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THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHESTER

An Open & Affirming Congregation of
The United Church of Christ
October 6, 10:00 a.m.
World Communion Sunday

PREPARATION FOR THE WORD

WELCOME — Michele Procko, Deacon

PRELUDE

INTROIT — *The Lord Is In His Holy Temple*

CALL TO WORSHIP
Lord Jesus Christ, because you broke bread with the poor, you were looked on with contempt.
Because you broke bread with the sinful and outcast, you were looked on as ungodly.
Because you broke bread with the joyful, you were called a winebibber and a glutton.
Because you broke bread in the upstairs room, you sealed your acceptance of the way of The cross.
Because you broke bread on the road to Emmaus, the scales fell from the disciples' eyes.
Because you broke bread and shared it, we do so too, by your boundless grace and mercy. Amen.

*HYMN — *Amazing Grace! How Sweet the Sound* — 401

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound that saved and set me free! I once was lost, but now am found; was blind but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved; how precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils and snares I have already come; 'tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.

My God has promised good to me, whose word my hope secures; God will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.

When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun, we've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first begun.

INVOCATION

God of grape and God of grain, God of sun and God of rain,
God of laughter, God of pain, God who let the Son be slain,
God of mercy, God of grace, God of time and God of space,
God of cross and hidden face, God who has not left this place.
God of life and God of light, God of peace yet God of might,
God who rose from death's dark night, God who reigns beyond our sight,
God whose promise has endured, in your own child, your own Word,
Our salvation now assured, let our every prayer is heard. Amen.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Nehemiah 9.16-23 (p. 431)

ANTHEM *River in Judea* J. Feldman

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON Ephesians 2.4-10

God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which God loves us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come we might know the immeasurable riches of the grace and kindness towards us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God— not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what God has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

SERMON *"Dessert First"* Rev. W. Alan Froggatt

"But you are a God ready to forgive, gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love."
(Nehemiah 9.17b)

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

OFFERTORY *A Communion Invitation* H. Sorenson

*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")*

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

POEM *The Quality of Mercy is Not Strained*
(The Merchant of Venice, IV, i, 184-205) William Shakespeare (1564-1616)

*HYMN *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy* 72

There's a wideness in God's mercy, like the wideness of the sea; there's a kindness in God's justice, which is more than liberty.

There is no place where earth's sorrows are more felt than up in heaven; there is no place where earth's failings have such kindly judgement given.

For the love of God is broader than the measure of our mind; and the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.

If our love were but more faithful, we would gladly trust God's word; and our lives would be illumined by the presence of our Lord.

*BLESSING & BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE Lord Let Us Now Depart In Peace

(* all who are able may stand)

LOOKING AHEAD

October 6	**10:00 am** **11:00 am** 11:00 am 5:00 pm	**Worship** **Christmas Fair Meeting** Chair Yoga Soup Kitchen	October 10	8:30 am 6:30 pm **7:00 pm**	Yoga Scouts **Choir Rehearsal**
October 7	5:30 pm	Irish Dance	October 11	**8:15 am**	**Coffice Hours at Simon's Marketplace**
October 8	8:30 am 6:30 pm 7:00 pm	Yoga Scouts Chester Garden Club	October 13	**10:00 am** **11:00 am**	**Worship Council Meeting**
October 9	6:30 pm	Scouts			

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 **Daphne Stitt.** Chancel Flowers were provided by **John** and **Daphne Stitt** in celebration of the wonderful staff and residents of Masonicare at Chester Village. Coffee Hour is being hosted by **Elaine Gaudette** and **Diane Lindsay**.

Christmas Fair Meeting – Today

There will be a meeting to discuss the upcoming Christmas Fair following today's worship service. Please attend if you are able. Any questions please contact Judy Schondorf at 860.399.7772.

Chair Yoga – Today

A chair yoga session (like we did last year) will be conducted by our yoga instructor Megan Spaulding in fellowship hall directly after the service. It is a terrific, no stress introduction to the benefits of yoga and lots of fun! Whatever you wear to church is fine for this brief session. Come join us!