Reverend W. Alan Froggatt, Minister
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THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHESTER

An Open & Affirming Congregation of
The United Church of Christ
July 5, 2026, 10:00 a.m.
Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

WELCOME — Jennifer Gill, Deacon

PRELUDE — *March in D* — F. Mendelssohn

INTROIT — *Here, O My Lord, I See Thee Face to Face* — J. Langran
Claudia and Ed Epright

CALL TO WORSHIP
For freedom Christ has set us free:
We will stand firm and not submit again to the yoke of slavery.
We are no longer children of the law,
But now we are heirs of the promise through Jesus Christ.
At one time we were children of the flesh and of desire;
Now we are children of the Spirit, children of freedom, children of God. Amen.

*HYMN — *God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand* — 537

God of the ages, whose almighty hand leads forth in beauty all the starry band of shining worlds in splendor through the skies, our grateful songs before thy throne arise.

Thy love divine hath led us in the past; in this free land with thee our lot is cast; be thou our ruler, guardian, guide and stay, thy word our law, thy paths our chosen way.

From war's alarms, from deadly pestilence, be thy strong arm our ever sure defense; thy true religion in our hearts increase; thy bounteous goodness nourish us in peace.

Refresh thy people on life's toilsome way; lead us from night to neverending day; fill all our lives with love and grace divine, and glory, laud and praise be ever thine.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Lord of all the worlds, guide this nation by your Spirit to go forward in justice and freedom. Give to all living in these lands the blessings of well-being and harmony, but above all things give us faith in you, that our nation may bring glory to your name and blessings to all peoples. Lord, be the light to our eyes, the music to our ears, the sweetness to our taste, the contentment of our hearts. Be the sunshine to our day, our food at table, our repose in the night, our comfort and succor in all necessities. Lord, we give you ourselves: body and soul and substance; fame and friends, liberty and life. Employ us, and all we have, as is pleasing to you, and to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Amos 9.11-15

"In that day I will restore David's fallen shelter— I will repair its broken walls and restore its ruins— and will rebuild it as it used to be, so that they may possess the remnant of Edom and all the nations that bear my name,' declares the Lord, who will do these things. 'The days are coming,' declares the Lord, 'when the reaper will be overtaken by the plower and the planter by the one treading grapes. New wine will drip from the mountains and flow from all the hills, and I will bring my people Israel back from exile. They will rebuild the ruined cities and live in them. They will plant vineyards and drink their wine; they will make gardens and eat their fruit. I will plant Israel in their own land, never again to be uprooted from the land I have given them,' says the Lord your God.'

ANTHEM *Battle Hymn of the Republic* W. Steffe

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON Philippians 3.17-4.1 (p. 1072)

SERMON *"What, to the Christian, Is the 4th of July?"* Rev. W. Alan Froggatt

"Surely the arm of the Lord is not too short to save, nor his ear too dull to hear."
(Isaiah 59.1)

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

OFFERTORY *Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling* W. Thompson

*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 *The New Colossus* Emma Lazarus (1849-1887)

*HYMN *Beautiful for Spacious Skies* 532

O beautiful for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain, for purple mountain majesties above the fruited plain! America! America! God shed all grace on thee, and crown thy good with brother-hood from sea to shining sea.

O beautiful for pilgrim feet, whose stern, impassioned stress a thoroughfare for freedom beat across the wilderness! America! America! God mend thine every flaw, confirm thy soul in self-control, thy liberty in law.

O beautiful for heroes proved in liberating strife, who more than self their country loved, and mercy more than life! America! America! May God thy gold refine, till all success be nobleness, and every gain divine.

O beautiful for patriot dream that sees beyond the years thine alabaster cities gleam, undimmed by human tears! America! America! God shed all grace on thee, and crown thy good with brother-hood from sea to shining sea!

*BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE *Here, O My Lord, I See Thee Face to Face* J. Langran

(* those who are able may stand)

LOOKING AHEAD

July 5	**9:00 am** 5:00 pm	**Worship** Soup Kitchen	July 9	8:30 am 5:00 pm	Yoga Irish Dance
July 6	5:00 pm	Irish Dance	July 10	**8:15 am**	**Coffice Hours at The Villager**
July 7	8:30 am 5:00 pm	Yoga Irish Dance	July 12	**10:00 am** 5:00 pm	**Worship** Soup Kitchen
July 8	5:00 pm	Irish Dance			

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 July is **Jennifer Gill.** Chancel flowers were provided by **Norma Stearns**. You were greeted this morning by **Norma Stearns**.

ALAN'S OFFICE HOURS: Wednesday – Friday 8:30 am – 12:20 pm or by appointment.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday – Friday 9:00 am – 1:00 pm