Reverend W. Alan Froggatt, Minister
Karli Gilbertson, Music Director and Organist
Post Office Box 383, Chester, Connecticut 06412 860-526-2697
E-mail: unitedchester@sbcglobal.net web site: www.uccchester.org

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHESTER

An Open & Affirming Congregation of
The United Church of Christ
July 6, 2025 9:00 a.m.
Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

PREPARATION FOR THE WORD

WELCOME — Peggy Phillips, Deacon

PRELUDE — *In Sacred Memory* — D. Moore

INTROIT — *We Plow the Field and Scatter* (refrain) — J. Schulz
Ed and Claudia Epright

CALL TO WORSHIP
One: God has no physical form on earth but yours,
All: No hands but ours, no feet but ours.
One: Yours are the eyes through which God's compassion looks upon the world.
All: Our character is a means by which God manifests miracles.
One: God has no face now on earth but yours.
All: We are examples of God's beauty for others to behold.

*HYMN — *The God of Abraham Praise* — 2

The God of Abraham praise, all praise the eternal name, who was, and is, and is to be, for aye the same! Our God, the great I AM, ere aught that now appears; the First, the Last: beyond all thought, through timeless years!

God's spirit floweth free, high surging where it will; in prophet's word God spoke of old and speaketh still. Established is God's law, and changeless it shall stand, deep writ upon the human heart, on sea or land.

We have eternal life implanted in our soul; God's love shall be our strength and stay, while ages roll. Praise to the living God! All praise the eternal name, who was, and is, and is to be, for aye the same!

INVOCATION Sandra E. Graham

Gracious God who has the power to create the whirlwind and the wisdom to speak to us in the still, small voice, we ask that you bring your love to us today. We are in need of the strength of your spirit. We live in the hope of your call. We depend on you; there is no other who gives us such hope and life. Be with us, care for us, comfort and confront us with your love and grace. Through the power of the Spirit we pray. Amen.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Psalm 51:1-12

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin I ever before me. Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgement. Indeed, I was born guilty, a sinner when my mother conceived me. You desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have crushed rejoice. Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Do not cast away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit.

ANTHEM *Battle Hymn of the Republic* W. Steffe

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON Matthew 18:21-35 (p. 898)

SERMON *"The Grace of Forgiveness"* Rev. Joseph M. Tobin

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

OFFERTORY *My Country 'Tis of Thee* (anon)

*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

UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Holy One, blessed are you, who entrust to our care and use the richness of creation. Through our offerings, we return to you a portion of that which you have given us. May they be a means of serving you in the mission to which you have called us; through Jesus Christ. 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

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth in courage and in peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

*HYMN *O God of Every Nation* 517

O God of every nation, of every race and land, redeem your whole creation with your almighty hand; where hate and fear divide us, and bitter threats are hurled, in love and mercy guide us, and heal our strife-torn world.

From search for wealth and power and scorn of truth and right, from trust in bombs that shower destruction through the night, from pride of race and station and blindness to your way, deliver every nation, eternal God, we pray.

Keep bright in us the vision of days when war shall cease, when hatred and division give way to love and peace, till dawns the morning glorious when truth and justice reign, and Christ shall rule victorious o'er all the world's domain.

*BLESSING & BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE *May the Grace of Christ Our Savior* J. Newton

LOOKING AHEAD

July 6	**9:00 am** 5:00 pm	**Worship –** Soup Kitchen	July 10	8:30 am	Yoga
July 8	8:30 am 11:00 am	Yoga Funeral Service – Juana M.G. Flagg	July 11	**8:15 am**	**Coffice Hours at The Villager**
			July 13	**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 July is **Peggy Phillips**. The flowers in the chancel were provided by **Diane Lindsay.** The greeter this morning is **Diane Lindsay**. Coffee Hour is being hosted by **Sally Marston**.

Today, we welcome visiting minister **Rev. Joseph M. Tobin.** Rev. Tobin was ordained in 2013 as an Intentional Interim minister. He has served at several congregations in Connecticut and is the father of our own treasurer, **Jonathan S. Tobin**. Thank you Rev. Tobin for leading us in worship today.

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