

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

Located: 13421 Clopper Road, Germantown, MD 20874
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January 2, 2022

2nd Sunday in Christmas:

PJs, Poetry, and Hymns

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: TBD

Liturgist: Russell Shelley

Pastor: Rev. Holly R. Jackson

Deacon: TBD

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). For Communion Sunday please have bread or a cracker and juice or wine with you as you sit down to worship. 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 waited.

People: And imagined a savior.

Liturgist: We imagined power.

People: One like the world but stronger and on our side.

Liturgist: We imagined a king on a white horse wielding a sword.

People: We got a baby born in a stable among the livestock.

Liturgist: We imagined the work done for us through the destruction of our enemies.

People: We receive a baby who will teach us our calling to seek reconciliation and to love expansively.

Liturgist: Praise be to God for the unexpected babe of Bethlehem.

People: Praise to the wisdom of love. Amen!

Opening Prayer

Liturgist: We have waited for a long time for your hope, your joy, your love to shine in the darkness of this world, Almighty God. Even now, in our gathering here, we await you. In our hearts, we still hope that your light will blaze forth, banishing the shadows of this world and guiding all the people back to you. Open our hearts, merciful God, to the sparks of your presence still in this world. Open our eyes, that we might behold your presence in the least likely of places, and among the least likely of people. Amen.

Opening Hymn

“It Came Upon A Midnight Clear”

Invitation to Confession

Liturgist: The God to whom we make our confession is the God who loved us so much that God took on mortality, choosing to limit the divine, in order to understand us and be with us. Trusting in that love, let us make our confession, first in silent prayer.

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

Prayer of Confession

People: Holy God, Lord of love:

For not singing when we are joyful;

For not shouting to the world the good that you do;

For not trusting the love that surrounds us;

For not enacting the justice you call us to;

For not believing the Good News is meant for all:

**Forgive us. Encourage us and change us, help us and inspire us,
that we, like Mary, will magnify you, and rejoice in God our Savior. Amen.**

Words of Assurance

Liturgist: Friends, this Good News is for all the world: Christ was born, lived and died, and rose again that we would be freed from all that oppresses and destroys. Know that indeed you are forgiven and be at peace.

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

"In the Bleak Midwinter"

Message for All Ages

Scriptures

Sirach 24:1-12, John 1:1-18

Poems and Hymns

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

"Silent Night"

Offertory Invitation

Liturgist: Each of us is a fragile miracle, evidence of God's creative hands, and amazing grace.

We are each unique, unrepeatable gifts to the world. We are proof of God's love. And so we who are the gifts of creation now give gifts to our Creator. Gifts brought in love.

Offertory Prayer

People: May the gifts we offer today be dedicated to your work, O God: to save and change lives, to help people live with meaning and purpose, and to build a better world. As you have given freely to us, we return a portion to you with joy. Bless us and our gifts to be a blessing. Amen.

Closing Music

"Joy To The World"

Extinguish the Light

Benediction

"Call to Worship" written by Tim Graves, <https://liturgybits.wordpress.com/>, "Opening Prayer" adapted from a prayer by Rev. Eliza Buchakjian-Tweedy, "Confession and Assurance" written by Beth Merrill Neel, Hymns and lyrics reprinted and streamed under ONE LICENSE # 724117-A. All Rights Reserved.

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 [UCC of Seneca Valley: UCCSV Worship Support \(signupgenius.com\)](https://uccsenecavalley.org/signupgenius.com)

Donating to UCCSV is Easy!

Please consider donating to UCC of Seneca Valley to support the vital ministries for the greater Germantown community and the wider UCC church!

- **Online via PayPal:**

[United Church of Christ of Seneca Valley - Donate \(uccsenecavalley.org\)](https://uccsenecavalley.org)

- **Text-to-Give: 301-720-1980** (first time givers will need to input credit card information).