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 27, 2025 10:00 a.m.
Second Sunday of Easter

PREPARATION FOR THE WORD

WELCOME — Diane Lindsay, Deacon

PRELUDE — *Sinfonia* — J.S. Bach
Sue Saltus, organist

INTROIT — *Alleluia Sing for Joy* — (English Tune)

CALL TO WORSHIP
Goodness is stronger than evil;
Love is stronger than hate;
Light is stronger than darkness;
Life is stronger than death;
In Easter's resurrection, eternity is ours;
Through the risen Christ who loved us, and loves us still. Amen.

*HYMN — *Crown Him With Many Crowns* — 210

Crown him with many crowns, the Lamb upon the throne; Hark! How the heavenly anthem drowns all music but its own. Awake, my soul, and sing of Christ who died for you, and to your risen Savior bring your thanks for life made new.

Crown him whose love has flowed down hands and feet and side. Look past the peak of Calvary's road to Christ the glorified. The sun that lights the sky is pale before that sight. At prayer we glimpse, then turn the eye from mysteries so bright.

Crown him the truth, the life who triumphed o'er the grave and rose victorious in the strife, this fallen world to save. Christ's glories now we sing, Christ's name we magnify, who died eternal life to bring, and lives that death may die.

Crown him who rules in peace, whose power a sceptre sways from pole to pole, that wars may cease, and all be prayer and praise: Christ's reign shall have no end, for 'round those wounded feet a fragrant garden shall extend forever green and sweet.

Crown him who holds the years, embracing space and time, Creator of the rolling spheres, ineffably sublime: all hail, Redeemer, hail! For you have died for me; your praise shall never, never fail throughout eternity.

INVOCATION (attr. St Francis of Assisi, 1181-1226)

Lord, make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love;
Where there is injury, pardon; Where there is doubt, faith;
Where there is despair, hope; Where there is darkness, light;
Where there is sadness, joy.
O divine Master, grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled, as to console;
To be understood, as to understand;
To be loved, as to love; For it is in giving that we receive. It is in pardoning that we are pardoned; And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

GOSPEL LESSON Matthew 16.13-20

ANTHEM *I Will Magnify Thee O God* J. Mosenthal
Jennifer Gill & Pat Holloway

EPISTLE LESSON Galatians 3.23-29

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian,

for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise.

SERMON *"Pope Francis' Legacy of Inclusion"* Rev. W. Alan Froggatt

"There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus."
(Galatians 3.28)

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

OFFERTORY *The Prayer Perfect* Oley Speaks

Pat & Rick Holloway

*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 from the Apostolic Exhortation, *Querida Amazonia*, Pope Francis, 2020

*HYMN *All Creatures of Our God, Now Sing* 51

All creatures of our God, now sing; lift up your voices, let them ring, Alleluia, Alleluia!
O burning sun with golden beam, O silver moon with softer gleam, O sing praises, O sing praises, Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

O rushing wind with voice so strong, O clouds that sail in heaven along, sing your praises Alleluia! O rising morn, in praise rejoice, O lights of evening, find a voice, O sing praises, O sing praises, Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

O flowing water, pure and clear, make music for your God to hear, Alleluia, Alleluia!
O fire so masterful and bright, that gives so all both warmth and light, O sing praises, O sing praises, Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Now we who are of tender heart, forgiving others, take our part singing praises, Alleluia! To God we lift our pain and care, the burdened sorrows that we bear, O sing praises, O sing praises, Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Let all things their creator bless, and worship God in humbleness, Alleluia! Alleluia! O praise the One who gives us birth, redeeming, giving life its worth, O sing praises, O sing praises, Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

*BLESSING & BENEDICTION

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

(* all who are able may stand)

LOOKING AHEAD

April 27	**10:00 am**	**Worship** No Soup Kitchen	May 1	6:30 pm **7:00 pm**	Scouts **Choir Rehearsal**
April 28	6:30 pm	Irish Dance	May 2	**8:15 am**	**Coffice Hours at Simon's Marketplace**
April 29	8:30 am 6:30 pm	Yoga Scouts	May 3	**9:00 am**	**Rummage Sale**
			May 4	**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.**

The Deacon for April is **Diane Lindsay.** Flowers were provided by **Sue Germini-Humble**. The greeter this morning is **Daphne Stitt**. Coffee hour is being hosted by **Elaine Gaudette**.

New Member meeting – Sunday May 4th 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