You Are Welcome Here!

An “Open and Affirming” Congregation of the United Church of Christ in Germantown, MD
October 31, 2021

Rooted In Love:
Rooted in Our Ancestors and History
10:00 a.m. Zoom

Our Mission
UCC Seneca Valley is an open and affirming, progressive and inclusive spiritual community that is centered in the belief that we are all beloved children of God. We seek to joyfully share Christ’s message of hope through creative expression, deepening connections between people, advocating for justice, and serving our community.

Worship Participants
Greeter: TBA
Liturgist: Terri Molaski
Pastor: Rev. Holly R. Jackson
Deacon: Camila Young
Director of Music Ministry: Stefan Petrov
Zoom Technical Support: Patrick Jackson

Instructions for Zoom Worship:
As you sit down to worship we encourage you to bring a candle (flame or electric). Keep your microphone on mute during worship unless told otherwise. Words in bold are meant to be said aloud at home with the Pastor or Liturgist who will say them on the Zoom call. Sing along at home to the sung responses and hymns. Use the chat box for the passing of the peace and prayer requests or other worship responses. Chat directly to individuals as appropriate. If you are having technical issues please send a chat message Patrick Jackson for help. The Zoom room opens at 9:30am and worship begins at 10.
Welcome & Announcements

Welcoming the Light into Worship – Light your candle at home

Prelude

Call to Worship
Liturgist: We remember, O God...
People: The countless saints of history who have blazed a trail of courage through time,
Liturgist: We remember, O God... The tender touch of loved ones, the example of heroes, the healing words of comforters, the remarkable acts of fearless ones.
People: We remember, O God... The gentle strength of grandmothers, the loyalty of friends, the kindness of strangers, the joy of children, the sacrifice of parents.
Liturgist: We remember, O God... The supreme love of Jesus, the blessing of his Spirit, the reminder of his words, the sharing of his suffering, the glory of his resurrection: shown forth in the lives of his disciples,
People: young and old, dead and living, articulate and silent, strange and familiar, brilliant and ordinary.
People: We remember in every time and place the saints of God who have shown us the Lord.
People: Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses... let us worship God with joy!

Opening Prayer
Liturgist: In all our weakness and strength, with our youth-filled spirits and aging bodies, we come to be your people, O God. Strong in faith and eager with questions, singing our praise and whispering our prayers, root us in love, O God. Filled with saintly determination yet mindful of our human limitations, we come together as a community, O God. Filled with wisdom and care from the saints that made us and with lessons
learned from the history that surrounds us, we come to grow, O God. Made strong in your endless love for us, we know ourselves to be yours and we come to be your people, O God. May we truly become your people today. Amen.

**Opening Hymn**

“In The Bulb There Is A Flower”

**Invitation to Confession**

Liturgist: The prayer of confession allows us to claim that we are works in progress, and there is beauty in that. We are seeds planted, rooted in love and sprouting towards the sun, until the drought comes, or the clouds gather, and we cannot figure out how to grow fruit. But the good news is that you don’t have to be perfect here. You don’t have to have it all figured out here. You just have to want to grow and flourish and honestly admit to all that gets in the way of doing that. In the silence of this moment let us hold on to that truth.

*(A chime calls us to a moment of silence.)*

**Prayer of Confession**

**People:** Beloved God, who was known to our mothers and fathers, our ancestors, and to our spiritual forebears, have mercy on us. We do not always love as you would have us love. We do not always do as you would have us do. In our stubbornness, we turn from you when we should turn toward you. Hold us, Holy One. Comfort us when we mourn the passing of friends and family and help us to know that they are rejoicing in your presence. We praise you for the grace you shower on us, constantly forgiving our errors, especially the ones that we don’t share with any but you. Forgive us again now, and root us in your love. Amen.

**Words of Assurance**

Liturgist: Beloved, through the love shown to us by Jesus, we can be sure that we are God’s children now. The Spirit of Christ is among us in this gathering and the nature of Christ is revealed within us even as God roots us further and further in love. Therefore, let us live joyfully as God’s people, saints, and instruments of God’s way.

**Passing of the Peace**

(We will drop out of the PowerPoint and unmute you. You are encouraged to wave, say Christ’s peace aloud, and/or write your offering of peace to all in the chat.)

**Sung response to the Peace**

“This Is the Day”

**Children’s Message**

**Scripture**

Matthew 13:1-9

**Sermon**

Rev. Holly R. Jackson
All Saint’s Celebration
Ann Lowrey and Panting Saligan

Community Life and Concerns
(We will drop out of the PowerPoint here. Please feel free to write your prayer concerns in the chat box.)
   God is good, all the time.
   All the time, God is good!

Moment of Silence

Pastoral Prayer

Lord’s Prayer
(You are welcome to pray using the words below, or whatever words or version of this prayer is the most meaningful to you.)
   Our Creator in heaven,
   hallowed be Your name.
   Your realm come, Your will be done,
   on earth as it is in heaven.
   Give us this day our daily bread.
   and forgive us our debts,
   as we forgive our debtors.
   And lead us not into temptation;
   but deliver us from evil.
   For Yours is the kingdom, and the power,
   and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Prayer Response

Stewardship Moment
Bethany Fuss

Offertory Invitation
Liturgist: The invitation to bring our tithes, pledges, and offerings is an invitation to support one another, those within this community and beyond, to become all of what we are called to be. Our tithes, pledges, and offerings—both monetary and other—enable us to give thanks to God for the resources we have been given and enable us to be resources for others. This is how we remember that we are rooted in love even as we encourage our roots to grow deeper still and our fruits to overflow. Let us give generously and watch the miracles of God unfold in our lives and our ministry together.

Offertory Prayer
People: Thank you, O God, for the gifts of your people. Help us to rely not on our own understanding in the use of these gifts, but to seek your wisdom so that they do the most good they can. Remind us of the lessons and deep roots of our ancestors in faith
and the history they left to us. Let your will be revealed and your people near and far be blessed by the fruits of our offerings of thanksgiving and praise. Amen.

Closing Music

“Holy Ground”

Extinguish the Light

Benediction

Liturgy adapted from work by Seasons Online: http://www.seasonsonline.ca/files/all-saints-day_cong-life_yr-a.pdf (Opening Prayer), Desperate Preacher’s (Call to Worship), Rev. Lucus Keppel (Confession), and Rev. Dr. Cari Jackson (Offering Invitation and Prayer)

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Fellowship Time - Those who wish to stay and chat with others will be broken into small group breakouts to allow for more sustained conversation.

New to our Congregation? Have questions?
Please consider leaving us your contact information at https://forms.gle/Rjicc2jdMmzCgCFh8

Greeters and Liturgists are needed always!
If you are available on Sundays, please consider signing up at https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090849a4a722a02-uccsv