THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHESTER

An Open & Affirming Congregation of
The United Church of Christ
April 19, 2026, 10:00 a.m.
Third Sunday of Easter

WELCOME — Daphne Stitt, Deacon

PRELUDE — *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty* — (arr.) B. Culli

INTROIT — *Heaven and Earth, And Sea and Air* — J. Neander

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We gather in the name of the One who bids us come.

We gather to hear the words of the One who is love.

Leader: We gather to sing praises of the One who teaches peace.

All: Come let us worship.

*HYMN — *Diverse in Culture, Nation,Race* — 372

Diverse in culture, nation, race, we come together by your grace. God, let us be a meeting ground where hope and healing love are found.

God, let us be a bridge of care connecting people ev'rywhere. Help us confront all fear and hate and lust for pow'r that separate.

When chasms widen, storms arise, O Holy Spirit, make us wise. Let our resolve, like steel, be strong to stand with those who suffer wrong.

God, let us be a table spread with gifts of love and broken bread, where all find welcome, grace attends, and enemies arise as friends.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Bring us back to you O God.
Help us to hear in the Scriptures the stories that open our eyes: to who Jesus was; to who Christ is; to who we are. Bring us back O God, that we might journey in his Way. In Christ's name and in your love we ask these things. Amen.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON — Micah 6.6-8

With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams; with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my first born for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? He has told you, O mortal, what is good: and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God.

ANTHEM *For the Beauty of the Earth* J. Rutter

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON Luke 24.13-35 (p. 966)

SERMON Rev. Toni Smith

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

OFFERTORY *The Time for Turning* C. Courtney

*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 *With Thanks To The Field Sparrow, Whose Voice Is So Delicate And Humble*
Mary Oliver

*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

*BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE *Old Irish Blessing* D. Agay

(* those who are able may stand)

LOOKING AHEAD

April 19	**10:00 am** 5:00 pm	**Worship** Soup Kitchen	April 23	8:30 am 6:30 pm **7:00 pm**	Yoga Scout Pack Mtg. **Choir Rehearsal**
April 20	5:30 pm	Irish Dance	April 24	**8:15 am**	**Coffice Hours The Villager**
April 21	8:30 am	Yoga	April 25	9:00 am	Chester Hose Company
			April 26	**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 April is **Daphne Stitt.** You were greeted this morning by **Marie Ready**. Flowers in the chancel are provided by **Deron Grabel**. Coffee Hour is being hosted with goodies from our Bake Sale.

Annual Reports Due April 30th

Just a friendly reminder that all Annual Reports are due into the church office by Thursday, April 30th. Thank you!!

Chester Home Tour – May 9th

The Chester Home Tour will be on Saturday, May 9th and the Historical Society will be using our parking lot for the tour. We will also be allowing use of our restrooms so we need one or two people willing to be onsite the day of the tour to direct individuals and to assist with parking. Please contact Sally if you are willing to volunteer. Thank you.

ALAN'S OFFICE HOURS: Wednesday 8:30 am – 12:30 pm. Alan will be away until Friday, April 24th.

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