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

An Open & Affirming Congregation of
The United Church of Christ
September 28, 2025 10:00 a.m.
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

PREPARATION FOR THE WORD

WELCOME — Deb Calamari, Deacon

PRELUDE — *Just As I Am* — C. Callahan

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

CALL TO WORSHIP
Come from the East, come from the West;
Come from the North, Come from the South;
Come, let us worship the God of our ancestors;
Come, let us worship the God of our descendants;
Come, let us worship the God of all creation;
We come to worship the God of our Lord Jesus Christ; Amen.

*HYMN — *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise* — 12

Immortal, invisible, God only wise, in light inaccessible hid from our eyes, most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days, almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light, nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might; thy justice like mountains high soaring above thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.

To all, life thou givest, to both great and small; in all life thou livest, the true life of all; we blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree, and wither and perish, but naught changeth thee.

Thou reignest in glory, thou dwellest in light, thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight; all praise we would render; O help us to see 'tis only the splendor of light hideth thee.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Silent Word, Creative Act, Hidden Truth, Revealed Love: we wait for you. More honestly, we are impatient for you to come and set things right. We are insecure with our world, fearful of terrors real and imagined, and anxious about ourselves. We overlook your guidance, when we would rather you act according to <u>our</u> plans. We seldom pause to consider that *you* might be waiting for *us*: waiting for some genuine act of contrition; waiting for us to repent and change; waiting for us to listen and respond with a burning passion to your truth, your justice, and your mercy. Furnish us with humble hearts and willing spirits to receive you as you come to us through all the experiences of our lives. We pray in the name of the One who is yet to come, Jesus Christ the Righteous; Amen.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Psalm 122

I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord!" Our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem. Jerusalem—built as a city that is bound firmly together. To it the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord, as was decreed for Israel, to give thanks to the name of the Lord. For there the thrones for judgment were set up, the thrones of the house of David. Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: "May they prosper who love you. Peace be within your walls and security within your towers." For the sake of my relatives and friends I will say, "Peace be within you." For the sake of the house of the Lord our God, I will seek your good.

ANTHEM *By the Waters of Babylon* trad Jamaican melody

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON I Corinthians 16.15-24

REMARKS Dr. Roopa Ravikumar
Director, Lady Doak College Foundation

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

OFFERTORY *God of Old and Lord of Glory* A. Mahnke
Alan Froggatt, violinist

*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 *Paper Boats* Rabindranath Tagore (1861-1941)

*HYMN *O God Above the Drifting Years* 361

O God above the drifting years, the shrines our people founded stand, and where the higher gain appears we trace the working of your hand.

From out their tireless prayer and toil emerge the gifts that time has proved, and seed laid deep in sacred soil yields harvests rich in lasting good.

The torch of their devotion lent lightens the dark that round us lies; help us to pass it on unspent until the dawn lights up the skies.

O fill our hearts with hope like theirs, who served the days they could not see, and give us grace, throughout our years, to build the future faithfully.

*BLESSING & BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE *The Blessing of Aaron* N. Ramsey

(* all who are able may stand)

LOOKING AHEAD

September 28	**10:00 am** **11:00 am** 5:00 pm	**Worship** **Trustees Meeting** Soup Kitchen	October 2	8:30 am **7:00 pm**	Yoga **Choir Rehearsal**
September 29	5:30 pm	Irish Dance	October 3	**8:15 am**	**Coffice Hours at Simon's Marketplace**
September 30	8:30 am	Yoga	October 5	**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 **Sue Germini-Humble** in celebration of her father's 88th birthday! The greeter this morning is **Sue Germini-Humble**. Coffee hour is hosted by **Hilarie Clark Moore**. Thank you to all who volunteer!

Lady Doak Visit – Welcome
Today, we welcome special guests representing Lady Doak College. **Dr. Roopa Ravikumar**, Director of the Lady Doak College Foundation, will be joined by **Sharon Rajadurai**, Executive Director of the Foundation, and **Mary Caroline Carmichael**, a member of the Board of Directors. Dr. Ravikumar will be sharing some of the development the college is currently engaged in, as well as bringing greetings and updates from LDC. Please use the enclosed envelope if you would like to make a donation to Lady Doak College.

Calling all Voices! The Christmas Cantata this year is *The Voices of Christmas*. All voices are welcome to participate! Choir meets on Thursdays at 7:00 pm.

Rev Tim Haut Community Picnic – Sunday, September 28th from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm.

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