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THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHESTER

An Open & Affirming Congregation of
The United Church of Christ
October 27, 10:00 a.m.
Reformation Sunday

PREPARATION FOR THE WORD

WELCOME — Michele Procko, Deacon

PRELUDE — *Christ is Made the Sure Foundation* — H. Purcell, J.S. Bach

INTROIT — *The Lord Is In His Holy Temple*

CALL TO WORSHIP
Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place,
We can feel God's might, God's power and grace.
We can hear the brush of angel wings,
We see God's glory on each and every face.
Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place;
God, put your arms around us in a holy embrace!. Amen.

*HYMN — *Now Thank We All Our God* — 27

Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices, who wondrous things hath done, in whom this world rejoices, who, from our mothers' arms, hath blessed us on our way with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us, with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us, and keep us in all grace, and guide us when perplexed, and free us from all ills in this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God almighty now be given; to God, the three-in-one, who reigns in highest heaven, the one eternal God, whom earth and heaven adore, for thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.

INVOCATION (Martin Luther, 1483-1546)

Lord God, heavenly Creator, we know that we are your dear children and that you are our beloved God, not because we deserve it, nor ever could merit it, but because our dear Lord, your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, wills to be our brother, and of his own accord offers and makes this blessing known to us. Since we may consider ourselves his brothers and sisters and he regards us as such, you will permit us to become and remain your children for ever. In the name of Christ our brother, Amen.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON I Kings 17.17-24 (p. 320)

ANTHEM *Peace, Glorious Peace* P. Brennan

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON John 4.46-54

Then Jesus came again to Cana in Galilee where he had changed the water into wine. Now there was a royal official whose son lay ill in Capernaum. When he heard that Jesus had come from Judea to Galilee, he went and begged him to come down and heal his son, for he was at the point of death. Then Jesus said to him, 'Unless you see signs and wonders you will not believe.' The official said to him, 'Sir, come down before my little boy dies.' Jesus said to him, 'Go; your son will live.' The man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him and started on his way. As he was going down, his slaves met him and told him that his child was alive. So he asked them the hour when he began to recover, and they said to him, 'Yesterday at one in the afternoon the fever left him.' The father realized that this was the hour when Jesus had said to him, 'Your son will live.' So he himself believed, along with his whole household. Now this was the second sign that Jesus did after coming from Judea to Galilee.

SERMON *"Signs"* Rev. W. Alan Froggatt

"Unless you see signs and wonders you will not believe."
(John 4.48)

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

OFFERTORY *Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child* A. Parker
Diane Adams, Margie Warner (vocalists)

*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 *Just As The Darkness Got Very Dark / Another Data Point* Erika Meitner (2024)

*HYMN *Jesus' Hands Were Kind Hands* 171

Jesus' hands were kind hands, doing good to all, healing pain and sickness, blessing children small, washing tired feet, and saving those who fall; Jesus' hands were kind hands, doing good to all.

Take my hands, O Jesus, let them work for you, make them strong and gentle, kind in all I do; let me watch you, Jesus, till I'm gentle too, till my hands are kind hands, quick to work for you.

*BLESSING & BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE *Lord Let Us Now Depart In Peace*

(* all who are able may stand)

LOOKING AHEAD

October 27	**10:00 am** **11:00 am** 5:00 pm	**Worship** **Deacons Mtg** **Trustees Mtg** Soup Kitchen	October 31	8:30 am 6:30 pm **7:00 pm**	Yoga Scouts **Choir Rehearsal**
October 28	5:30 pm	Irish Dance	November 1	**8:15 am**	**Coffice Hours at Simon's Marketplace**
October 29	8:30 am 6:30 pm	Yoga Scouts	November 2	1:00 pm	Chester Garden Club Tea
October 30	2:45 pm 6:30 pm	After-school program Scouts	November 3	**10:00 am**	**Worship (Fall Back - Daylight Savings Time Ends)**

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 October is **Michele Procko.** You were greeted this morning by **Sue Germini-Humble .** Chancel Flowers were provided by **Deron Grabel**.

Outreach Committee – Thanksgiving Food Card Drive
It's that time of year when the Outreach Committee will start collecting food cards to be distributed to local families in need for Thanksgiving. Please note we are accepting food cards from Adams Grocery Store only.

Chester Garden Club Tea – Saturday, November 2nd
The Chester Garden Club is hosting their annual tea on Saturday, November 2nd starting at 2:00 pm. Set-up for the tea will begin on Tuesday, October 29th.

ALAN'S OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 8:30 am to 12:30 pm, or by appointment

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