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

An Open & Affirming Congregation of
The United Church of Christ
May 11, 2025 10:00 a.m.
Fourth Sunday of Easter

PREPARATION FOR THE WORD

WELCOME — Claudia Epright, Deacon

PRELUDE

INTROIT — *Lord, We Ask You* — C. Kocher

CALL TO WORSHIP
In times of trouble and anxiety, O loving Creator,
May we be bearers of holy and redeeming Hope.
In times of ambiguity and moral misdirection, O compassionate Redeemer,
May we be bearers of bold and uncompromising Truth.
In times of conflict, within ourselves or across the world, O blessed Spirit,
May we be bearers of the peace that passes all understanding,
in the name of Christ Jesus our Lord, Amen.

*HYMN — *We Limit Not the Truth of God* — 1

We limit not the truth of God to our poor reach of mind, by notions of our day and sect, crude, partial, and confined. No, let a new and better hope within our hearts be stirred: The Lord hath yet more light and truth to break forth from The Word.

Darkling those faithful pilgrims went the first steps of the way; 'twas but the dawning yet to grow into the perfect day. And grow it shall, our glorious sun more fervid rays afford: The Lord hath yet more light and truth to break forth from The Word.

The valleys passed, ascending still, our souls would higher climb, and look down from supernal heights on all the bygone time. Upward we press, the air is clear, and the

sphere music heard: The Lord hath yet more light and truth to break forth from The Word.

O God, we pray that thou wilt send us increase from above; enlarge, expand all Christian souls to comprehend thy love, and make us to go on, to know with nobler powers conferred: The Lord hath yet more light and truth to break forth from The Word.

INVOCATION *The Rev. Darrell Goodwin, Executive Conference Minister, SNEUCC*

Creator of All things, Strengthen your servants in this season of sacred challenge. When our voices tremble, grant us boldness; when our hearts are weary, grant us rest; when our spirits doubt, rekindle the fire of our call. Make us bearers of hope, tellers of truth, and peacemakers in a world that forgets how to love. Let us lead not from fear, but from faith. Let us serve not alone, but together. And let us never forget that You go before us, beside us, and within us—now and always. Amen.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSON Romans 5.1-5

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

ANTHEM *A Loving Heart* T. Bushong

SCRIPTURE LESSON Ephesians 4.11-16

SERMON *"Between a Rock and a Hard Place"* Rev. W. Alan Froggatt

"Blessed are you peacemakers, for you will be called children of God."
(Matthew 5.9)

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

OFFERTORY *Prayer of the Children* K. Bestor

*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 *A Dandelion for My Mother* Jean Nordhaus (1939 -)

*HYMN *Not With Naked Eye, Not With Human Sense* 421

Not with naked eye, not with human sense: through the eye of faith observe omnipotence.

God is always near, but is never seen: Source of heaven and earth and all that lies between.

Children learn of God trusting what they feel; touching, tasting, seeking, finding what is real.

Thomas saw the Christ breaking earth's routine; blessed are those who trust the Holy One unseen.

Not with crafted scope, now with crystal lens: vision of the Christ begins where seeing ends.

*BLESSING & BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE *The Trees of the Field*

(* all who are able may stand)

LOOKING AHEAD

May 11	**10:00 am** 5:00 pm	**Worship** Soup Kitchen	May 15	6:30 pm **7:00 pm**	Scouts **Choir Rehearsal**
May 12	6:30 pm	Irish Dance	May 16	**8:15 am**	**Coffice Hours at Simon's Marketplace**
May 13	8:30 am 6:00 pm	Yoga Scouts	May 18	**10:00 am** **11:00 am** 5:00 pm	**Worship** **Annual Meeting** Soup Kitchen
May 14	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 May is **Claudia Epright.** Flowers were provided by **Pat Holloway**. The greeters this morning are **Elaine Gaudette** and **Bill Lostocco**.

Annual Reports are available in the narthex for your review. Our Annual Meeting is next Sunday, May 18th at 11:00 am.

Town-wide Tag Sale – May 24th
There is a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall for helping with the Town-wide Tag Sale. People are needed for set-up, working during the sale (9am – 1pm) and clean-up.

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