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THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHESTER

An Open & Affirming Congregation of
The United Church of Christ
August 9, 2026, 9:00 a.m.
Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

WELCOME — Claudia Epright, Deacon

INTROIT — *Seek Ye First* — K. Lafferty
Diane Adams, guitar; Rev W. Alan Froggatt, violin

CALL TO WORSHIP
We come this morning to worship together;
Different people, different lives, different histories,
Yet we are all children of the same heavenly Parent,
Created lovingly by the Source of all life.
Different people, different lives, different histories.
Yet we all have one Teacher,
Jesus of Nazareth, who is so close to God that he is known to be the living Word which God spoke.
Different people, different lives, different histories;
Yet one Lord, one faith, one baptism.
We open ourselves to the Word of God, which is ever and always at work among us. Amen.

*HYMN — *He's Got the Whole World in His Hands* — 97

He's got the whole world in his hands, he's got the whole world in his hands, he's got the whole world in his hands, he's got the whole world in his hands.

He's got the wind and the rain in his hands, he's got the wind and the rain in his hands, he's got the wind and the rain in his hands, he's got the whole world in his hands.

He's got the tiny little baby in his hands, he's got the tiny little baby in his hands, he's got the tiny little baby in his hands, he's got the whole world in his hands.

He's got you and me, brother in his hands, he's got you and me, sister in his hands, he's got you and be, brother in his hands, he's got the whole world in his hands.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Our God, it is good to be together in your presence, among your people. Make us radiant with the light of Christ. Help us to worship with reverence, to hear with deep understanding, and to serve you with joy in the world. May our words, our songs, our thoughts and our prayers, be pleasing to you, O God, in the name of Jesus our Lord, Amen.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

HISTORY LESSON Acts 17.22-34 (p. 1012)

ANTHEM *Paz Y Libertad* J. Orozco

Paz y Libertad (Peace and Liberty) – lyrics

For all the children in the world we want peace and liberty (twice)
Refrain: Peace, we all want peace and liberty in this world (twice)

No more hunger, no more war, we want peace on earth (twice)
Refrain

For the poor and elderly we want peace and liberty (twice)
Refrain

EPISTLE LESSON Revelation 3.14-22

To the angel of the church in Laodicea write: These are the words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God's creation. I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth. You say, 'I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.' But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked. I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see. Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest and repent. Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me. To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I was victorious and was enthroned with the Almighty. Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

SERMON *"Nice Sermon Reverend"* Rev. W. Alan Froggatt

(The Gentle Iconoclast – II)

"When they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some scoffed; but others said, 'We will hear you again about this.' At that point Paul left them."

(Acts 17.32-33)

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

OFFERTORY *Here I Am Lord* D. Schutte

*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 *The Short Answer* John Ashbery (1927-2017)

*HYMN *Let There Be Peace on Earth* 512 v.1

"Let There Be Peace on Earth"

(v. 2)

"Christ, Prince of Peace, be near / to every unsettled soul;
Let every voice you hear / cry out for a world made whole.
Creation is calling, 'Bless all humankind!'
Save your children from falling – our hearts to yours incline.

Keep peace within our view / with eyes closed and folded hands
Help us depend on you / to bind up the broken lands.
Redeem decisions, and heal divisions, that breach Christ's unity –
Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me!"

*BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE *Put On a Happy Face* C. Strouse/L. Adams

(* those who are able may stand)

LOOKING AHEAD

August 9	**9:00 am** **10:00 am** 5:00 pm	**Worship** **Deacon's Mtg.** Soup Kitchen	August 14	**8:15 am**	**Coffice** hours at **Simon's Marketplace**
			August 16	**9:00 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 August is **Claudia Epright.** Chancel flowers were provided by **Sue Germini Humble**. You were greeted this morning by **Sue Germini Humble**. Coffee hour is hosted by **Diane Lindsay**.

Thank you to **Diane Adams** for leading us in music for today's worship service.

ALAN'S OFFICE HOURS: Wednesday - Friday 8:30 am – 12:30 pm

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