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THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHESTER

An Open & Affirming Congregation of
The United Church of Christ
February 15, 2026, 10:00 a.m.
Transfiguration Sunday

WELCOME — Diane Lindsay, Deacon

PRELUDE — *Song for all Saints* — M. McDonald

INTROIT — *Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus* — H. Lemmel

CALL TO WORSHIP

Light of light. Transfiguration light. Divine Light breaking through. Today we remember the light which illuminated Jesus. On the mountain, Jesus was transfigured by an unearthly light.

It is the same God who at the beginning said: "Let there be light," who has shone in our hearts with an understanding of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

The mightiest One of all, God the Eternal, speaks and summons the whole earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

From God's holy mountain, God's light, the perfection of beauty, shines out. Amen.

*HYMN — *I Love To Tell the Story* — 360

I love to tell the story of unseen things above, of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love. I love to tell the story, because I know 'tis true; it satisfies my longings as nothing else can do.

Refrain I love to tell the story, 'twill be my theme in glory, to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.

I love to tell the story; 'tis pleasant to repeat what seems, each time I tell it, more wonderfully sweet. I love to tell the story, for some have never heard the message of salvation from God's own holy word.

Refrain

I love to tell the story, for those who know it best seem hungering and thirsting to hear it like the rest. And when, in scenes of glory, I sing the new, new song, 'twill be the old, old story that I have loved so long.

Refrain

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Holy God, we will not see Jesus transfigured today as Peter, James and John did, but we will see Jesus as we worship here today. Help us to see the brilliance of your love shining as brightly as it did that day so long ago on the mountain. Help us to sense the transfiguration of your world whenever we act in the name of Jesus: as we feed the hungry, as we bring justice to the oppressed, as we comfort the afflicted, and in all the ways we live out our faith. Help us to sense it too in the love we have for our family, our friends, the stranger among us, and all those Jesus has asked us to love. Bring to us this morning the brilliance of your creation, and the vastness of your love, as we pray in the name of Jesus, Amen.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Exodus 12.26-27; Deuteronomy 4.9-14; Joshua 4.6-7 (pp. 58, 160, 194)

ANTHEM *Lift Thine Eyes to the Mountain* F. Mendelssohn

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Now I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain. For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me.

SERMON *"Wish You Were Here"* Rev. W. Alan Froggatt

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

OFFERTORY *O Light of Life* M. Wilburg

*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 AND LORD'S PRAYER *("trespasses")*

POEM *Nothing Gold Can Stay* (Robert Frost 1874-1963)

*HYMN *For All the Saints* 486

For all the saints who from their labors rest, who thee by faith before the world confessed, thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest, Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thou wast their rock, their fortress, and their might: thou, Lord, their captain in the well fought fight; thou, in the darkness drear, their one true light. Alleluia! Alleluia!

O may thy soldiers, faithful, true and bold, fight as the saints who nobly fought of old, and win with them the victor's crown of gold. Alleluia! Alleluia!

O blest communion, fellowship divine! We feebly struggle, they in glory shine; yet all are one in thee, for all are thine. Alleluia! Alleluia!

And when the strife is fierce, the warfare long, steals on the ear the distant triumph song, and hearts are brave again, and arms are strong. Alleluia! Alleluia!

*BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE *Go Now in Peace* D. Besig

(* those who are able may stand)

LOOKING AHEAD

February 15	**10:00 am** **11:00 am** 5:00 pm	**Worship** **Wish You Were Here** Soup Kitchen	February 19	8:30 am **7:00 pm**	Yoga **Choir Rehearsal**
February 16	5:30 pm	Irish Dance	February 20	**8:15 am**	**Coffice Hours at Simon's Marketplace**
February 17	8:30 am	Yoga	February 22	**10:00 am** **11:00 am** 5:00 pm	**Worship** **Pastoral Relations Mtg.** Soup Kitchen
February 18	**4:00 pm**	**Ash Wednesday Service**			

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 February is **Diane Lindsay.** Chancel flowers were provided by **Deb Calamari** – May every day be Valentine's Day for your loved ones. You were greeted this morning by **Deb Calamari**. Coffee hour is being hosted by the **Deacons** as we celebrate **Wish You Were Here**.

Wish You Were Here – Today

Please join us for a special coffee hour and ceremony following the worship service as we remember our loved ones who have passed on. We will share special stories and pictures.

Ash Wednesday Service – February 18th at 4:00 pm. Ashes will be available.

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

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday - Friday 9am-1pm.