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THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHESTER

An Open & Affirming Congregation of
The United Church of Christ
October 11, 2026, 10:00 a.m.
Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

WELCOME — Pat Holloway, Deacon

PRELUDE — *Adagio in C major* — Mozart

CALL TO WORSHIP (from Ephesians 2)

God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which we are loved,
Even when we had struggled though our sin, makes us alive together with Christ Jesus.
For it is by grace that we have been saved, through faith -
It is not our own doing, so that none of us may boast.
For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works;
And God in Christ has already prepared a way before us, that we should walk in it, and enjoy the mercy of God. Amen.

*HYMN — *O For A Thousand Tongues to Sing* — 39

O for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer's praise, the glories of my God and King, the triumphs of God's grace!

My gracious Savior and my God, assist me to proclaim, to spread through all the earth abroad the honors of your name.

Jesus! the name that calms our fears, that bids our sorrows cease, is music in the sinner's ears, is life, and health, and peace!

Glory to God, and praise and love be ever, ever given by saints below and saints above, the church in earth and heaven.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

O God of light and our salvation, be present in our worship and praise today. During this time we have together, breathe on us, O Breath of God, hear the voices that praise you in word and song. Clear every impediment from our minds. Expand our understanding of your unrivaled love so that we may love what you love and do what you would have us do. Bind us firmly to you and to one another, our God, that we shall forever be free. We pray to you with faith and confidence through the great love of Jesus our Redeemer, Amen.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Deuteronomy 6.1-9 (p. 162)

ANTHEM *Here Is Love* W. Rees, R. Lowrey

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON I John 3.4-10

Everyone who sins is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. You know that Christ was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous. Everyone who sins is a child of the devil; for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The Son of God was revealed for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil. Those who have been born of God do not sin, because God's seed abides in them; they cannot sin, because they have been born of God. The children of God and the children of the devil are revealed in this way: all who do not do what is right are not from God, nor are those who do not love their brothers and sisters.

SERMON *"It Could Have Been a Sabbatical"* Rev. W. Alan Froggatt

"Those who have been born of God do not sin, because God's seed abides in them;
they cannot sin, because they have been born of God."
(I John 3.9)

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

OFFERTORY *The Gift of Love* Hal Hopson

*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 Two Poems by Emily Dickinson (1830-1886)

Oh what a Grace is this 1615

The Grace – Myself – might not obtain 707

*HYMN *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* 404

Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, to earth come down, fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown; Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art; visit us with thy salvation, enter every trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast; let us all in thee inherit, let us find thy promised rest; take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be; end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Come, almighty to deliver, let us all thy life receive; suddenly return, and never, nevermore they temples leave. Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above, pray and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.

Finish, then thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be; let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee; changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place, till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise.

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *March in G Major* Haydn

(* those who are able may stand)

LOOKING AHEAD

October 11	**10:00 am** **11:00 am** 5:00 pm	**Worship** **Council Mtg.** Soup Kitchen	October 15	8:00 am **7:00 pm** 6:30 pm	Yoga **Choir Rehearsal** Scouts – Pack Mtg
October 12	5:30 pm	Irish Dance	October 16	**8:15 am**	**Coffice** hours at **Simons Marketplace**
October 13	8:00 am 6:30 pm	Yoga Chester Garden Club	October 18	**10:00 am** **11:00 am** 5:00 pm	**Worship** **Christmas Fair Mtg** Soup Kitchen
October 14	6:30 pm	Scouts			

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 **Pat Holloway.** Chancel flowers were provided by **Deb Calamari.** You were greeted this morning by **Deb Calamari**. Coffee hour is hosted by **Michele Procko**.

Christmas Fair Meeting – Sunday, October 18th

There will be a meeting Sunday, October 18th following the worship service for all who are interested in participating in the Christmas Fair. Any questions please contact Judy Schondorf at 860.399.7772 or Brenda Johnson at 860.526.2998.

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

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