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THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHESTER

An Open & Affirming Congregation of
The United Church of Christ
August 10, 2025 9:00 a.m.
Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

PREPARATION FOR THE WORD

WELCOME — Pat Holloway, Deacon

PRELUDE — *Be Thou My Vision* (Irish Folk Tune) — arr B. Culli

INTROIT — *Pie Jesu* — Faure's Requiem
Paulina Hyla, soloist

CALL TO WORSHIP
Come from the East, come from the West;
Come from the North, Come from the South;
Come, let us worship the God of our ancestors;
Come, let us worship the God of our descendants;
Come, let us worship the God of all creation;
We come to worship the God of our Lord Jesus Christ; Amen.

*HYMN — *In Christ There is No East Or West* — 381
(tune: St. Peter)

In Christ there is no east or west, in him no south or north; but one community of love throughout the whole wide earth.

In Christ shall true hearts everywhere their high communion find; his service is the golden cord close-binding human kind.

Join hands, disciples of the faith, what e'er your race may be; all children of the living God are surely kin to me.

In Christ now meet both east and west, in him meet south and north; all Christly souls are one in him throughout the whole wide earth.

INVOCATION

Silent Word, Creative Act, Hidden Truth, Revealed Love: we wait for you. More honestly, we are impatient for you to come and set things right. We are insecure with our world, fearful of terrors real and imagined, and anxious about ourselves. We overlook your guidance, when we would rather you act according to <u>our</u> plans. We seldom pause to consider that *you* might be waiting for *us*: waiting for some genuine act of contrition; waiting for us to repent and change; waiting for us to listen and respond with a burning passion to your truth, your justice, and your mercy. Furnish us with humble hearts and willing spirits to receive you as you come to us through all the experiences of our lives. We pray in the name of the One who is yet to come, Jesus Christ the Righteous; Amen.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Psalm 11

In the Lord I take refuge; how can you say to me, "Flee like a bird to the mountains; for look the wicked bend the bow, they have fitted their arrow to the string, to shoot in the dark at the upright heart. If the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do?" The Lord is in his holy temple; the Lord's throne is in heaven. His eyes behold, his gaze examines humankind. The Lord tests the righteous and the wicked, and his soul hates the lover of violence. On the wicked he will rain coals of fire and sulfur; a scorching wind shall be the portion of their cup. For the Lord is righteous; he loves righteous deeds; the upright shall behold his face.

ANTHEM *The Lord's Prayer* A. Malotte

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON Matthew 5.9, 43-48 (p. 882)

REMARKS *"Tale of Two Cities – A Parable"* Rev. W. Alan Froggatt

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

OFFERTORY *Ave Maria* Bach-Gounod

*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 *Paper Boats* Rabindranath Tagore (1861-1941)

*HYMN *This Little Light of Mine* 364

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine; This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine; This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine, let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

This great joy I have, I'm gonna let it shine; This great joy I have, I'm gonna let it shine; This great joy I have, I'm gonna let it shine, let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Ev'ry where I go, I'm gonna let it shine; Ev'ry where I go, I'm gonna let it shine; Ev'ry where I go, I'm gonna let it shine, let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

All through the night, I'm gonna let it shine; All through the night, I'm gonna let it shine; All through the night, I'm gonna let it shine, let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine; This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine; This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine, let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

*BLESSING & BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION *Pie Jesu* (reprise) Faure's Requiem

(* all who are able may stand)

LOOKING AHEAD

August 10	**9:00 am** 5:00 pm	**Worship** Soup Kitchen			
August 11	8:30 am	Yoga	August 15	**8:15 am**	**Coffice Hours at Simon's Marketplace**
August 12	8:30 am	Yoga	August 17	**9:00 am** **10:00 am** 5:00 pm	**Worship** **Deacons' Meeting** 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 **Pat Holloway**. The flowers in the chancel were provided by **John** and **Daphne Stitt** in loving memory of their parents. The greeter this morning is **Daphne Stitt**. Coffee hour is being hosted by **Diane Lindsay**. Thank you to all who volunteer!

Lady Doak College Visit
Due to an illness, the visit from representatives of Lady Doak College has been postponed until sometime in September.

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

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday – Friday 9:00 am – 1:00 pm