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THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHESTER

An Open & Affirming Congregation of
The United Church of Christ
May 25, 2025 10:00 a.m.
Sixth Sunday of Easter

PREPARATION FOR THE WORD

WELCOME — Claudia Epright, Deacon

PRELUDE — *Allegro* (fr. Sonata III) — G. F. Handel
Eileen Sypher, organist

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

CALL TO WORSHIP

Together let us take the wings of the morning and give thanks for the wonders of living.
Together let us praise the living God, sharing our faith with celebration.
Together we have been called into community commissioned to serve by the love of God.
Together let us answer that call and pool our energy and resources to fulfill our goal. Amen.

*HYMN — *Praise to the Lord, The Almighty* — 26

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the God of creation! Sing, my soul, praising the source of thy health and salvation! All ye who hear, now to God's temple draw near; join me in glad adoration!

Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth, shelters thee underneath wings, yea, so gently sustaineth! Hast thou not seen how thy desires e'er have been granted in what God ordaineth?

Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee; surely great goodness and mercy here daily attend thee. Ponder anew what the Almighty can do, who with great love doth befriend thee.

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the God of creation! All that hath life and breath, sing out thy heart's jubilation! Let the Amen sound from God's people again: joining in glad adoration.

INVOCATION

Holy God, you who created the heavens and the earth, you who breathed the breath of life into us, you who have honored prophets and apostles with your call, come now among us. We thank you for your favor. We thank you for the many gifts you have brought to our lives. We thank you for opportunities for service. We thank you for a love which does not let us go. May we always appreciate your closeness to us, the intimacy with which you regard us, and may we celebrate your spirit, which even now dwells in this sanctuary, and in our hearts. Amen.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Psalm 138.1-8

I give you thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart; before the gods I sing your praise; I bow down toward your holy temple and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness, for you have exalted your name and your word above everything. On the day I called, you answered me; you increased my strength of soul. All the rulers of the earth shall praise you, O Lord, for they have heard the words of your mouth. They shall sing of the ways of the Lord, for great is the glory of the Lord. For though you are the Lord on high, you regard the lowly, but the haughty you perceive from far away. Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve me against the wrath of my enemies; you stretch out your hand, and your right hand delivers me. Lord, fulfill your purpose for me; your steadfast love, O Lord, endures forever. Do not forsake the work of your hands.

ANTHEM *Sweet Sweet Spirit* D. Akers

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON Colossians 1.3-12

SERMON *"Thank-You Notes"* Rev. W. Alan Froggatt

"I give you thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart." (Psalm 138.1)

"In our prayers for you we always thank the God of our Lord Jesus Christ." (Colossians 1.3)

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

OFFERTORY *Sing Out Your Joy to God* 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 *Decoration Day* Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1807-1882)

*HYMN *God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand* 537

God of the ages, whose almighty hand leads forth in beauty all the starry band of shining worlds in splendor through the skies, our grateful songs before thy throne arise.

Thy love divine hath led us in the past; in this free land with thee our lot is cast; be thou our ruler, guardian, guide and stay, thy word our law, thy paths our chosen way.

From war's alarms, from deadly pestilence, be thy strong arm our ever sure defense; thy true religion in our hearts increase; thy bounteous goodness nourish us in peace.

Refresh thy people on life's toilsome way; lead us from night to neverending day; fill all our lives with love and grace divine, and glory, laud and praise be ever thine.

*BLESSING & BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE *The Trees of the Field*

(* all who are able may stand)

LOOKING AHEAD

May 25	**10:00 am** 5:00 pm	**Worship** Soup Kitchen	May 29	6:30 pm **7:00 pm**	Scouts **Choir Rehearsal**
May 26	6:30 pm	Irish Dance	May 30	**8:15 am**	**Coffice Hours at The Villager**
May 27	8:30 am 6:00 pm	Yoga Scouts	June 1	**10:00 am** **11:00 am**	**Worship** **Trustees Meeting**
May 28	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.** The flowers in the chancel were provided by **Michele Procko**. The greeter this morning is **Michele Procko**. Coffee Hour is being hosted by **Norma Stearns** and **Doreen Schwab**.

Memorial Day Parade
The Chester Memorial Day parade will be held on Monday, May 26th at 10:00 am, starting at North Quarter park.

Town-wide Tag Sale – Thank you
Thank you to all who helped with setting up, selling and cleaning-up of yesterday's tag sale. It was a great success!

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