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## THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHESTER

An Open & Affirming Congregation of

The United Church of Christ

November 12, 2023, 10:00 a.m.

*Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost*

WELCOME

Diane Lindsay, Deacon

PRELUDE

INTROIT

*Praise God*

T. Tallis

CALL TO WORSHIP

Love us God, with everything you've got- this is what we're depending on.

**Let your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us, even as we hope in you.**

Our souls wait for the Lord, who is our help and shield.

**God, who piles on all the benevolence we could ever imagine – to do good, to be rich in helping others, to be extravagantly generous – is an abundant God.**

And when we do, we build a treasury that will last, gaining life that is truly life.

**Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouses nor barns, and yet God feeds them.**

Love us God, with everything you've got –

**So that we may love all your children with everything we've got! Amen!**

\*HYMN

*Our God, Our Help in Ages Past*

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Our God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home!

Under the shadow of thy throne thy saints have dwelt secure; sufficient is thine arm alone, and our defense is sure.

Before the hills in order stood, or earth received her frame, from everlasting thou art God, to endless years the same.

A thousand ages in thy sight are like an evening gone, short as the watch that ends the night before the rising sun.

Time, like an ever rolling stream, bears mortals all away; they fly , forgotten, as a dream dies at the opening day.

Our God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, be thou our guard while troubles last, and our eternal home.

#### INVOCATION

**Our God, Our Help in Ages Past, Our Hope for Years to Come, we are grateful for the ways you have been revealed to us: through the love of community, gathered here and beyond; through nature and the beauty each new season brings; and through a shared hope ignited within us that does not flicker or fade. Hold our good intentions in your generous hands, free us from whatever keeps us from the good, and enable us to move into the coming days and years with your love behind us, Christ beside us, and your truth ever before us. Amen.**

#### PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Micah 4.1-5 (p. 848) / Isaiah 2.1-4 (p.618)

ANTHEM

*Stay With Us*

E. Hovland

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

II Corinthians 9.6-15

The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. As it is written, 'The Lord scatters abroad, and gives to the poor, whose righteousness endures for ever.' The One who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us; for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God. Through the testing of this ministry you glorify God by your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ and by the generosity of your sharing with them and with all others,

while they long for you and pray for you because of the surpassing grace of God that he has given you. Thanks be to God for this indescribable gift!

SERMON *“It Would Have Been Enough”* Rev. W. Alan Froggatt

“God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.”

(II Corinthians 9.8)

## RESPONSE TO THE WORD

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

Bob Luther

OFFERTORY

*There's a Quiet Understanding*

T. Smith

\*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

POEM

*Dayenu – If Only...*

Rick Lupert

\*HYMN

*Take My Life, and Let It Be Consecrated*

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Take my life, and let it be consecrated, Lord to thee; take my moments and my days,  
let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands, and let them move at the impulse of thy love; take my feet, and let  
them be swift and beautiful for thee.

Take my will, and make it thine; it shall be no longer mine; take my heart, it is thine  
own; it shall be thy royal throne.

Take my love: my Lord I pour at thy feet its treasure store; take myself, and I will be  
ever, only, all for thee.

\*BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

*Go Now in Peace*

N. Sleeth

## LOOKING AHEAD

November 12	11:00 am 5:00 pm	Chair Yoga Class Soup Kitchen	November 16	10:00 am 6:30 pm <b>7:00 pm</b>	Backpack Program Scouts – Pack Meeting <b>Choir Rehearsal</b>
November 13	6:30 pm	Irish Dance	November 17	<b>8:15 am</b>	<b>Coffice Hours at The Villager</b>
November 14	8:30 am 6:30 pm 7:00 pm	Yoga Scouts – L&T Chester Garden Club	November 19	5:00 pm	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 November is **Diane Lindsay**. Our Greeter for today is **Sue Germin-Humble**. Flowers on the altar were provided by **Sue Germini-Humble**. Coffee hour is being hosted by **Claudia Epright**.

The **Outreach Committee** is continuing to collect Adams or Chester HomeTown food cards in any denomination for the upcoming holiday season. Please consider picking up a food card. Any questions please contact Sue Germini-Humble at 860-395-4340 or the church office at 860-526-2697

**Free Chair Yoga Class** today after church. This is a Thank You from Megan Spaulding who conducts a yoga class here each week. This is a gentle form of yoga that Megan also conducts at Kirtland Commons.

**ALAN'S OFFICE HOURS:** Wednesday – Friday 8:30 am-12:30 pm

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