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 4, 2025 10:00 a.m.
Third Sunday of Easter

PREPARATION FOR THE WORD

WELCOME — Claudia Epright, Deacon

PRELUDE — *Prelude and Fugue No. 5* — C. Penfield

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

CALL TO WORSHIP
Come now to Christ, the living bread, who satisfies those who hunger and thirst for what is right.
We come now to Christ, who gives living water, that we may never thirst again.
Come now to Christ, that being filled ourselves, we may minister to the hunger and thirst of others.
We come now to God, in worship and praise, through Jesus Christ, who gives us life. Amen.

*HYMN — *God Is Here!* — 253

God is here! As pilgrim people met to offer praise and prayer, may we find in fuller measure what it is in Christ we share. Here, as in the world around us, all our varied skills and arts wait the coming of the Spirit into open minds and hearts.

Here are symbols to remind us of our lifelong need of grace; here are table, font, and pulpit; here the cross has central place. Here in honesty of preaching, here in silence, as in speech, here in newness and renewal, God the Spirit comes to each.

Here are children find a welcome in the Shepherd's flock and fold; here as bread and wine are taken, Christ sustains us, as of old. Here the servants of the Servant seek in worship to explore what it means in daily living to believe and to adore.

Lord of all, of church and kingdom, in an age of change and doubt keep us faithful to the gospel; help us work your purpose out. Here, in this day's dedication, all we have to give, received; we, who cannot live without you, we adore you! We believe!

INVOCATION

God, as we find ourselves now in the grasp of Eastertide, may we continue to live as resurrection people. May we bring new life to old realities, new hope to broken promises, new truth to lingering falsehood, new ways of living to old habits and assumptions. You who rise up in the freshness of every new day, may we continue to rise up and proclaim by our thoughts, words and deeds, the transformative power of your resurrection light; may the life of humanity be graced and blessed by every good work done in your name; Amen.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Isaiah 25.6-10

On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear. And God will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the covering that is spread over all nations; the Lord will swallow up death forever. Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of the people will be taken away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken. It will be said on that day, "See, this is our God; for whom we have waited, so that we might be saved. This is the Lord for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in our salvation." For the hand of the Lord will rest on this mountain.

ANTHEM *He Shall Come Down Like Rain* D. Buck

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON Luke 24.28-35

SERMON *"Remembering the Future"* Rev. W. Alan Froggatt

"Then they told what had happened on the road and how Jesus had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread."
(Luke 24.35)

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

OFFERTORY *Creation Calls Me To My Knees* D. Clements

*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 *Eating Together* Li-Young Lee (1957 -)

*HYMN *Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ* 316

Let us talents and tongues employ, reaching out with a shout of joy: bread is broken, the wine is poured, Christ is spoken and seen and heard. Jesus lives again, earth can breath again, pass the Word around: loaves abound!

Christ is able to make us one, at the table he sets the tone, teaching people to live to bless, love in word and in deed express. Jesus lives again, earth can breath again, pass the Word around: loaves abound!

Jesus calls us in, sends un out bearing fruit in a world of doubt, gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Immanuel) everywhere! Jesus lives again, earth can breath again, pass the Word around: loaves abound!

*BLESSING & BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE *The Trees of the Field*

(* all who are able may stand)

LOOKING AHEAD

May 4	**10:00 am** **11:00 am** 5:00 pm	**Worship** **New Member Meeting** Soup Kitchen	May 8	6:30 pm **7:00 pm**	Scouts **Choir Rehearsal**
May 5	6:30 pm	Irish Dance	May 9	**8:15 am**	**Coffice Hours at The Villager**
May 6	8:30 am 6:00 pm	Yoga Scouts	May 10	1:00 pm	Dem. WIA lecture
May 7	6:30 pm	Scouts	May 11	**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 **Claudia Epright.** Flowers were provided by **Claudia Epright**. The greeter this morning is **Marie Ready**. Coffee hour is being hosted by **Diane Lindsay**.

Rummage Sale – Whether you helped set-up, clean-up, donate and or sell items, baked or bought; thank you for making our Rummage Sale a success!! And a huge thank you to all the Scouts who helped with set-up and clean-up!

New Member meeting – Today following the worship service. If interested in becoming a new member please feel welcome to attend.

Annual Reports due by May 8th – Please submit all reports to the church office by Thursday, May 8th so that the reports can be prepared and printed for distribution on May 11th.

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