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THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHESTER

An Open & Affirming Congregation of
The United Church of Christ
November 9, 2025 10:00 a.m.
Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost

PREPARATION FOR THE WORD

WELCOME — Bill Lostocco, Deacon

PRELUDE — *Come, O Thou Traveler Unknown* (trad. Scottish Melody arr. by L Shackley)

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

CALL TO WORSHIP

We have been sculpted into being by a divine hand. This is why we gather as the people of God.

We come with open and outstretched hands that reach in peaceful welcome to a world neighbors known and unknown

We come with clasped hands that hold before God in prayer those things we release to Christ's care and entrust to the Spirit's power.

We come to lend our hands as apprentices in the holy vocations of creation and renewal.

ALL:MAY WE WORSHIP GOD TOGETHER WITH GLADNESS, AND SERVE GOD HAND IN HAND. AMEN.

*HYMN — *Praise to the Living God* — 18

Praise to the living God, the God of love and light, whose word brought forth the myriad suns and set the worlds in flight; whose infinite design, which we but dimly see, pervades all nature, making all a cosmic unity.

Praise to the living God, from whom all things derive, whose Spirit formed upon this sphere the first faint seeds of life; who caused them to evolve, unwitting, toward God's goal, till humankind stood on the earth, as living, thinking souls.

Praise to the living God, who knows our joy and pain, who shares with us our common life, the sacred and profane. God toils where-e'er we toil, in home and mart and mill; and deep within the human heart God leads us forward still.

Praise to the living God, around, within, above, beyond the grasp of human mind, but whom we know as love. In these tumultuous days, so full of hope and strife, may we bear witness to the Way, O Source and Goal of life.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

God of love, help us see the world through the eyes of the good Samaritan: help us to be merciful neighbors even when it is inconvenient, when we don't have time, or when we have other responsibilities to attend to. Grant us the insight to see the need in those around us, the wisdom to know how to respond, and the strength to do so willingly. We pray for those we might cross the road to avoid - the poor, the vulnerable and the marginalized. We pray for all who call from us more than we feel we have to give. Open our eyes, that we might not cross the road from human need. And may we, like the Good Samaritan, always 'go and do likewise'. Amen.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Deuteronomy 6.4-9; Leviticus 19.17-18, 33-34

Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise. Bind them as a sign on your hand, fix them as an emblem on your forehead, and write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

You shall not hate in your heart anyone of your kin; you shall reprove your neighbor, or you will incur guilt yourself. You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord. When an alien resides with you in your land, you shall not oppress the alien. The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the alien as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God.

ANTHEM *Glory Bound* (spirituals) (arr) J. Shafferman

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON Luke 10.25-37 (p. 948)

SERMON *"Imaginary Innkeepers"* Rev. W. Alan Froggatt

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

OFFERTORY *The King of Love My Shepherd Is* (arr) J. Rutter

*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 *Hospitality: A Poem* Rachel Hicks (1982-2019)

*HYMN *Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant* 374

Won't you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you? Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too.

We are pilgrims on a journey, we are trav'lers on the road; we are here to help each other go the mile and bear the load.

I will hold the Christ-light for you in the shadow of your fear; I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.

I will weep when you are weeping; when you laugh, I'll laugh with you. I will share your joy and sorrow till we've seen this journey through.
When we sing to God in heaven we shall find such harmony, born of all we've known together of Christ's love and agony.

Won't you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you? Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too.

*BLESSING & BENEDICTION

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

*(all who are able may stand)

LOOKING AHEAD

November 9	**10:00 am** **11:00 am** 5:00 pm	**Worship** **Deacons' Workshop** Soup Kitchen	November 13	8:30 am **7:00 pm**	Yoga **Choir Rehearsal**
November 10	4:30 pm	Irish Dance Group	November 14	**8:15 am**	**Coffice Hours at The Villager**
November 11	8:30 am	Yoga	November 16	**10:00 am** 5:00 pm	**Worship** 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 November is **Bill Lostocco**. The flowers in the chancel were provided by **John and Daphne Stitt** in honor of all our Veterans.**.** The greeter this morning is **Daphne Stitt**. Coffee Hour is hosted by **Elaine Gaudette** and **Bill Lostocco.**

Annual Budget Meeting – Sunday, November 23rd
The Annual Budget Meeting will be held on Sunday, November 23rd following the worship service. Copies of the proposed budget will be available for review on November 16th.

Advent Wreath Readers Needed
If you and your family are interested in participating in the Advent Wreath candle lighting ceremony as part of the upcoming Advent season please contact Alan or the church office. The first Sunday of Advent is November 30th.

Christmas Fair Announcements:

Request donations of cookie ingredients by **November 23**. (Please leave in the covered marked container in Fellowship Hall. Thank you!) Flour, granulated sugar, brown sugar, butter, eggs, Crisco shortening, Hershey kisses, peanut butter, Nestles chocolate chips, plain holiday (green and red) M&M's.

November 22, 10AM
Fair set up in Fellowship Hall.

November 29, 9AM
Cookie baking. Church Kitchen

Grandma's Attic.
Request donations of Christmas items, jewelry, scarves, pocketbooks, men, women or children's coats, sweaters, other warm clothing, slacks, skirts, dresses, puzzles, books, serving dishes, and the like. (Also need paper and plastic bags to use when selling).

ALAN'S OFFICE HOURS:. Wednesday – Saturday 8:30 am – 12:30 pm, or by appointment.

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