Reverend W. Alan Froggatt, Pastor & Teacher
Every Member of the Congregation, Ministers
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THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHESTER

An Open & Affirming Congregation of
The United Church of Christ
April 20, 2025 10:00 a.m.
Easter Day

PREPARATION FOR THE WORD

PRELUDE *Processional VII in B Flat Major* D. Bellando

INTROIT *Alleluia Sing for Joy* (English Tune)

CALL TO WORSHIP
Christ is risen!
Christ is risen indeed!
Christ is risen!
Christ is risen indeed!
Christ is risen!
Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia and Amen!

*HYMN *Christ the Lord Is Risen Today* 205

Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia! Mortal tongues and angels say: Alleluia! Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia! Sing, ye heavens and earth reply: Alleluia!

Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia! Where, O death is now thy sting? Alleluia! Dying once, he all doth save, Alleluia! Where thy victory, O grave? Alleluia!

Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia! Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia! Death in vain forbids him rise, Alleluia! Christ has opened Paradise, Alleluia!

Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia! Following our exalted Head, Alleluia! Made like him, like him we rise, Alleluia! Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!

Hail the Lord of earth and heaven! Alleluia! Praise to thee by both be given, Alleluia! Thee we greet triumphant now, Alleluia! Hail, the Resurrection thou! Alleluia!

INVOCATION

Powerful and loving God, you have raised Jesus Christ from dead; God, raise us as well. May fresh life burst among us like buds awakening to the spring. May shells of distrust which keep us from loving be broken away so that new life can emerge. May new community spring up where fear has kept us from the stranger. Keep us patient in making peace and building justice. Teach us to trust the slow process from seed to stem, from stem to flower, from flower to fruit. Breathe on us with your loving Spirit, through the risen Christ; Amen.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Hosea 6.1-3

'Come, let us return to the Lord; who has torn, and will heal us; who has struck down, and will bind us up. Who after two days will revive us; and on the third day will raise us up, that we may live before the Lord in majesty. Let us know, let us press on to know the Lord; whose appearing is as sure as the dawn; who will come to us like the showers, like the spring rains that water the earth.'

ANTHEM *Joyful, Joyful* L.v. Beethoven arr R. Nichols

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON Luke 24.1-11

SERMON *"Now You See Him …"* Rev. W. Alan Froggatt

"They found the stone rolled away from the tomb,
but when they went in, they did not find the body."
(Luke 24.2,3)

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

OFFERTORY *Hallelujah Chorus* G.F. Handel

*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 *Messenger* Mary Oliver (1935-2019)

*HYMN *The Day of Resurrection* 216

The day of resurrection! Earth, tell it out abroad; the Passover of gladness, the Passover of God. From death to life eternal from sin's dominion free, our Christ has brough us over with hymns of victory.

Our hearts be pure from evil, that we may see aright our Christ in rays eternal of resurrection light; And, listening to his accents, may hear so calm and plain his own "All hail," and, hearing, may raise the victor strain.

New let the heavens be joyful, let earth her song begin, the world resound in triumph, and all that is therein; Let all things seen and unseen their notes of gladness blend, for Christ the Lord is risen, our joy that has no end.

BLESSING & BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE *Alleluia Sing for Joy* (English Tune)

* - those who are able may stand

LOOKING AHEAD

April 20	**10:00 am** 5:00 pm	**Worship – Easter Day** Soup Kitchen	April 24	6:30 pm **7:00 pm**	Scouts **Choir Rehearsal**
April 21	6:30 pm	Irish Dance	April 25	**8:15 am**	**Coffice Hours at Simon's Marketplace**
April 22	8:30 am 6:30 pm	Yoga Scouts	April 26	**9:00 am**	**Rummage Sale Set-up Begins**
			April 27	**10:00 am**	**Worship** No 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 April is **Diane Lindsay.** Flowers were provided by the congregation in memory of or in celebration of loved ones – see insert for list. The greeter this morning is someone with a friendly smile and a warm heart.

New Member meeting – Sunday May 3rd following the worship service. If interested in becoming a new member please speak with Alan.

Rummage and Bake Sale – Saturday May 3rd
Our Rummage and Bake Sale returns on Saturday, May 3rd from 9 am to 1 pm. Sign-up sheets are in Fellowship Hall for helping to set-up the week prior to the Rummage Sale and for baking items for the Bake Sale. Any questions please contact Marie Ready at 860-526-1487 or Judy Schondorf at 860-399-7772.

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

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday – Friday 9:00 am – 1:00 pm