THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHESTER

An Open & Affirming Congregation of
The United Church of Christ
August 18, 2024 9:00 a.m.
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

PREPARATION FOR THE WORD

WELCOME — Peggy Phillips, Deacon

PRELUDE — *Sarabande* — Edward Grieg
Sue Saltus, organist

CALL TO WORSHIP
Children of God, you are a chosen people;
We are the priesthood of all believers.
Indeed, you are God's own people, that you may proclaim the good news and wonderful works of God.
For God has called us out of darkness into this marvelous light.
When you belonged to yourselves, you were nobody;
Now that we belong to God, we are God's very own;
When you belonged to yourselves, you did not know how to trust in grace and mercy;
Now that we belong to God, we live and breathe in the abundant grace of our merciful God. Amen.

*HYMN — *The God of Abraham Praise* — 2

The God of Abraham praise, all praise the eternal name, who was, and is, and is to be, for aye the same! Our God, the great I AM, ere aught that now appears; the First, the Last: beyond all thought, through timeless years!

God's spirit floweth free, high surging where it will; in prophet's word God spoke of old and speaketh still. Established in God's law, and changeless it shall stand, deep writ upon the human heart, on sea or land.

We have eternal life implanted in our soul; God's love shall be our strength and stay, while ages roll. Praise to the living God! All praise the eternal name, who was, and is, and is to be, for aye the same!

INVOCATION — (attr. to Cardinal John Henry Newman, 1801-1890)

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Genesis 15.1-6

After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." But Abram said, "O Lord God,

what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." But the word of the Lord came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." He brought him outside and said, "Look towards heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." And he believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness.

ANTHEM *He's Got the Whole World in His Hands* (arr) Albert E. Brumley
Claudia and Ed Epright

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON Mark 10.17-24a

SERMON "*No More FOMO*" Rev. W. Alan Froggatt

"When the man heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions."
(Mark .10.22)

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

OFFERTORY *Just a Little Talk with Jesus* Cleavant Derricks

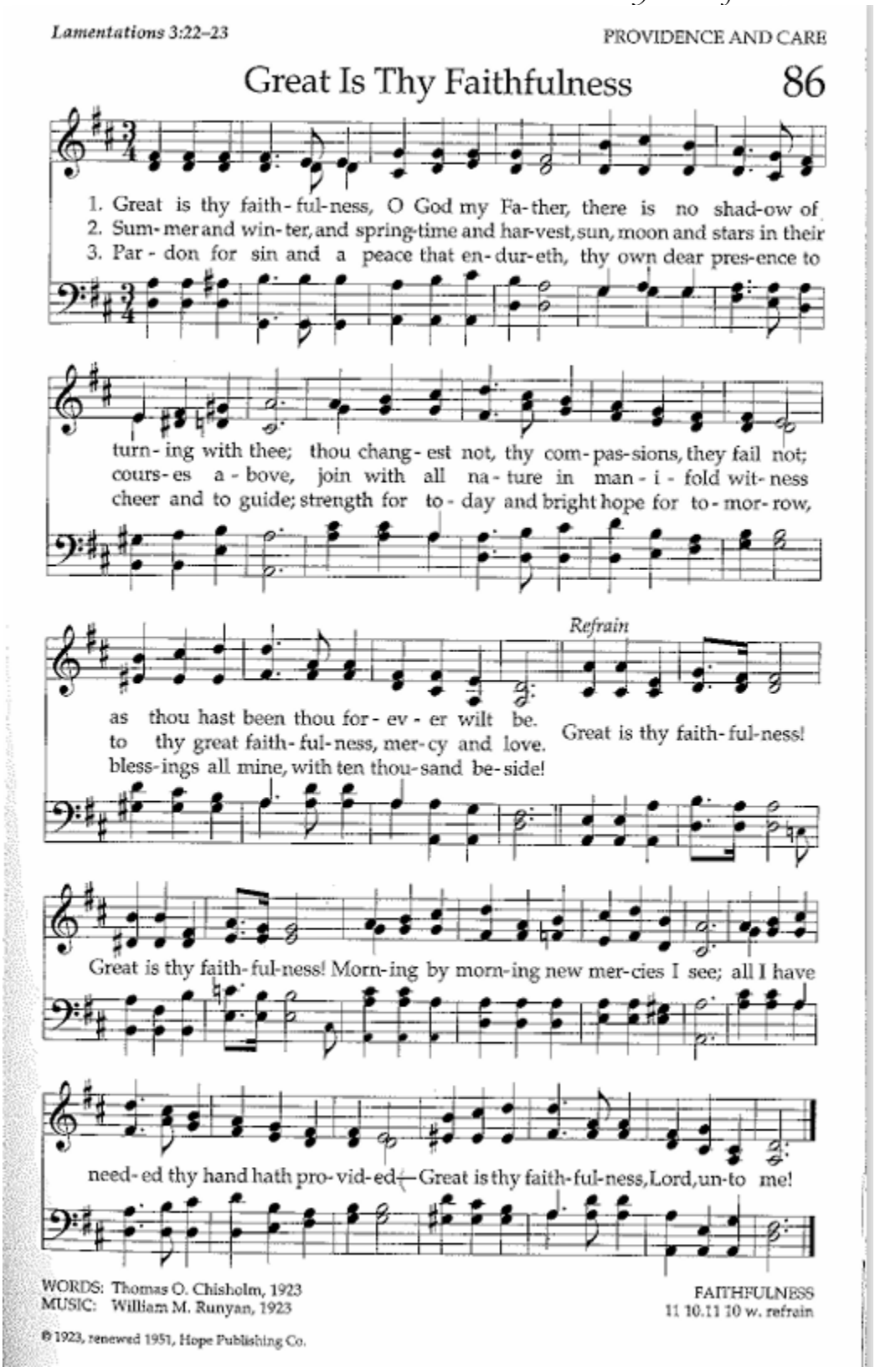
*DOXOLOGY

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

POEM *The Road Not Taken* Robert Frost (1874-1963)

*HYMN *Great Is Thy Faithfulness* insert

Lamentations 3:22–23

PROVIDENCE AND CARE

Great Is Thy Faithfulness 86

1. Great is thy faith-ful-ness, O God my Fa-ther, there is no shad-ow of
2. Sum-mer and win-ter, and spring-time and har-vest, sun, moon and stars in their
3. Par-don for sin and a peace that en-dur-eth, thy own dear pres-ence to

turn-ing with thee; thou chang-est not, thy com-pas-sions, they fail not;
cours-es a-bove, join with all na-ture in man-i-fold wit-ness
cheer and to guide; strength for to-day and bright hope for to-mor-row,

Refrain

as thou hast been thou for-ev-er wilt be.
to thy great faith-ful-ness, mer-cy and love.
bless-ings all mine, with ten thou-sand be-side!

Great is thy faith-ful-ness!

Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Morn-ing by morn-ing new mer-cies I see; all I have

need-ed thy hand hath pro-vid-ed—Great is thy faith-ful-ness, Lord, un-to me!

WORDS: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1923
MUSIC: William M. Runyan, 1923

FAITHFULNESS
11 10.11 10 w. refrain

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*BLESSING & BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE *Amen* William Smith

LOOKING AHEAD

August 18	**9:00 am** **10:00 am** 5:00 pm	**Worship** **Deacon's Meeting** Soup Kitchen	August 22	8:30 am	Yoga
August 20	8:30 am	Yoga	August 23	**8:15 am**	**Coffice Hours at Simon's Marketplace**
			August 25	**9:00 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 August is **Peg Phillips.** You were greeted this morning by **Diane Lindsay.** Chancel Flowers were provided by **Ed and Eileen Sypher,** in memory of Elsie Sypher.

Food Cards
We are continuing to receive food cards for our neighbors in need. All contributions are welcome. Thank you!

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

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday - Friday 9:00 am to 1:00 pm