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THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHESTER

An Open & Affirming Congregation of
The United Church of Christ
July 13, 2025 9:00 a.m.
Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

PREPARATION FOR THE WORD

WELCOME — Peggy Phillips, Deacon

PRELUDE — *Be Thou My Vision* Trad. Irish Melody arr. L. Shackley

INTROIT — Diane Adams, soloist

CALL TO WORSHIP (from Isaiah 6)

I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and God's presence filled the temple.

And the angels sang, Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord of hosts; the earth is filled with God's glory!

And I said Woe is me! For I am a man of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the Lord of hosts!

And one of the angels said, Your guilt is taken away, and your sin is forgiven.

Then the voice of the Lord spoke: Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?

And I said, Here I am, Lord. Send me. Amen.

*HYMN — *Called As Partners in Christ's Service* — 353

Called as partners in Christ's service, called to ministries of grace, we respond with deep commitment fresh new lines of faith to trace. May we learn the art of sharing, side by side and friend with friend, equal partners in our caring to fulfill God's chosen end.

Christ's example, Christ's inspiring, Christ's clear call to work and worth, let us follow, never faltering, reconciling folk on earth. Men and women, richer, poorer, all

God's people, young and old, blending human skills together gracious gifts from God unfold.

Thus new patterns for Christ's mission, in a small or global sense, help us bear each other's burdens, breaking down each wall or fence. Words of comfort, words of vision, words of challenge, said with care, bring new pow'r and strength for action, make us partners, free and fair.

So God grant us for tomorrow ways to order human life that surrounds each person's sorrow with a calm that conquers strife. Make us partners in our living, our compassion to increase, messengers of faith, thus giving hope and confidence and peace.

INVOCATION

Loving God, this morning we ask that you keep us alert to opportunities to serve you, and to minister to the world around us. May our awareness of the needs of community remain sharp and nimble. Fine tune our sensitivity so that we might anticipate what our brothers and sisters require to live their best lives. And in doing so, may we too be open to your abundant blessings and mercies in our midst, even and especially when they are not always obvious. You who give us everything we need to be fruitful and faithful people, we are determined to use our gifts in order to strengthen the bonds that unite us to you and to one another. In Jesus' holy name, Amen.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Jeremiah 1.4-10

Now the word of the Lord came to me saying, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations." Then I said, "Ah, Lord God! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy." But the Lord said to me, "Do not say, 'I am only a boy,' for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and you shall speak whatever I command you. Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, says the Lord." Then the Lord put out his hand and touched my mouth, and the Lord said to me, "Now I have put my words in your mouth. See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to pull down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant."

ANTHEM

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON Matthew 4.18-22

SERMON *"Sapphire Up, With a Twist"* Rev. W. Alan Froggatt

"And above the dome over their heads there was something like a throne,
in appearance like sapphire, and seated above the likeness of the throne was something
that seemed like a human form."
(Ezekiel 1.26)

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

OFFERTORY

*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

*HYMN *Rise Up, O Saints of God!* 474

Rise up, O saints of God! Have done with lesser things; give heart and soul and mind and strength to serve the King of kings.

Rise up, O saints of God! The kingdom tarries long. Bring in the day of righteousness, and end the night of wrong.

Rise up, O saints of God! The church for you doth wait, with strength unequal to the task; rise up and make it great.

Lift high the cross of Christ; tread where Christ's feet have trod; come sisters, brothers in the faith, rise up, O saints of God.

*BLESSING & BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

(* all who are able may stand)

LOOKING AHEAD

July 13	**9:00 am** 5:00 pm	**Worship –** Soup Kitchen	July 17	8:30 am 4:30 pm	Yoga Irish Dance
July 14	4:30 pm 6:30 pm	Irish Dance Scout Leaders	July 18	**8:15 am**	**Coffice Hours at The Villager**
July 15	8:30 am 4:30 pm	Yoga Irish Dance	July 20	**10:00 am** 5:00 pm	**Worship** Soup Kitchen
July 16	4:30 pm	Irish Dance			

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 July is **Peggy Phillips**. The flowers in the chancel were provided by **Diane Adams** in loving memory of her mother Rita Adams**.** The greeter this morning is **Judy Stevenson**. Coffee Hour is being hosted by **Elaine Gaudette** and **Bill Lostocco**.

ALAN'S OFFICE HOURS:. Wednesday-Friday 8:30am-12:30pm, other times by appt.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: Office closed this week. Sally is on vacation.