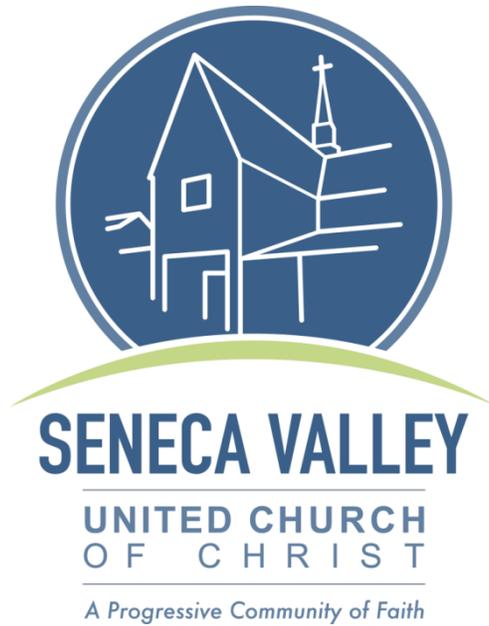


**You Are Welcome Here!**



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

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST OF SENECA VALLEY

13421 Clopper Road • Germantown MD 20874

301-540-3449 • [uccsv@verizon.net](mailto:uccsv@verizon.net)

November 22, 2020

Together for Joy: Consecration Sunday

10:00am 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: Laura Lineberger

Liturgist: John Bartkowiak

Pastor: Rev. Holly R. Jackson

Deacon: Jen Fuss

Director of Music Ministry: Stefan Petrov

Zoom Technical Support: Patrick Jackson

**Instructions for Zoom Worship:**

As you sit down to worship bring a candle with you (flame or electric). Today is Consecration Sunday when we bless our pledges of support to this church and consider how God may be calling us to be together for joy in the year to come. It's also Thanksgiving week and so we will consider how gratitude feeds into our joy and can be a part of having generous hearts that look to care for God's world.

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. Close all non-essential programs on your computer and silence all notifications so you don't become distracted. 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 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: The Spirit is coming to bless us all with a new song:

**People: let our joy be complete!**

Liturgist: Gifts for the good of all, poured out on all to teach us a new song:

**People: love one another!**

Liturgist: Strangers and neighbors, foreigners and family will join in the new song:

**People: no longer servants but friends!**

Liturgist: Come, let our worship make a joyful noise,

**People: rejoicing in the friendship of God.**

#### Opening Prayer

Liturgist: Holy One, as we prepare to celebrate and give thanks this year, may we find it in our hearts to be grateful no matter what. May we praise you for what we can do and praise you in spite of what we can't. May we thank you for what is and what isn't, for what is going well and for what is not. May we thank you for what brings us joy and even for that which brings us grief, for if our grief testifies to anything, it testifies to the depths of our love. Bless us and keep us, dear God, we pray, and turn our hearts ever and always toward your all-encompassing light, you who are our creator and savior, our redeemer and friend. Amen.

#### Opening Hymn

“Enter, Rejoice, and Come In”

#576 v.1&2

***Enter, rejoice, and come in. Enter, rejoice, and come in.  
Today will be a joyful day, enter, rejoice, and come in.***

***Open yourself to the song. Open yourself to the song.  
Today will be a joyful day, enter, rejoice, and come in.***

***Don't be afraid of some change. Don't be afraid of some change.  
Today will be a joyful day, enter, rejoice, and come in.***

#### Invitation to Confession

Liturgist: Search us, O God, and know our hearts. Test us and know our anxious thoughts. Point out anything in us that offends you and guide us on the road to life. We take a moment now to quiet our hearts and open them to you. *(A chime calls us to a moment of silence.)*

### **Prayer of Confession**

**People:** Gracious Creator, you have given us so much, but too often we take those gifts for granted, or as something to which we are entitled. You call us to live in caring community, but too often we place our wants and needs first, with those of others a distant second. You call us to share your gifts with the world around us, but we are worried that there may not be enough, and our worrying gets in the way of our sharing. For all the times when we mistreat and misuse your gifts, for all the times we assume that we get what we have by ourselves, forgive us and lead us back to the path of wisdom. Amen.

### **Words of Assurance**

Liturgist: God is a gracious giver. God is gracious in forgiveness. God calls us to new patterns and new life. We are a forgiven people! We are together for joy! Thanks be to God!

### **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.)

### **Peace Response #526**

#### **"We are Marching in the Light of God"**

*We are marching in the light of God.  
We are marching, we are marching, ooh  
we are marching in the light of God.  
We are marching, we are marching, ooh,  
we are marching in the light of God.*

*We are dancing in the light of God  
We are dancing, we are dancing, ooh  
we are dancing in the light of God.  
We are dancing, we are dancing, ooh,  
we are dancing in the light of God.*

### **Children's Message**

#### **Scripture**

Psalm 98, 2 Corinthians 9:7-12

**Contemporary Reading**

“When Giving is All We Have”

By Alberto Rios

**Sermon**

Rev. Holly Jackson

**Musical Response**

**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**

*Let the words of my mouth  
and the meditation of my heart  
be acceptable in your sight.*

*Let the words of my mouth  
and the meditation of my heart  
be acceptable God to you.*

**Call to Pledge and Offer Gifts**

Leader: When the Psalmist imagined the world giving praise to God, she imagined each thing praising in its own way. The sea roaring, the earth breaking out into harmony, the

waves of the ocean clapping against the shore. Each thing does what it does, in its own way, to praise God.

And the people? The people do what people do. They raise their voices in song, they make music with harps and horns.

But, of course, that's not all people do to praise their Creator. We don't just make music for God, we *imitate* God as well. And for Christians, the thing that God is best known for is love, a love that pours itself out in generosity and grace. There are lots of ways to imitate God in that, and one of them is upon us now.

Over the last several weeks, we've been asking you to prayerfully discern what God's hopes are for your 2021 giving, to ask God to make you part of this church's great outpouring of generosity. If you have already pledged to give a certain amount to this church for the coming year, thank you. Your pledge helps us to plan for the ministry we can do together. If you have yet to pledge but you still want to, that's okay just mail in your pledge card or fill out an online pledge card. If you don't plan on pledging for whatever reason, that's okay too. We are all on different journeys when it comes to giving. Our only hope is that you continue on the journey with us. But all of us, no matter what we have or what we give, can pray this prayer together for joy:

*Great One, for you the floods clap, for you the hills sing. You know our situations better than anyone. Take our credits and debits, ins and outs, our pluses and minuses, surpluses and lacks, and show us how to use them to join the great chorus of Creation. Amen*

### **Prayer of Dedication**

**People: God of marvelous things, let the clink of the coins in our virtual offering plates be as the clapping of the floods for you, O God.**

**Let the clicks of the online pledges and the pen scratches on our pledge cards as they came in the mail or were dropped off in an offering plate in person resound as the waves of the sea and everything in it.**

**Let the quiet rustle of bills and checks and pledge cards be as soft as the wind drifting over the mountains who are singing together for joy.**

**Let the fervent prayers, the lofty hopes, the quiet determination of this community of faith and these gifts that we bring together be our song, our hymn of praise to you, you who are doing such marvelous things!**

**And may the power of your Holy Spirit turn this unfinished work, this earnest but not-quite-sufficient music, into a great symphony of praise until you come again. Amen.**

### **Closing Music**

**"Draw Us In the Spirit's Tether"**

**UCCSV Choir**

*"Call to Worship" written by Rev. Susan A. Blain, "Prayer of Confession" and "Words of Assurance" by Rev. Gord. Hymns and lyrics reprinted and streamed under ONE LICENSE # 724117-A. All Rights Reserved.*

## **Extinguish The Light**

### **Benediction**

**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 or have questions?** Please consider leaving us your contact information at <https://forms.gle/Rjicc2idMmzCgCFh8>

### **Consecration Lunch after Worship Today**

Today you are invited to join us for an online Consecration Sunday lunch. Usually this is a feast in our Gathering Room but this year we will bring our own lunches and join together on Zoom. We will gather for lunch, fellowship, and fun starting at 11:45am but feel free to come on as works for you. We'll hear from the Stewardship Committee about our pledge totals for 2021 and we'll celebrate being together for joy.

Topic: Consecration Lunch

Time: Nov 22, 2020 11:45 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85932180061?pwd=ckJTbzRmQU1iMS9tUzUvcGE5MzJnZz09>

Meeting ID: 859 3218 0061

Passcode: 20874

Dial by your location

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington D.C)

Meeting ID: 859 3218 0061

Passcode: 20874

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/k0IsbxEI>

### **Please get your pledge card in this week**

Today during worship we will bless our pledge cards and close our stewardship campaign for the year. If you plan on pledging financially to the church for 2021 and have not already sent in your pledge please consider getting your pledge card in as soon as possible.

### **Thanksgiving Baskets Fully Funded!**

We thank you for your generous donations for the Thanksgiving food baskets for 5 families from Fox Chapel Elementary School. The baskets are now fully funded and will be dropped off to Fox Chapel next Monday just in time for Thanksgiving. Stay tuned for requests for Christmas gifts that we will gather next month.

### **Thanksgiving Happy Hour**

A Thanksgiving Happy Hour will be held virtually starting at 5:30 Thanksgiving Day. Bring a beverage if you'd like, a Thanksgiving memory (photos welcome), and something your heart is grateful for to be included in a community Thanksgiving prayer. Zoom link to be included in next week's Spirit News.

### **Food Insecurity During The Holidays**

Many of our area residents have struggled with food insecurity during the Covid pandemic and that struggle continues during the holidays. Donations of food items to Germantown Help are a blessing to those in need and the need is even greater around Thanksgiving and Christmas.

You may help by donating food or monetary donations.

Website: <https://germantownhelp.org/>

Please email [infogtownhelp@gmail.com](mailto:infogtownhelp@gmail.com) if you have any questions about donating money, food, or diapers to our programs. We will arrange a drop-off or pick-up time. They will also pick up donations from individual's homes.

Tax-deductible donations may be made by mailing a check to:

Germantown HELP  
P.O. Box 608  
Germantown, MD 20875

Also, through a "Donate Now" button on their website (PayPal, Credit Cards, etc.)

### **Please Help! Zoom Worship Volunteer Opportunities – Updated Signup Genius**

Please help us update our signup genius through the end of the year. If you would like to help lead our Zoom worship experience there are ways you can help. We still need a "Greeter" and a "Liturgist" every Sunday. Greeters will welcome people as they come into the meeting before worship by voice or by chat and help by supplying important web links in the chat box. Liturgists will lead the service with Holly. We also welcome musical video offerings of instruments or voice that we can use during worship. In addition, we welcome pictures of our congregation during this time apart

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090849a4a722a02-uccsv>

### **Time to write postcards again!**

#### **This time for the GA Senate Runoff Race!**

500 postcards have been ordered for UCCSV! This campaign is organized through Get Out The Vote (GOTV) which is non-partisan. Already folks affiliated with UCCSV have volunteered to write 340 postcards. Such a great response in less than three days!

If you want to volunteer, please email Dan @ [daniel.davis18920@gmail.com](mailto:daniel.davis18920@gmail.com) or Suzanne @ [revsasphd@gmail.com](mailto:revsasphd@gmail.com) and let them know how many cards you would like to complete and mail.

Instructions, cards, stamps, address lists will be available soon and can be picked up at Dan and Suzanne's house. Home delivery is also possible. Cards must be mailed between December 1-7.