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THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHESTER

An Open & Affirming Congregation of
The United Church of Christ
October 19, 2025 10:00 a.m.
Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

PREPARATION FOR THE WORD

WELCOME — Michele Procko , Deacon

PRELUDE

INTROIT — *Let the Words of My Mouth* — W.Wiersbe

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: In autumn beauty blue sky and golden land are clothed. Apple-gathering children and nut-gathering squirrels alike prepare for winter.

All: In our tradition, harvest is a time of rejoicing in God's natural bounty and the in-gathering of our lives.

One: We praise God for all we have received. Seasons turn but God's love is changeless.

All: We praise God for all we have received. Maple leaves dancing, crisp breezes blowing, the good news stories of Jesus' sojourn in Galilee, and the restless winds of the Spirit rushing through our lives – all these assure us of God's faithful presence. **

*HYMN — *There Is Love All Around You* — 78

There is love all around you, there is joy on the wind. Stretch your hand to your brother, and new life will begin. Stretch your hand to your sister, and new life will begin!

There is peace if we seek it, there is truth that will win. There is God in our sister; God is love; let love in. There is God in our brother; God is love; let love in!

There are tears all around you, there are souls without friend. Feel the pain of another, and let love bloom again! Feel the pain of another, and let love bloom again!

Like a stream growing stronger, love is shared friend to friend and flows on to the Maker, love is live without end. Love flows on to the Maker, love is life without end!

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Holy Spirit of God, who gathers the church into one body, gather us once again in your presence and strengthen the bonds of affection that hold your people together. Bless us with grace to cooperate with one another in love and service that we may be the signs of your uniting love to our fractured world. Teach us to show compassion for those in need, to face challenges with imagination, and to counter disappointments with prayerful trust. So may your church bring forth your will and your reign. Amen. **

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSON Psalm 92:1-8

It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to your name, O Most High; to declare your steadfast love in the morning, and your faithfulness by night, to the music of the lute and the harp, to the melody of the lyre. For you, O Lord, have made me glad by your work; at the works of my hands I sing for joy. How great are your works, O Lord! Your thoughts are very deep! The dullard cannot know, the stupid cannot understand this: though the wicked sprout like grass and all evildoers flourish, they are doomed to destruction forever, but you, O Lord, are on high forever.

ANTHEM	*It is Well With My Soul*	B. Krogstad
SCRIPTURE LESSON	Isaiah 12:3-6	(p. 628)
SERMON	*"Gracias a la Vida (Thanks to Life)"*	Rev. Joseph M. Tobin

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

OFFERTORY	*I Believe*	M. Miller

*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

*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Holy One, there are no words that can adequately express our thanks to you for the many gifts and blessings you so generously give to each of us. With gratitude, we offer you the fruits of our labor and ask that you bless these offerings that they may touch the lives of those most in need and that your grace fall upon all humankind who live in this troubled world in desperate need of your love and hope. Amen.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

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

REFLECTION "Come sit with me" Rt. Rev. Steven Charleston
Retired Episcopal Bishop

*HYMN *Jesus, Savior, Lord, Lo, to Thee I Fly* 85

Refrain
Jesus, Savior, Lord, lo, to thee I fly: Saranam, Saranam, Saranam; thou the Rock, my refuge that's higher than I: Saranam, Saranam, Saranam;
In the midst of foes I cry to thee, from the ends of the earth wherever I may be; my strength in helplessness, O answer me: Saranam, Saranam, Saranam;

Refrain
In thy tent give me a dwelling place, and beneath thy wings may I find sheltering grace; O lift on me the sunshine of thy face: Saranam, Saranam, Saranam;

Refrain
O that I my vows to thee may pay, and that by thy faithfulness to me each day may live, and on thy love my burdens lay: Saranam, Saranam, Saranam;

Refrain
Yesterday, today, fore'er the same, lo, the heritage of all who bear thy name; to free them all from sin the Savior came: Saranam, Saranam, Saranam;

*BLESSING & BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE *May You Go in Peace* Grier and Everson

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LOOKING AHEAD

October 19	**10:00 am** 5:00 pm	**Worship –** Soup Kitchen	October 24	**8:15 am**	**Coffice Hours at Simon's Marketplace**
October 20	4:30 pm	Irish Dance Group	October 25	4:00 pm	Brian House Halloween Party
October 21	8:30 am	Yoga	October 26	**10:00 am**	**Worship**
October 23	8:30 am **7:00 pm**	Yoga **Choir Rehearsal**		**11:00 am** 5:00 pm	**Christmas Fair Meeting** **Deacons' Meeting** **Trustees' 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 October is **Michele Procko**. The flowers in the chancel were provided by **Torrey O'Connor** in celebration of her daughter **Kristen's** 36th birthday**.** The greeter this morning is **Torrey O'Connor**. Coffee Hour is hosted by **Elaine Gaudette** and **Bill Lostocco**.

Welcome Back Rev. Joseph M. Tobin
We are being led in worship today by Rev. Joseph M. Tobin who resides in Bloomfield and has led us in worship a couple of times this past summer. Welcome back Rev. Tobin! Thank you for being with us today.

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:. Wednesday – Friday 8:30 am – 12:30 pm, or by appointment.

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