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THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHESTER

An Open & Affirming Congregation of
The United Church of Christ
October 5, 2025 10:00 a.m.
World Communion Sunday

PREPARATION FOR THE WORD

WELCOME — Michele Procko, Deacon

PRELUDE — *Pastorale* — Saint-Saëns
Sue Saltus, organist

INTROIT — *This Is the Day the Lord Has Made* — M. Hayes

CALL TO WORSHIP
(Rev. Taisaku Obata, Minister, Ube Church, United Church of Christ in Japan)
In a world that remains divided and in conflict, God is inviting us, to make us one.
Today we gather around one table, in answer to God's will.
What do we find at today's table?
God's love, which endures all things and connects all things.
What is not at today's table?
The many powers of the world, which seek to stand over others.
Let us repent, and give thanks to God's power to bring salvation to all who believe.
Thanks be to God! Make us witnesses of Your love.
ALL: Let us worship together the true God, who makes us one. Amen.

*HYMN — *O Church of God, United* — 388
O Church of God, united to serve one common Lord, proclaim to all one message, with hearts in glad accord. Christ ever goes before us; we follow day by day with strong and eager footsteps along the upward way.

From ev'ry land and nation the ordered ranks appear; to serve one valiant leader they come from far and near. They chant their one confession, they praise one living Lord, and place their sure dependence upon his saving word.

Though creeds and tongues may differ, they speak, O Christ of thee; and in thy loving spirit we shall one people be. Lord, may our faithful service and singleness of aim proclaim to all the power of thy redeeming name.

May thy great prayer be answered that we may all be one, close bound, by love united in thee, God's blessed Son: to bring a single witness, to make the pathway bright, that souls which grope in darkness may find the one true light.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Holy and loving God, on this World Communion Sunday, You gather us at one table with disciples of every language, culture, and tradition. From cathedrals and chapels, from huts and houses, from fields and cities, You gather us in many places and make us one in Christ. At this table, we remember the cost of discipleship and rejoice in the richness of Christ's gifts poured out for the whole world. May we be One with all your children everywhere, and may the presence of Jesus Christ – in word and sacrament, in our hearts and homes, bind us in body, mind and spirit; Amen.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

GOSPEL LESSON Matthew 26.20-30

When evening came, Jesus was reclining at the table with the Twelve. And while they were eating, he said, "Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me." They were very sad and began to say to him one after the other, "Surely you don't mean me, Lord?" Jesus replied, "The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. The Son of Man will go just as it is written about him. But woe to that man who betrays the Son of Man! It would be better for him if he had not been born." Then Judas, the one who would betray him, said, "Surely you don't mean me, Rabbi?" Jesus answered, "You have said so." While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body." Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, I will not drink from this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in the realm of heaven." When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

ANTHEM *Eat This Bread* Taize

EPISTLE LESSON I Corinthians 12.12-27 (p. 1048)

SERMON *"Let No One Put Asunder"* Rev. W. Alan Froggatt

"Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it."
(I Corinthians 12.27)

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

OFFERTORY *Coming Home* J. Martin

*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 *And The Table Will Be Wide* Jan Richardson (1967 -)

*HYMN *The Church Is Like a Table* 370

The church is like a table, a table that is round. It has no sides or corners, no first or last, no honors; here people are in oneness and love together bound.

The church is like a table set in an open house; no protocol for seating, a symbol of inviting, of sharing, drinking, eating; an end to "them and us."

The church is like a table, a table for a feast to celebrate the healing of all excluded feeling, while Christ is serving, kneeling, a towel round his waist.

The church is like a table, where ev'ry head is crowned. As guests of God created, all are to each related; the whole world is awaited to make the circle round.

*BLESSING & BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE *The Blessing of Aaron* N. Ramsey

LOOKING AHEAD

October 5	**10:00 am** 5:00 pm	**Worship** Soup Kitchen	October 9	8:30 am **7:00 pm**	Yoga **Choir Rehearsal**
October 6	5:30 pm	Irish Dance	October 10	**8:15 am**	**Coffice Hours at The Villager**
October 7	8:30 am	Yoga	October 12	**10:00 am** 5:00 pm	**Worship – Pulpit Swap** 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 **Sue Germini-Humble** in remembrance of our church members who no longer come to church. The greeter this morning is **Sue Germini-Humble**. Coffee hour is hosted by **Diane Lindsay**. Thank you to all who volunteer!

Pulpit Swap – October 12th
Next week we will be led in worship by Rev. Dr. Kristen Provost Switzer from the South Congregational Church of Middletown.

Calling all Voices! The Christmas Cantata this year is *The Voices of Christmas*. All voices are welcome to participate! Choir meets on Thursdays at 7:00 pm.

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