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THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHESTER

An Open & Affirming Congregation of
The United Church of Christ
May 3, 2026, 10:00 a.m.
Fifth Sunday of Easter

WELCOME — Deb Germini Calamari, Deacon

PRELUDE — *Wonderful Peace* — H. Lillenas

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

CALL TO WORSHIP

We come this morning, not just to hear the Word, but to live the Word.
We come this morning, not just to be comforted, but to be challenged.
We come this morning, not just to know the joy of discipleship, but to know the cost of discipleship.
We come this morning, not just to find communion, but to find community.
We come this morning because we are the church, and God has called us;
We come this morning; because God has called us, we are the church. Amen.

*HYMN — *Earth and All Stars* — 14

Earth and all stars, loud rushing planets sing to the Lord a new song! Hail, wind and rain, loud blowing snowstorm sing to the Lord a new song!
Refrain: God has done marvelous things. We will sing praises with a new song

Trumpet and pipes, loud crashing cymbals sing to the Lord a new song! Harp, lute and lyre, loud humming cellos sing to the Lord a new song!
Refrain

Steel and machines, loud pounding hammers sing to the Lord a new song! Limestone and beams, loud building workers sing to the Lord a new song!
Refrain

Classrooms and labs, loud boiling test tubes sing to the Lord a new song! Athlete and band, loud cheering people sing to the Lord a new song!

Refrain

Knowledge and truth, loud sounding wisdom sing to the Lord a new song! Daughter and son, loud praying members sing to the Lord a new song!

Refrain

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Open your good word to us this morning, God. Fill our hearts and spirits with morsels of mercy, the sustenance of salvation. Let our souls grow mature along with our bodies, that we are no longer satisfied with what pleases only the senses, but instead with what feeds and nourishes the Christ within each of us. Stretch us, challenge us, bring us the growing pains that come with a serious faith, and help us trust you to fill us with every good fruit, in the name of Jesus our Savior we pray, Amen.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSON I Corinthians 2.14-3.3 (p.1041)

ANTHEM *Away from the Roll of the Sea* A. MacGillivray

SCRIPTURE LESSON Hebrews 5.11-14

About this we have much to say that is hard to explain, since you have become dull in understanding. For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic elements of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food; for everyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is unskilled in the word of righteousness. But solid food is for the mature, for those whose faculties have been trained by practice to distinguish good from evil.

SERMON *"At Home in the Church of St Peter Pan"* Rev. W. Alan Froggatt

"Solid food is for the mature, for those whose faculties have been trained by practice to distinguish good from evil."
(Hebrews 5.14)

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

OFFERTORY *The Welcome Table* J. Raney

*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")*

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

POEM *My Wisdom* Naomi Shihab Nye (1952 -)

EE*HYMN *Now the Green Blade Riseth* 208

Now the green blade riseth from the buried grain, wheat that in dark earth many days has lain; love lives again, that the dead has been;
Refrain: Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.

In the grave they laid him, Love whom hate had slain, thinking that never he would wake again, laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen;
Refrain

Forth he came at Easter, like the risen grain, he that for three days in the grave had lain, quick from the dead my risen Lord is seen.
Refrain

When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain, thy touch can call us back to life again, fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;
Refrain

*BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE *Old Irish Blessing* D. Agay

(* those who are able may stand)

LOOKING AHEAD

May 3	**10:00 am** **11:00 am** 5:00 pm	**Worship** **Trustees Mtg.** Soup Kitchen	May 7	8:30 am **7:00 pm**	Yoga **Choir Rehearsal**
May 4	5:30 pm	Irish Dance	May 8	**8:15 am**	**Coffice Hours at Simon's Marketplace**
May 5	8:30 am 6:00 pm	Yoga Chester Garden Club	May 10	**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 May is **Deb Germini Calamari.** Chancel flowers were provided by **Deb Germini Calamari** in celebration of her daughter's and daughter's-in-law fourth wedding anniversary. You were greeted this morning by **Norma Stearns**. Coffee hour is hosted by **Elaine Gaudette**, **Linda Jones** & **Marie Ready.**

Annual Meeting – Sunday, May 17th

Please join us following the worship service for our Annual Meeting on Sunday, May 17th. Annual Reports will be available on May 10th for your review prior to the meeting. Thank you.

Katie Wilcox Day – Sunday, May 31st

This year we will celebrate Katie Wilcox Day on May 31st. A special donation will be collected for Lady Doak College on that date. Separate envelopes will be provided. Thank you.

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

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: Office is closed as Sally will be away on vacation.