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THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHESTER

An Open & Affirming Congregation of
The United Church of Christ
October 12, 2025 10:00 a.m.
Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

PREPARATION FOR THE WORD

WELCOME — Michele Procko, Deacon

PRELUDE

INTROIT — *This is the Day the Lord has Made* — M. Hayes

CALL TO WORSHIP (Inspired by Psalm 66)
One: We celebrate the Holy One who eases our souls.
Many: Come and see what God has done!
One: We celebrate the Holy One who keeps us from slipping.
Many: Come and see what God has done!
One: We celebrate the Holy One whose steadfast love sustains us.
Many: Come and see what God has done!

*HYMN — *For the Beauty of the Earth* — 54

For the beauty of the earth, for the splendor of the skies, for the love which from our birth over and around us lies, Lord of all to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the beauty of each hour of the day and of the night, hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light, Lord of all to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's delight, for the mystic harmony linking sense to sound and sight, Lord of all to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child, friends on earth and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild, Lord of all to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For each perfect gift of thine unto us so freely given, graces, human and divine, flowers of earth and buds of heaven, Lord of all to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION

All: Loving God, Compassionate Architect, You are the bearer of all our souls, the hope of all possibilities when walls surround us. You carve paths in mountainous regions when our roads appear blocked. You build bridges between people separated by gaps and distances. May we be ones who create channels so that your children continue to form relationships with one another and with you. Amen.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7

These are the words of the letter that the prophet Jeremiah sent from Jerusalem to the remaining elders among the exiles, and to the priests, the prophets, and all the people, whom Nebuchadnezzer had taken into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon. Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon. Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat what they produce. Take wives and have sons and daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease. But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.

ANTHEM *Halle, Halle, Halle* trad. Caribbean H. Hopson

CHRISTIAN SCRIPTURE READING Luke 17:11-19

On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee. As he entered a village, ten people with a skin disease approached him. Keeping their distance, they called out, saying, "Jesus, have mercy on us!" When he saw them, he said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were made clean. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. He prostrated himself at Jesus's feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan. Then Jesus asked, "Were not ten made clean? So where are the other nine? Did none of them return to give glory to God except this foreigner?" Then he said to him, "Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well."

SERMON *"Finding Our Welfare"* Rev. Dr. Kristen Provost Switzer

"Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat what they produce… But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to God on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare" (Jeremiah 29:4, 7).

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

OFFERTORY *He Ain't Heavy, He's My Brother* (arr) J. Althouse

*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 *Invictus* William Ernest Henley (1849-1903)

*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 is 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!

*BLESSING & BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE *The Blessing of Aaron* N. Ramsey

(* all who are able may stand)

LOOKING AHEAD

October 12	**10:00 am** 5:00 pm	**Worship** Soup Kitchen	October 16	8:30 am 6:30 pm **7:00 pm**	Yoga Scouts Pack Mtg. **Choir Rehearsal**
October 13	5:30 pm	Irish Dance	October 17	**8:15 am**	**No Coffice Hours**
October 14	8:30 am	Yoga	October 19	**10:00 am** 5:00 pm	**Worship** Soup Kitchen
October 15	7:00 pm	Scouts – Court of Honor Ceremony			

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.** The flowers in the chancel were provided by **Deb Calamari**. The greeter this morning is **Deb Calamari**. Coffee hour is hosted by **Cheryl Archer**. Thank you to all who volunteer!

Welcome Rev. Dr. Kristen Provost Switzer
Please welcome Rev. Dr. Kristen Provost Switzer who joins us from the South Congregational Church of Middletown. Kristen has served congregations in Hamden, Prospect and Newtown, CT before coming to South Church. Kristen is passionate about social justice issues such as antiracism, LGBT+ ministries, gun violence prevention and economic justice. She believes in the power of church as community building, healing and liberating. Kristen raises her three children with her partner, Aerin (she/they), and loves to spend her free time with her family, at the gym, hiking, eating vegetarian food, and playing with their two cats.

Christmas Fair Meeting – October 26th
There will be a Christmas Fair meeting following the church service on October 26th. All those interested in the fair should attend. Any questions please contact Judy Schondorf at 860.399.7772 or Marie Ready at 860.526.1487.

ALAN'S OFFICE HOURS:. Alan will be away this week studying in St. Louis.

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