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THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHESTER

An Open & Affirming Congregation of
The United Church of Christ
June 22, 2025 10:00 a.m.
Second Sunday after Pentecost

PREPARATION FOR THE WORD

WELCOME — Jennifer Gill, Deacon

PRELUDE — *Partita Francais*

INTROIT — *Sanctuary* — R. Scruggs

CALL TO WORSHIP
Let us love you, O Christ, in your first coming:
When you were made human, for the love of all humanity, and your love for me.
Let us love you, O Christ, in your second coming:
When with an inconceivable love, you stand and knock at the door, that you might enter into every human soul, and into ours.
Plant in our souls, O Christ, the very likeness of your love:
That it may blossom and grow and bear fruit in our love for all your children everywhere. Amen.

*HYMN — *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* — 404

Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, to earth come down, fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown; Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art; visit us with thy salvation, enter every trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast; let us all in thee inherit, let us find thy promised rest; take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be; end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Come, almighty to deliver, let us all thy life receive; suddenly return, and never, nevermore they temples leave. Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above, pray and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.

Finish, then thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be; let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee; changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place, till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise.

INVOCATION

O Lord our God, this morning we ask you to expand and enlarge the love and charity of all your children. May there be room in the world for the many wondrous expressions of humanity. May we learn from our differences and be surprised by our similarities. May we not only support and encourage one another in holy love, but may we, like Jesus, stand with and for the powerless and the voiceless. Speak through us words of wisdom, words of encouragement, words of healing, words of truth, and above all, your living Word of Love. Amen.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

SCRIPTURE READINGS **Love One Another**
selected versus from the New Testament

ANTHEM *Homeward Bound* M. Keen
Pat Holloway, soloist

SERMON *"Allies into Advocates"* Rev. W. Alan Froggatt

"I give you a new commandment, that you love one another.
Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another."
(John 13.34)

OWNING OUR OPEN AND AFFIRMING COVENANT

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

OFFERTORY *Pie Jesu* A. Lloyd Webber

*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 *if time is queer / and memory is trans / and my hands hurt in the cold / then*
Roque Salas Rivera (1985 -)

*HYMN *Though I May Speak (The Gift of Love)* 68

Though I may speak with bravest fire, and have the gift to all inspire, and have not love, my words are vain, as sounding brass, and hopeless gain.

Though I may give all I possess, and striving so my love profess, but not be given by love within, the profit soon turns strangely thin.

Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control, our spirits long to be made whole. Let inward love guide every deed; by this we worship, and are freed.

*BLESSING & BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE *3 fold Amen*

(* all who are able may stand)

LOOKING AHEAD

June 22	**10:00 am** 5:00 pm	**Worship –** Soup Kitchen	June 25	5:30 pm	Democratic WIA lecture
June 23	4:30 pm 6:30 pm	Irish Dance Scout Leaders	June 27	**8:15 am**	**Coffice Hours at The Villager**
June 24	8:30 am **7:00 pm**	Yoga **Deacon's Workshop**	June 29	**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 the month of June is **Jennifer Gill**. The flowers in the chancel were provided by **Deb Calamari** in celebration of summer**.** The greeter this morning is **Deb Calamari**. Coffee Hour is being hosted by **Casey Snyder**, **Jennifer Gill**, **Pat Holloway** and **Claudia Epright.**

Summer Hours – July 6th
Just a reminder that as of July 6th the worship service will begin at 9:00 am.

Yard Goats Baseball
Pete Zanardi is looking to organize a group to head up to Hartford to attend a Yard Goats Baseball game. The baseball schedule is posted in Fellowship hall. See Pete if you are interested in attending.

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