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THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHESTER

An Open & Affirming Congregation of
The United Church of Christ
September 21, 2025 10:00 a.m.
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

PREPARATION FOR THE WORD

WELCOME — Deb Calamari, Deacon

PRELUDE — *Adagio for Strings* — S. Barber

INTROIT — *This is the Day the Lord has Made* — M. Hayes

CALL TO WORSHIP
Today is the Christian sabbath:
We search deep within our restful selves for God's re-creation.
Today is Sunday, the first day of the week:
We celebrate the bright morning's resurrection, and its good news.
This is the day which God has made:
Let us rejoice and be glad in it! Amen.

*HYMN — *From All That Dwell Below the Skies* — 8

From all that dwell below the skies let the Creator's praise arise! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Let the Redeemer's name be sung through every land, by every tongue! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Eternal are thy mercies, Lord, eternal truth attends thy word! Alleluia! Alleluia! Thy praise shall sound from shore to shore till suns shall rise and set no more! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Our God, speak to us in surprising ways this morning. Catch us off our guard, let us hear you in new and unexpected voices: in the plaintive face of the beggar, in the anxiety of the fearful immigrant, in the groaning stomach of the hungry, in the anger of the newly-bereft mother, in the silence of the voiceless. Say to us what needs to be heard, and make us bold to take all these words, spoken and silent, to heart, in the name of Jesus, brother and friend to all. Amen.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Jeremiah 29.4-7, 11-14 (p. 717)

ANTHEM *My Country, 'Tis of Thee* M. McDonald

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON Mark 2.23-28

One Sabbath Jesus was going through the grainfields, and as his disciples walked along, they began to pick some heads of grain. The Pharisees said to him, "Look, why are they doing what is unlawful on the Sabbath?" He answered, "Have you never read what David did when he and his companions were hungry and in need? In the days of Abiathar the high priest, he entered the house of God and ate the consecrated bread, which is lawful only for priests to eat. And he also gave some to his companions." Then he said to them, "The Sabbath was made for humanity, not humanity for the Sabbath. So the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath."

SERMON *"There's an App For That"* Rev. W. Alan Froggatt

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."
(Jeremiah 29.11)

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

OFFERTORY *Bridge Over Troubled Water* P. Simon

*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 *Success* Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-1882)

*HYMN *It's Me, It's Me O Lord* 437

Refrain: It's me (it's me), it's me, O Lord, standin' in the need of prayer. It's me (it's me), It's me O Lord, standin' in the need of prayer.

Not my brother, not my sister, but it's me, O Lord standin' in the need of prayer.
Not my brother, not my sister, but it's me, O Lord standin' in the need of prayer.

Refrain

Not my preacher, not the deacon, but it's me, O Lord standin' in the need of prayer.
Not my preacher, not the deacon, but it's me, O Lord standin' in the need of prayer.

Refrain

Not my father, not my mother, but it's me, O Lord standin' in the need of prayer.
Not my father, not my mother, but it's me, O Lord standin' in the need of prayer.

Refrain

Not the stranger, not my neighbor, but it's me, O Lord standin' in the need of prayer.
Not the stranger, not my neighbor, but it's me, O Lord standin' in the need of prayer.

*BLESSING & BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE *The Blessing of Aaron* N. Ramsey

(* all who are able may stand)

LOOKING AHEAD

September 21	**10:00 am** 5:00 pm	**Worship** Soup Kitchen	September 25	8:30 am **7:00 pm**	Yoga **Choir Rehearsal**
September 22	5:30 pm	Irish Dance	September 26	**8:15 am**	**Coffice Hours at The Villager**
September 23	8:30 am	Yoga	September 28	**10:00 am** **11:00 am** 5:00 pm	**Worship** **Lady Doak Visit** **Trustees Meeting** 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 **Deb Calamari** in celebration of her father's 88th birthday! The greeter this morning is **Daphne Stitt**. Coffee hour is hosted by **Elaine Gaudette** and **Bill Lostocco**. Thank you to all who volunteer!

Lady Doak Visit – September 28th
Our friends from Lady Doak College will be with us in worship on September 28th. Please join us to come and learn about the latest news from Lady Doak College.

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