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## THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHESTER

An Open & Affirming Congregation of

The United Church of Christ

November 26, 2023, 10:00 a.m.

*Reign of Christ Sunday*

WELCOME

Diane Lindsay, Deacon

PRELUDE

*All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name*

arr. B. Price

INTROIT

*Praise God*

T. Tallis

CALL TO WORSHIP

God in Jesus Christ has said, 'I am the Alpha and the Omega.'

**We are a people of many beginnings and endings.**

Within God's own time we each find our own little times:

**Our memories, our concerns for today, our hopes for tomorrow.**

This is the time we have set aside for worship, reflection and praise.

**And God, who was present in our beginnings will be with us at and beyond our endings. Amen.**

\*HYMN

*All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name*

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All hail the power of Jesus' name! Let angels prostrate fall; bring forth the royal diadem, and crown him Lord of all. Bring forth the royal diadem, and crown him Lord of all.

O martyrs, prophets, seers of old, who from God's altar call, extol the Savior you foretold, and crown him Lord of all. Extol the Savior you foretold, and crown him Lord of all.

All heirs of Israel's faithful race, who heed the Gospel's call, proclaim the wonder of Christ's grace, and crown him Lord of all. Proclaim the wonder of Christ's grace, and crown him Lord of all.

Let every kindred, every tribe, on this terrestrial ball, to Christ all majesty ascribe, and crown him Lord of all. To Christ all majesty ascribe, and crown him Lord of all.

Before his cross, with heaven's throng, we on our knees shall fall; we'll join the everlasting song, and crown him Lord of all. We'll join the everlasting song, and crown him Lord of all.

#### INVOCATION

**Loving God, open our hearts that we may feel the breath and play of your Spirit. Unclench our hands that we may reach out to one another, to touch and be healed. Open our lips that we may drink in the delight and wonder of life. Open our eyes that we may see Your image in friend and stranger alike. Breathe your Spirit into us, and touch our lives with the life of Christ in whose name we pray, Amen.**

#### PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

##### OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Ruth 1.11-18

Naomi said, "Turn back, my daughters, why will you go with me? Do I still have sons in my womb that they may become your husbands? Turn back, my daughters, go your way, for I am too old to have a husband. Even if I thought there was hope for me, even if I should have a husband tonight and bear sons, would you then wait until they were grown? Would you then refrain from marrying? No, my daughters, it has been far more bitter for me than for you, because the hand of the Lord has turned against me." Then they wept aloud again. Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her. So she said, "See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law." But Ruth said, "Do not press me to leave you or to turn back from following you! Where you go, I will go; where you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God my God. Where you die, I will die - there will I be buried. May the Lord do thus and so to me, and more as well, if even death parts me from you!" When Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more to her.

##### ANTHEM

*A Loving Heart*  
Alan Froggatt, violin

T. Bushong

##### NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Matthew 15.21-28

##### SERMON

*"Scraps and Leftovers"*

Rev. W. Alan Froggatt

"The woman answered Jesus, 'Yes Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table.'"

(Matthew 15.27)

## RESPONSE TO THE WORD

OFFERTORY

*Simple Gifts From God*

Shaker Tune by J. Martin

\*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

*To a Stranger*

Walt Whitman (1819-1892)

\*HYMN

*Fairest Lord Jesus*

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Fairest Lord Jesus, ruler of all nature, O thou of God to earth come down, thee will I cherish, thee will I honor, thou, my soul's glory, joy and crown.

Fair are the meadows, fairer still the woodlands, robed in the blooming garb of spring; Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer, who makes the woeful heart to sing.

Fair is the sunshine, fairer still the moonlight, and all the twinkling, starry host: Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer than all the angel heaven can boast.

\*BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

*Go Now in Peace*

N. Sleeth

## LOOKING AHEAD

November 26	5:00 pm	No Soup Kitchen	November 30	10:00 am 5:30 pm <b>7:00 pm</b>	Backpack Program Scouts – Wolf Den <b>Choir Rehearsal</b>
November 27	6:30 pm	Irish Dance	December 1	<b>8:15 am</b>	<b>Coffee Hours</b> <b>Simon's Mkt.</b>
November 28	8:30 am 6:30 pm	Yoga Scouts – L&T	December 3	<b>10:00 am</b> 5:00 pm	<b>Worship</b> 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 **Deb Calamari**. Flowers on the altar were provided by **Deb Calamari**. Coffee hour is being hosted by **Diane Lindsay** and **Jennifer Gill**.

A **Celebration of Life** service for **James Ready** will be held on Monday, November 27<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am. Reception to follow.

### Advent Wreath Lighting - Volunteers Needed

We are looking for 5 families or groups of folks to participate in the annual Advent Wreath lighting ceremony. The readings will be provided for you in advance. The dates are the 4 Sundays in Advent - December 3, 10, 17, 24 morning and Christmas Eve 5:00 pm. Please contact Alan or the church office if you are interested.

**Our Christmas Fair** is next week! Please check out the sign-up sheets in Fellowship Hall.

Margie Warner's '**Nutty' Nut Ball Night** is Thursday, November 30<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm. Please join Margie in making these wonderful cookies. Or just make the dough and drop off on Thursday for Margie to bake for the fair. Copies of the Nut ball recipe are in the narthex.

**The Chester Hose Company** will be having their wreath sale on Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> and Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm.

**Offering envelopes** for 2024 are available in the Narthex. We have ordered fewer boxes

this year, so your number may have changed. If you do not find your name on a box, please see Diane Lindsay, Financial Secretary.

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

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