

**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**

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February 6, 2022

**Dear Church:**

**What's Love Got To Do With It?**

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**

Online Greeter: TBD  
Liturgist: Julia Schucker  
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: Love never gives up.

**People: Love cares more for others than for self.**

Liturgist: Love doesn't want what it doesn't have.

**People: Love doesn't strut.**

Liturgist: Love doesn't have a swelled head, doesn't force itself on others.

**People: Love is never "me first".**

Liturgist: Love doesn't fly off the handle, doesn't keep score of the sins of others, doesn't revel when others grovel.

**People: Love takes pleasure in the flowering of truth.**

Liturgist: Love trusts God always.

**People: Love always looks for the best.**

Liturgist: Love never looks back but keeps going to the end.

**People: Love never dies.**

#### Opening Prayer

Liturgist: In a cynical and despairing world, O God, give us a quietly prophetic voice to proclaim your hope. In a violent and angry world, O God, give us a quietly prophetic voice to proclaim your peace and justice. In a dismissive and disinterested world, O God, give us a quietly prophetic voice to proclaim your compassion. In a lonely and inhospitable world, O God, give us a quietly prophetic voice to proclaim your love. In a grieving and weeping world, O God, give us a quietly prophetic voice to proclaim your joy. In this hour of worship, Holy One, may we be so captivated by your love for us and your hope for creation that we cannot help but to whisper, to sing, and to enact, the message of your reign which is always coming into our world; And may our quietly prophetic lives, be channels of your restoring grace wherever we may go. Amen.

#### Opening Hymn

"I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me"

#### Invitation to Confession

Liturgist: To come before God with the truth of our lives is itself an act of faith: we trust that the Holy One is interested in us, interested in our minds and hearts and souls. We trust that God's mercy and grace are intended for us, too. With faith and in trust, let us make our confession to God, first in silent prayer.

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

#### Prayer of Confession

**People: Before God and God's people, we confess that we have been reluctant to speak out clearly, naming the injustices we see and declaring God's vision. Before God and one another, we confess our reluctance to receive our calling as witnesses to God's dream of justice and joy. Before**

**God and this community, we confess that we have not loved one another or ourselves as Jesus instructed us. Remind us, Holy One, that you have made us for your service and recharge us with your Spirit. Renew us, God. Grant us courage to live out your way of peace and grace in Jesus' name; Amen.**

### **Words of Assurance**

Liturgist: God has promised that whenever we ask for forgiveness and seek a new union with God, endless grace and mercy are ours. That promise comes true now. We are forgiven, loved, and accepted.

### **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**

"I Love My God Who Heard My Cry"

### **Scripture**

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

### **Contemporary Reading**

*Prayer of Commitment* by Holley Gerth

### **Sermon**

Rev. Holly Jackson

### **Meditative Music**

### **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**

“Standing in the Need of Prayer”

### **Offertory Invitation**

Liturgist: We sing our praises to the Lord, for God is good and worthy! We give our whole selves — our talents and material possessions — to the building up of the Body of Christ with the expectation that they will be used to further God’s dream for our world. Please commit yourself and give as you’re able.

### **Offertory Prayer**

**People: Generous God, though many different amounts and ways, when gathered up by you, our gifts become food for the hungry, diapers for our pantry, funding for justice advocacy, music to enhance our worship, a place of sanctuary and enjoyment for our community, and more. In love we offer these gifts in the name of Jesus. Amen.**

### **Communion Invitation**

Pastor: Who will come to this table to celebrate care in illness, comfort in sorrow, healing beyond curing, peace in forgiveness, hope in times of fear or threat?

**People: Here we are. We will come.**

Pastor: Who will come to this table, having abundance, as culture defines it or your heart knows it, and because you have discovered your own generosity and need to start giving?

**People: Here we are. We will come.**

Pastor: Who will come to this table, willing to be welcomed, even when that is awkward, willing to be served, not a server, or planner of the menu, and willing to welcome anybody, anybody, anybody who sits beside you ...willing to offer welcome even expecting it to be rejected, and, if it is, offer it again?

**People: Here we are. We will come.**

### **Words of Remembrance**

Pastor: Jesus of Nazareth came to the lakeshore,  
borrowed a boat and reached out to people  
by offering words to remember and food to eat.

The words called them to follow  
and the food was from deep places.

Jesus comes still to stormy waters  
and food deserts,  
to borrow the leaky rowboat  
(that we wish was more like a cruise ship)  
that we call the church,  
and use it to offer words  
that change human lives,  
and sustenance that saves them.

We remember that Jesus knew,

when it was the last Passover,  
that only a few words were needed,  
and the simplest meal prepared...

Those of you watching from home I invite you to mimic my actions with your bread and cup holding them up when I do and breaking the bread as I do.

On the night on which Jesus gave himself up for love and justice, he sat at supper with his disciples. While they were eating, he took a piece of bread. Jesus said a blessing broke it, and gave it to them with the words, 'This is my body. Given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.'

Later, he took a cup of wine, and gave thanks for it. Jesus said, 'This cup is God's forgiveness poured out for you and for all people. Drink from it, all of you, to remember me'.

Pastor: Holy God, bless these elements, no matter what they are or where we are enjoying them. May the Spirit imbue them with what we need to continue to practice faith, hope, and love and share such things with the world around us. In our eating of the bread remind us that we are together one body in Christ with many different and yet crucial parts. In our drinking of the cup remind us of the many gifts you have poured out on us and your hopes that we will use those gifts in service to you, the church, and all of creation. May this meal remind us who we are and whose we are. Always. Amen.

### **Sharing the Bread and Cup**

*(At this time you are invited to serve yourself or those with you the bread saying something like, "The Body of Christ given for you" or "The Bread of Life given for you". You can dip the bread in the cup saying something like, "The Cup of Salvation shared with you" or "The Cup of Blessing shared with you." We will pause here for a few moments so everyone has a chance to receive the elements.)*

### **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**People: Holy God, we give thanks for this meal that feeds and empower us to go forth into the world. We go forth, celebrating faith. We go forth, celebrating hope. We go forth, celebrating love. We go forth to be the transformed people that you call us to be. We go forth to be the Body of Christ. We go forth from your table in gratitude and with love. Amen.**

### **Closing Music**

"The Broken Body of Christ"

by The Many

### **Extinguish the Light**

### **Benediction**

*“Opening Prayer” adapted from a prayer by John van de Laar, “Call to Worship” adapted from a prayer by Nathan Decker, Worship’s Wake. “Offertory prayer” by Joanne Carlson Brown. “Communion Liturgy” adapted from work by Maren Tirabassi. 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://www.signupgenius.com/UCCofSenecaValley/UCCSVWorshipSupport)

**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/donate)

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