THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHESTER

An Open & Affirming Congregation of
The United Church of Christ
January 15, 2023 10:00 a.m.
Second Sunday after Epiphany

PREPARATION FOR THE WORD

WELCOME — Deb Calamari, Deacon

PRELUDE — *Nobody Knows the Trouble I've Seen* (arr. by Dett, arr. by Stickle and Norton)

INTROIT — *We Shall Overcome* — arr. T. Trenney

CALL TO WORSHIP

When God gathers us in grace and mercy, whom – or what - do we worship?
Do we worship ourselves, or an image of ourselves, because our vision is too limited to see and know the true God?
When God gathers us in grace and mercy, whom or what do we worship?
Do we worship old traditions, our ancestors, our buildings, human idols built of rote and habit?
When God gathers us in grace and mercy, whom or what do we worship?
We worship the God who is above all human experience and endeavor, whose grace and mercy lead us to life: Let us worship our God together! Amen.

*HYMN — *Go Tell It On the Mountain* — 160

INVOCATION

Source of light and giver of life, satisfy our searching spirits in the One who is the image of your glory; the unfailing light, the everliving Christ. May each day of our lives abound with this life in accord with your Word. And Let our spirits shine as bright stars guiding the world toward your holy and loving presence. Amen.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON — Daniel 3.8-30

ANTHEM — *I Believe* — M. Miller

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON — I Peter 4.12-19

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice in so far as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you. But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, a criminal, or even as a mischief-maker. Yet if any of you suffers as a Christian, do not consider it a disgrace, but glorify God because you bear this name. For the time has come for judgement to begin with the household of God; if it begins with us, what will be the end for those who do not obey the gospel of God? And 'If it is hard for the righteous to be saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinners?' Therefore, let those suffering in accordance with God's will entrust themselves to a faithful Creator, while continuing to do good.

SERMON — *"The Fiery Furnace and the Birmingham Jail"* — Rev. W. Alan Froggatt

"If our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the furnace of blazing fire and out of your hand, O King, let him deliver us. But if not, be it known to you, O King, that we will not serve your gods and we will not worship the golden statue that you have set up."
(Daniel 3.17-18)

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

ANTHEM — *Little Innocent Lamb* — (spiritual arr. M. Bartholomew)

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER *("trespasses")*

POEM — *Autumn Sky* — Charles Simic (1938-2023)

*HYMN — *When Israel Was in Egypt's Land* — 497

*BLESSING & BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE — *We Shall Overcome* — arr T. Trenney

LOOKING AHEAD

January 15	5:00 pm	Soup Kitchen
January 16	5:00 pm	Irish Dance Troup
January 17	6:30 pm	Scouts – Arrows of Light
January 18	10:00 am	Backpack Program
	6:00 pm	Scouts – Bear Den
January 19	6:30 pm	Scouts – Pack Meeting
January 20	**8:15 am**	**Coffice Hours at Simon's Marketplace**
January 21	9:00 am	Craft Day to Support CES Backpack Program
January 22	**10:00 am**	**Worship**
	11:00 am	**Deacon's Meeting**
	1:00 pm	**Phyllis Webb Funeral Service**
	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**.

Offering envelopes have been ordered but have not yet arrived.

This deacon for the month of January is **Debra Calamari.** The greeter this morning is **Sue Germini-Humble**. Flowers for the altar are given by **Debra Calamari**. Coffee Hour is being hosted by **Jennifer Gill** and **Claudia Epright**.

ALAN'S OFFICE HOURS: Wednesday-Friday 8:30 am-12:30 pm, other times by appointment

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

The United Church of Chester

United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Church

January 15, 2023

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Go Tell It On the Mountain

Refrain
Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere; go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born!

While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night, behold throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.

Refrain
The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! above the earth rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth.

Refrain
Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born, and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.
Refrain

When Israel Was in Egypt's Land

When Israel was in Egypt's land, let my people go, oppressed so hard they could not stand, let my people go,
Refrain
Go down, Moses, 'way down in Egypt's land, tell old Pharoah, to let my people go.

Thus saith the Lord, bold Moses said, let my people go, if not I'll smite your first-born dead, let my people go,
Refrain

The Lord told Moses what to do, let my people go, to lead the Hebrew children through, let my people go,
Refrain

Then Miriam danced and sang her song, let my people go, "Our god has triumphed over wrong!", let my people go,
Refrain

Oh, let us all from bondage flee, let my people go, and let us all in Christ be free, let my people go,
Refrain