THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHESTER

An Open & Affirming Congregation of
The United Church of Christ
September 7, 2025 10:00 a.m.
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

PREPARATION FOR THE WORD

WELCOME — Deb Calamari, Deacon

PRELUDE

INTROIT — *Down to the River to Pray* (v. 1)

CALL TO WORSHIP

The Christian life is not so much a destination as it is a journey.
In the same way, the worship of God does not consist merely in our gathering together.
But true worship is found in sharing all those moments when we experience God's presence and goodness;
True worship is when we celebrate those moments of joy together.
Let us worship God in this hour,
So that we may also worship God in all times, and in all places. Amen.

*HYMN — *Gather Us In* — 250

Here in this place, the new light is streaming, now the dark night has vanished away. See in this space our fears and our dreamings, brought here to you in the light of this day. Gather us in, the lost and forsaken; gather us in; our spirits in flame. Call to us now, and we shall awaken; we shall arise at the sound of our name.

We are the young- our lives are a mystery; we are the old, who yearn for your face. We have been sung throughout all of history, called to be light to the whole human race. Gather us in, the rich and the haughty; gather us in, the proud and the strong; give us a heart so meek and so lowly; give us the courage to enter the song.

Here we receive new life in your waters; here we receive the bread of new birth; here you shall call your sons and your daughters, call us anew to be salt for the earth. Give us to drink the wine of compassion, give us to eat the bread that is you; nourish us well, and teach us to fashion lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

Not just in buildings, small and confining, not in some heaven, light years away, here in this place the new light is shining; now is God present, and now is the day. Gather us in and hold us forever; gather us in and make us your own; gather us in, all peoples together, fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

We thank you, O God, for calling us into your church to be your people. We have gathered, God of grace and wisdom, because we have heard your call. You have reached out to us in Jesus Christ, you have touched us with your Spirit; and we have turned toward you, seeking to love as we have been loved. We call upon your holy name: empower us to worship and serve you, walking gently on this earth, through the grace of Jesus Christ, Amen.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Proverbs 3.19-26

Honor the Lord with your substance and with the first fruits of all your produce; then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine. My child, do not despise the Lord's discipline or be weary of reproof, for the Lord reproves the beloved, as a parent with the child in whom is delight. Happy are those who find wisdom and those who get understanding, for her income is better than silver and her revenue better than gold. She is more precious than jewels, and nothing you desire can compare with her. Long life is in her right hand; in her left hand are riches and honor.

ANTHEM *Morning Has Broken*

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON I Corinthians 2.9-16

SERMON *"The Genius In You"* Rev. W. Alan Froggatt

"For who has known the mind of the Lord so as to be instructed?
But we have the mind of Christ."
(I Corinthians 2.16)

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

OFFERTORY *The Gift of Love*

*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 *On Virtue* Phyllis Wheatley (1753-1784)

*HYMN *Lord, Dismiss Us With Your Blessing* 333

Lord, dismiss us with your blessing; fill our hearts with joy and peace; let us each, your love possessing, triumph in redeeming grace; oh, refresh us, oh, refresh us, traveling through this wilderness.

Thanks we give and adoration for the gospel's joyful sound; may the fruits of your salvation in our hearts and lives abound: ever faithful, ever faithful to the truth may we be found.

So that when your love shall call us, Savior, from the world away, fear of death shall not appall us, glad your summons to obey: may we ever may we ever reign with you in endless day.

*BLESSING & BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE *Down to the River to Pray* (v. 2)

(* all who are able may stand)

LOOKING AHEAD

September 7	**10:00 am**	**Worship**	September 11	**7:00 pm**	**Choir Rehearsal**

	5:00 pm	Soup Kitchen			
September 8	5:30 pm	Irish Dance	September 12	**8:15 am**	**Coffice Hours at Simon's Marketplace**
September 9	8:30 am 7:00 pm	Yoga Chester Garden Club	September 14	**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 September is **Deb Calamari.** The flowers in the chancel were provided by. The greeter this morning is. Coffee Hour is being hosted by.

Rally Day Picnic – Today
Our annual Rally Day picnic is today following the worship service. Please bring a dish to share, invite a friend and enjoy the day! Don't have a dish? Please join us anyway!

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

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United Church of Christ
An Open and Affirming Church

September 7, 2025

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