)

*HYMN *Let Us Break Bread Together* 311

Let us break bread together on our knees; Let us break bread together on our knees;
When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun, O Lord, have mercy on me.

Let us drink wine together on our knees; Let us drink wine together on our knees;
When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun, O Lord, have mercy on me.

Let us praise God together on our knees; Let us praise God together on our knees;
When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun, O Lord, have mercy on me.

*BLESSING & BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE *My Peace* Taize

(*all who are able may stand)

LOOKING AHEAD

April 6	**10:00 am**	**Worship**	April 10	8:30 am	Yoga

	5:00 pm	Soup Kitchen		6:30 pm **7:00 pm**	Scouts **Choir**
April 7	5:30 pm	Irish Dance	April 11	**8:15 am**	**Coffice Hours** **Simon's Marketplace**
April 8	8:30 am 6:00 pm 7:15 pm	Yoga Scouts Chester GC	April 13	**10:00 am** **11:00 am** 5:00 pm	**Worship** **Council Mtg** Soup Kitchen
April 9	6:30 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 April is **Diane Lindsay.** Chancel Flowers provided by **Marie Ready** are in memory of her father, and in celebration of springtime. You are greeted this morning by **Elaine Gaudette** and **Bill Lostocco.** Coffee Hour is being hosted by the generosity of **Hilarie Clark Moore.** Thank you to all who volunteer!

Reminder Council Meeting on April 13th following the worship service.

Rummage and Bake Sale – Saturday, May 3rd
The Annual Rummage and Bake Sale is coming! Donations will be accepted until Thursday, May 1st. Set-up is scheduled to start on Saturday, April 26th at 10:00 am and will continue throughout the week. Baked items can be dropped off on Friday May 2nd. Please contact Marie Ready at 860.526.1487 or Judy Schondorf at 860.399.7772 for any questions.

Upcoming Rotary events – April 26th Earth Day, May 3rd Duck Race – please check out posters in Fellowship Hall.

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

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