Reverend W. Alan Froggatt, Pastor & Teacher
Every Member of the Congregation, Ministers
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THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHESTER

An Open & Affirming Congregation of
The United Church of Christ
April 5, 2026 10:00 a.m.
Easter Day

PREPARATION FOR THE WORD

PRELUDE — *Welcome, Happy Morning!* — J. Scriveyner

INTROIT — *Christ Victorious* — G. Young

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rejoice, heavenly powers! Sing Alleluia, choirs of angels!
Jesus Christ, our light, is risen! Sound the trumpet of salvation! Alleluia!
Rejoice, O earth, in shining splendor, Alleluia! radiant in the brightness of your Lord!
Christ has conquered, we are filled with glory, and night has vanished forever! Alleluia!
Rejoice, O servant church! Alleluia, exult in glory! The risen Savior shines upon you!
Let this house resound with joy, echoing the mighty Alleluia of all God's people! Alleluia and Amen!

*HYMN — *Christ the Lord is Risen Today* — 205

Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia! Mortal tongues and angels say: Alleluia! Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia! Sing, ye heavens and earth reply: Alleluia!

Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia! Where, O death is now thy sting? Alleluia! Dying once, he all doth save, Alleluia! Where thy victory, O grave? Alleluia!

Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia! Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia! Death in vain forbids him rise, Alleluia! Christ has opened Paradise, Alleluia!

Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia! Following our exalted Head, Alleluia! Made like him, like him we rise, Alleluia! Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!

Hail the Lord of earth and heaven! Alleluia! Praise to thee by both be given, Alleluia! Thee we greet triumphant now, Alleluia! Hail, the Resurrection thou! Alleluia!

INVOCATION

Gracious God, by Jesus' resurrection you have opened the door to heaven: sin is vanquished and righteousness reigns; death has lost all its power over us, and eternity is ours. Alleluia! Let the glory of this morning's worship wash over us like a cleansing breath of fresh air and new life, and may we be convicted of the eternal hope planted in every human heart. Alleluia! Christ is risen; Christ will come again! Alleluia, and Amen!

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Jeremiah 23.1-6

Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the Lord. Therefore thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the Lord. Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall no longer fear or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the Lord. The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

ANTHEM *This is the Day The Lord Has Made* D. Moore

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON Mark 16.1-8

SERMON *"The Resurrection Will Not Be Televised"* Rev. W. Alan Froggatt

"The revolution will not be brought to you by Xerox in four parts without commercial interruption… the revolution will not be advertised, sanitized or homogenized. The revolution will not make your clothes whiter than snow or kill germs that cause bad breath... the revolution will not put a tiger in your tank or make you look five pounds thinner or help build strong bodies twelve ways because, brothers and sisters, the revolution will not be televised." (Gil Scott Heron, 1971)

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

OFFERTORY *He Is Not Here* R. Nagy

*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 HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

POEM *Paschal* (2002) Robert Pinsky (1940 -)

*HYMN *The Day of Resurrection* 216

The day of resurrection! Earth, tell it out abroad; the Passover of gladness, the Passover of God. From death to life eternal from sin's dominion free, our Christ has brough us over with hymns of victory.

Our hearts be pure from evil, that we may see aright our Christ in rays eternal of resurrection light; And, listening to his accents, may hear so calm and plain his own "All hail," and, hearing, may raise the victor strain.

New let the heavens be joyful, let earth her song begin, the world resound in triumph, and all that is therein; Let all things seen and unseen their notes of gladness blend, for Christ the Lord is risen, our joy that has no end.

BLESSING & BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE *May the Road Rise to Meet You*

* - those who are able may stand

LOOKING AHEAD

April 5	**10:00 am** 5:00 pm	**Worship – Easter Day** Soup Kitchen	April 9	**7:00 pm**	**Choir Rehearsal**
April 6	6:30 pm	Irish Dance	April 10	**8:15 am**	**Coffice Hours at Simon's Marketplace**
April 7	8:30 am	Yoga	April 11	**10:00 am**	**Rummage Sale Set-up Begins**
April 8	6:30 pm	Scouts	April 12	**10:00 am** **11:00 am**	**Worship Council Mtg.** No 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 April is **Daphne Stitt.** Flowers were provided by the congregation in memory of or in celebration of loved ones – please see insert for list. The greeter this morning is someone with a friendly smile and a warm heart.

Rummage and Bake Sale – Saturday April 18th
Our Rummage and Bake Sale returns on Saturday, April 18th from 9 am to 1 pm. Sign-up sheets are in Fellowship Hall for helping to set-up the week prior to the Rummage Sale and for baking items for the Bake Sale. Any questions please contact Marie Ready at 860-526-1487 or Judy Schondorf at 860-399-7772.

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