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THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHESTER

An Open & Affirming Congregation of
The United Church of Christ
October 25, 2026, 10:00 a.m.
Reformation Sunday

WELCOME — Bill Lostocco, Deacon

PRELUDE — *Largo in B minor* — J.M. Leclair

CALL TO WORSHIP — *(Japanese hymn)*

Make a gift of your holy Word, let it pour on our head and hearts like your rain.
Let it fill our lives each day, touch our hunger and our thirst, the deep suffering that we know on life's lonely, wandering way.
Let your Word come into our lives, as your winds blow over all the earth we pray.
Let us be fully free from the sins that keep us bound, made pure by your Spirit's gift of resounding victory.
Grant all people your holy Word. Quench the thirsty earth as the first morning dew.
Let it teach love's healing way, in our war-torn suffering world. Let it bind us one to one toward a just and peaceful day. Amen.

*HYMN — *A Mighty Fortress is Our God* — 469

A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing; our helper strong amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing. For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe; with craft and power great, and armed with cruel hate, on earth is not an equal.

Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing, were not the right man on our side, the man of God's own choosing. Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is he; Lord Sabaoth his name. From age to age the same, and he must win the battle.

And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us, we will not fear, for God hath willed the truth to triumph through us. The powers of evil grim, we

tremble not for them; their rate we can endure, for lo, their doom is sure: one little word shall fell them.

That word above all earthly powers, no thanks to them, abideth; the Spirit and the gifts are ours through Christ who with us sideth. Let goods and kindred go, their mortal life also; the body they may kill; God's truth abideth still, God's kingdom is forever.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Still-speaking God, help us to hear what you are saying to us. Teach us to listen beyond the words of our scripture, the melody of our music and the prayers of our own lips. By the power of your Holy Spirit, teach us to hear what you say to us in the silences, in the pauses and ellipses of everyday discourse, that your Word made flesh might appear to us in the tiny moments in between all our busyness. We ask this in your many names, Amen.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Deuteronomy 8.1-3

This entire commandment that I command you today you must diligently observe, so that you may live and increase, and go in and occupy the land that the Lord promised on oath to your ancestors. Remember the long way that the Lord your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, in order to humble you, testing you to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep the commandments. God humbled you by letting you hunger, then by feeding you with manna, with which neither you nor your ancestors were acquainted, in order to make you understand that one does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.

ANTHEM *Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us* Joseph. M. Martin

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON II Timothy 3.14-4.5 (p. 1087)

SERMON *"Sola Scriptura"* Rev. W. Alan Froggatt

"For by grace you have been saved, through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God - not the result of works, so that no one may boast."
(Ephesians 2.8-9)

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

OFFERTORY *All Night, All Day* Spiritual arr. Greg Gilpin

*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 World* George Herbert (1593 – 1633)

*HYMN *O Christ the Word Incarnate* 295

O Christ, the Word incarnate, O wisdom from on high, O truth unchanged, unchanging, O light of our dark sky, we praise you for the radiance that from the hallowed page, a lantern to our footsteps, shines on from age to age.

Your people hold this treasure from you, its source divine, a light that to all ages through-out the earth will shine. It is the chart and compass that all life's voyage through, mid mists and rocks and tempest, still guides, O Christ, to you.

O make your church, dear Savior, a lamp of burnished gold, to bear before the nations your true light as of old; O teach your wandering pilgrims by this their path to trace, till, cloud and darkness ended, they see you face to face.

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *March Royale in C* J. B. Lully

(* those who are able may stand)

LOOKING AHEAD

October 25	**10:00 am** **11:00 am** 5:00 pm	**Worship** **Trustees Mtg** Soup Kitchen	October 29	8:00 am **7:00 pm** 6:30 pm	Yoga **Choir Rehearsal** Scouts – Webelos
October 26	5:30 pm	Irish Dance	October 30	**8:15 am**	**Coffice hours at Simon's Marketplace**
October 27	8:00 am	Yoga	November 1	**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 this week is **Bill Lostocco.** Chancel flowers were provided by **Barbara-Jan Wilson.** You were greeted this morning by **Barbara-Jan Wilson**. Coffee hour is hosted by **Elaine Gaudette** and **Bill Lostocco**.

Daylight Savings Time End – Sunday, November 1st
Reminder that Daylight Savings Time Ends this Sunday. Set your clocks back and enjoy that extra hour of sleep!

Outside Work Day – Saturday, November 7th
Join the Trustees in cleaning up outside of the Church and the CE building from 8:30am to 11:30am. The Trustees and others have done some clean-up work already and it's time to pick up those pesky leaves. Rain date is November 14th.

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

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