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THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHESTER

An Open & Affirming Congregation of
The United Church of Christ
May 31, 2026, 10:00 a.m.
Trinity Sunday

WELCOME — Deb Germini Calamari, Deacon

PRELUDE

INTROIT — *Now It's Spring* — Paie Cantiones 1582

CALL TO WORSHIP

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.
We worship God the Creator.
In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
We worship God the Redeemer.
The earth was without form, and void, and darkness was upon the face of the deep; and the Spirit of God was moving over the face of the waters.
We worship God the Spirit.
We worship the God who is one in three, three in one;
We worship the God who heals our brokenness and gathers up all our meanings. Amen.

*HYMN — *Called As Partners in Christ's Service* — 353

Called as partners in Christ's service, called to ministries of grace, we respond with deep commitment fresh new lines of faith to trace. May we learn the art of sharing, side by side and friend with friend, equal partners in our caring to fulfill God's chosen end.

Christ's example, Christ's inspiring, Christ's clear call to work and worth, let us follow, never faltering, reconciling folk on earth. Men and women, richer, poorer, all God's people, young and old, blending human skills together gracious gifts from God unfold.

Thus new patterns for Christ's mission, in a small or global sense, help us bear each other's burdens, breaking down each wall or fence. Words of comfort, words of vision,

words of challenge, said with care, bring new pow'r and strength for action, make us partners, free and fair.

So God grant us for tomorrow ways to order human life that surrounds each person's sorrow with a calm that conquers strife. Make us partners in our living, our compassion to increase, messengers of faith, thus giving hope and confidence and peace.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Gracious God, we ask your blessing presence among us. Bless this church family: bless singers and prayers and workers and teachers and youngsters and servants of so many different kinds, that all our mission and ministry might be to your greater glory, and that our gifts of the spirit might build up the body of our Lord Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray, Amen.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

GOSPEL LESSON Matthew 19.23-26

ANTHEM *Praise the Lord!* G. F. Handel

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON Philippians 4.4-9

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

REFLECTION *"A Visit to Lady Doak College"* Diane Adams

"Dream Tall - Think Tall – Live Tall – Pray Tall."
(Katie Wilcox, Founder, Lady Doak College)

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

OFFERTORY *This is My Father's World* E. Hagenberg

*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 *Where the Mind is Without Fear* Rabindranath Tagore (1861-1941)

*HYMN *In the Bulb There Is a Flower* 493

In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree; in cocoons, a hidden promise; butterflies will soon be free! In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be, unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody; there's a dawn in every darkness; bringing hope to you and me. From the past will come the future; what it holds a mystery, unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity; in our doubt there is believing; in our life eternity. In our death, a resurrection; at the last a victory, unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

*BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE *Now It's Spring* Paie Cantiones

(*all who are able may stand)

LOOKING AHEAD

May 31	**10:00 am** **11:00 am** 5:00 pm	**Worship** **Pastoral Relations Mtg.** Soup Kitchen	June 4	8:30 am **7:00 pm**	Yoga **Choir Rehearsal**
June 1	5:30 pm	Irish Dance	June 5	**8:15 am**	**Coffice Hours at Simon's Marketplace**
June 2	8:30 am	Yoga	June 7	**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 son's 39th birthday on June 2nd. You were greeted this morning by **Doreen Schwab**. Coffee hour is hosted by **Elaine Gaudette** and **Bill Lostocco**. Thank you all!

Katie Wilcox Day – Today

We celebrate Katie Wilcox Day today. A special donation will be collected for Lady Doak College and envelopes are in the bulletin if you would like to donate. Thank you.

Sermon Talk Back – June 7

A reminder that the sermon talk back discussion with Alan will be next Sunday following the worship service.

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

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