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
February 8, 2026, 10:00 a.m.
Fifth Sunday of Epiphany

WELCOME — Diane Lindsay, Deacon

PRELUDE

INTROIT — *Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus* — H. Lemmel

CALL TO WORSHIP

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
In the beginning with God, all things were made through the Word, and without him nothing was made.
In the Word is life, and the life is the light of humanity.
That light shines in the darkness, and the darkness will never overcome it.
And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth:
And we behold his glory, the glory of the only and true Son of God. Amen.

*HYMN — *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* — 404

Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, to earth come down, fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown; Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art; visit us with thy salvation, enter every trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast; let us all in thee inherit, let us find thy promised rest; take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be; end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Come, almighty to deliver, let us all thy life receive; suddenly return, and never, nevermore they temples leave. Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above, pray and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.

Finish, then thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be; let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee; changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place, till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Invisible God, give us hearts to see the things our eyes overlook. Open our hearts to feel the things our hands cannot touch. Open our hearts to hear the still, small voice, which sounds like only silence to our listening ears. Teach us to know you for what you really are - not flash or thunder, but love, softly spoken, flowing like a fountain, bathing body and soul. Open now our hearts to hear words familiar yet surprising, the words of our neighbors in need of that Good Word, our Lord Jesus Christ; Amen.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Isaiah 61.1-4, 11 (p. 678)

ANTHEM *You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore* C. Gabarain

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON Luke 9.18-22

"Once when Jesus was praying alone, with only the disciples near him, he asked them, "Who do the crowds say that I am?" They answered, "John the Baptist; but others, Elijah; and still others, that one of the ancient prophets has arisen." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered, "The Messiah of God." He sternly ordered and commanded them not to tell anyone, saying, "The Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, chief priests, and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised."

SERMON *"Words With Jesus"* Rev. W. Alan Froggatt

"But who do **you** say that I am?"
(Luke 9.20)

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

OFFERTORY *Shalom* D. Forrest

*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 AND LORD'S PRAYER *("trespasses")*

POEM *Roger's Thesaurus* Brian Bilston (1970 -)

*HYMN *O Christ, The Word Incarnate* 295

O Christ, the Word incarnate, O wisdom from on high, O truth unchanged, unchanging, O light of our dark sky, we praise you for the radiance that from the hallowed page, a lantern to our footsteps, shines on from age to age.

Your people hold this treasure from you, its source divine, a light that to all ages through-out the earth will shine. It is the chart and compass that all life's voyage through, mid mists and rocks and tempest, still guides, O Christ, to you.

O make your church, dear Savior, a lamp of burnished gold, to bear before the nations your true light as of old; O teach your wandering pilgrims by this their path to trace, till, cloud and darkness ended, they see you face to face.

*BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE *Go Now in Peace* D. Besig

(* those who are able may stand)

LOOKING AHEAD

February 8	**10:00 am** **11:00 am** 5:00 pm	**Worship** **Trustees Mtg.** Soup Kitchen	February 12	8:30 am **7:00 pm**	Yoga **Choir Rehearsal**
February 9	5:30 pm	Irish Dance	February 13	**8:15 am**	**Coffice Hours at The Villager**
February 10	8:30 am	Yoga	February 15	**10:00 am** **11:00 am** 5:00 pm	**Worship** **Wish You Were Here** 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 February is **Diane Lindsay.** Chancel flowers were provided by **Torrey O'Connor** in dedication of the life and spirit of our nation's democracy in the face of great division. You were greeted this morning by **Torrey O'Connor**. Coffee hour is being hosted by **Cheryl Archer** and **Jennifer Gill**.

Wish You Were Here – February 15th
Submission forms for Wish You Were Here Remembrance Day which will be on February 15th, are available in the narthex or submission forms are available online. Please call Cheryl Archer or the church office if there are any questions.

Offering envelopes for 2026 are available in the Narthex. If you do not find your name on a box, please see Diane Lindsay, Financial Secretary.

ALAN'S OFFICE HOURS: Wednesday – Friday 8:30 am – 12:30 pm or by appointment

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday - Friday 9am-1pm.