Reverend W. Alan Froggatt, Minister
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THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHESTER

An Open & Affirming Congregation of
The United Church of Christ
August 31, 2025 9:00 a.m.
Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

PREPARATION FOR THE WORD

WELCOME — Pat Holloway, Deacon

PRELUDE — *Melancholy Ditty* — D. Shostakovich
Sue Saltus, organist

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Your love is as high as the heavens, O God; your faithfulness soars through the skies.
P:Your righteousness reaches the towering peaks, your justice the depths of the sea.
L:We shelter beneath your wings; we feast on the food you provide.
P:We open our eyes to drink in your goodness; for you are the source of all life, and because of your light we see light. Amen.

*HYMN — *Lavish Love, Abundant Beauty* — 58

Lavish love, abundant beauty, gracious gifts for heart and hand, life that fills the soul and senses, all burst forth at your command. Lord, our God, Eternal Presence, Great Creator, God and Friend: boundless pow'r gave full expression to your love which knows no end.

Who am I that you should love me, meet my ev'ry need from birth? Why invest yourself so fully in a creature made of earth? In your loving heart you planned me, fashioned me with greatest care; through my soul you breathed your Spirit, planted your own image there.

I am yours, Eternal Presence, all my body, mind and heart. Take and use me to your glory, form yourself in ev'ry part. Lord, your love brings joy and gladness flowing forth within my soul. May my very breath and being rise to you, their source and goal.

OPENING PRAYER

O God you are always true to us in love, and we are left wanting to say we are sorry for our faithlessness to you and one another, for our forgetting of the poor and broken, for our failure to cherish creation. Give us life, Help us to change so that we may live in the fullness of life you give. May we know your presence, and find the courage we need to act, to heal, to love. Amen.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Psalm 119.17-24
(From First Nations Version, An Indigenous Translation)

ANTHEM *Go Down Moses* African American Spiritual
Rick Holloway, soloist

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON John 17.13-18, 22-26
(From First Nations Version, An Indigenous Translation)

SERMON Rev. Toni Smith

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

OFFERTORY *Spiritual Medley* African American Spiritual

*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 *My Life Flows On in Endless Song* 427

My life flows on in endless song; above earth's lamentation, I hear the sweet, though far-off hymn that hails a new creation.

Refrain

No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that Rock I'm clinging. Since Love is Lord of heav'n and earth, how can I keep from singing?

Through all the tumult and the strife, I hear that music ringing. It finds an echo in my soul. How can I keep from singing?

Refrain

What though my joys and comforts die? I know my Savior's living. What though the darkness gather round? Songs in the night he's giving.

Refrain

The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a fountain ever springing! All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from singing?

Refrain

*BLESSING & BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE *Danish Amen*

(* all who are able may stand)

LOOKING AHEAD

August 31	**9:00 am** **10:00 am** 5:00 pm	**Worship** **Trustees Mtg.** Soup Kitchen	September 5	**8:15 am**	**No Coffice Hours**
September 2	8:30 am	Yoga	September 6	8:00 am	Closer To Free Ride
September 4	8:30 am	Yoga	September 7	**10:00 am** **11:00 am** 5:00 pm	**Worship** **Rally Day** 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 August is **Pat Holloway.** You were greeted this morning by **Deb Calamari.** Chancel Flowers were provided by **Deb Calamari.** Coffee Hour is hosted by **Elaine Gaudette** and **Bill Lostocco**.

Rally Day Picnic – September 7th
Our annual Rally Day picnic is next week following the worship service. Please bring a dish to share and enjoy the day.

Worship Service Time Change
Please remember that next week is September and our worship service begins at 10:00 am!

ALAN'S OFFICE HOURS: Alan is on vacation returning on Friday, September 5th

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