

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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March 28, 2021

Palm Sunday

Holy Vessels: A Lenten Season of Healing and Recovery -The Health of the Whole Person

10:00 am 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: Jeanne Springmann

Liturgist: John Bartkowiak

Pastor: Rev. Holly R. Jackson

Deacon: Joyce Miller

Director of Music Ministry: Stefan Petrov

Zoom Technical Support: Patrick Jackson

Instructions for Zoom Worship:

As you sit down to worship bring your Lent To Go Bag (if you have one) and 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 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: When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethpage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, “Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, ‘The Lord needs them.’ And he will send them immediately.” This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying,

People: “Tell the daughter of Zion, look, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.”

Liturgist: The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and the crowds that followed shouted for him. Repeat after me and start waving those branches!

Liturgist: “Hosanna to the Son of David!

People: “Hosanna to the Son of David!

Liturgist: Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

People: Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

Liturgist: Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

People: Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

Liturgist: When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, “Who is this?” The crowds were saying, “This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.”

Opening Hymn

“Jesus is Coming”

By Bret Hesla

Invitation to Confession

Liturgist: Lent developed into a season of intense inward reflection and confession centuries after the life of Jesus. Yet, as we will see, Jesus encouraged people to open up about their lives – to speak truth – no matter how broken. The Latin origins of the word “confess” is to “study and acknowledge.” This is the beginning of compassion for ourselves and others. It is the beginning of healing. This will be a season of studying how we can be a healing presence in our community. We begin with a moment of silence to pause and reflect. *(A chime calls us to a moment of silence.)*

Prayer of Confession

People: Forgiving God, we have opened ourselves to healing and sometimes it is easier to pray nice prayers than to do the hard work of putting into action what needs to happen. Help us remember the sacred nature of the holy vessels that we are, fragile and susceptible to shattering and yet capable of transformation. Help us to see ourselves as you see us. Help us to believe in our ability to change and heal as you believe in us. Help us, Healer. Show us our strength. Forgive our inertia. Move us one step at a time toward greater care. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Liturgist: God's love and grace surround you this Lenten season and always. You are a precious and holy vessel right now, broken and yet made whole. God's abundance, acceptance, and redemption is meant for all people. No matter what. Jesus is on the journey with us. Life's parade is not passing you by. You are part of this Body of Christ, a community seeking healing. For you, for me, for all. Take a deep breath in saying, "I am a part..." and breathe out saying, "of the Body of Christ."

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.)

Threshold Song

"Holy Vessels"

Chuck Bell

*Vessels, holy and whole
Broken, needing the One
Open, body and soul
Healer, come.*

Children's Message

Scripture

Matthew 9:1-8

Contemporary Reading

Quote from Mother Teresa

Sermon

Musical Response and Ritual Action

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

"Jesus, Priceless Treasure"

***Banish thoughts of sadness, for the source of gladness,
Jesus, enters in;
Though the clouds may gather,
those who love the Savior still have peace within.
Though I bear much sorrow here,
still in your lies purest pleasure, Jesus priceless treasure.***

Offertory Invitation

Liturgist: During this season of Lent we are practicing healing for ourselves and for our community. We give now to the ministries of this church so that our gifts might be used towards that healing. We give to remember how God has healed us. We give because sharing what we have helps to heal us and those around us. This morning's offering will now be received.

Offertory Prayer

People: Holy God, accept these gifts as they come from our whole selves, the broken parts of us, the whole parts of us, and all the pieces in between. Use them to heal us and to heal our community and then use our community to heal the world. Help us to know that healing doesn't mean everything is perfect but rather that we know how loved we are and we seek to share that love with your creation. Amen.

Closing Music

"Peace Be With Us"

Performed by Lea Morris
Music by Ruth Cunningham

Extinguish The Light

Benediction

*Liturgy is adapted from **Holy Vessels Lent Series** from worshipdesignstudio.com. Used by permission. **Holy Vessels** Words: Marcia McFee; Music: Chuck Bell © 2021 Chuck Bell Music. Used by permission. 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 or have questions? Please consider leaving us your contact information at <https://forms.gle/Rjicc2jdMmzCgCFh8>

Greeters and Liturgists Needed

If you are available on Sundays, please consider signing up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090849a4a722a02-uccsv>

Holy Week Worship

Maundy Thursday Worship, April 1st, 7pm

Join us for an interactive service honoring the journey of Holy Week from the flipping of the tables in the Temple, to Jesus' anointing by Mary, to washing Peter's feet, and then to the Last Supper. Using music, scripture, contemporary readings, and spiritual practices we will walk with Jesus through it all. In order to get the most out of this service we invite you to have the following with you as you sit down to worship: 1. A few coins (doesn't matter which kinds but you should have 2-4 total). 2. Lotion or oil of some kind, preferably fragrant in some way. 3. A small bowl of water. 4. Bread or a cracker and juice or wine for communion.

Join Zoom Meeting for Maundy Thursday

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86476220871?pwd=MUI2N1gwVmlURXptOGtMUmRrQUI4Zz09>

Meeting ID: 864 7622 0871

Passcode: 20874

One tap mobile

Dial by your location

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

Good Friday Worship, April 2nd, 7pm

We'll sit together by the cross as we consider the final day of Jesus' life from his arrest to his trial to the crucifixion to the tomb through scripture, music, and reflection. This is a tenebrae service and together as a community we will move from the light to the darkness of the tomb little by little. In order to do this we ask that you have a candle

with you, either electric or flame, or if you do not have a candle that you have a light source nearby that you can put out when you are told to.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87939789137?pwd=WGRDcUg0S3owMlRCWkozUy9OejY4Zz09>

Meeting ID: 879 3978 9137

Passcode: 20874

Dial by your location

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Easter Sunday Worship, April 4th, 10am

Christ is Risen! We'll celebrate shouting our alleluias in word and song! Resurrection is the ultimate healing and now that healing has been promised for all people. We'll have the traditional Easter music and a spirit of joy and possibility will infuse our worship. Invite your friends and family to join us from wherever they are!

As you sit down to worship, bring with you a ribbon wand or a coloring page or scarf or something else to wave and show your joy. (You can find Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday coloring pages here: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/17Qli1IOiZ4Ouj-Z9ZKvEyaPBw3JmHLyi?usp=sharing>) Also bring bread or a cracker and juice or wine for communion.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84470757726?pwd=VUhkWDZacGZBUFBwYWISU3QxN3dlUT09>

Meeting ID: 844 7075 7726

Passcode: 20874

Dial by your location

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

Lent: 40 Days to Love Mercy

At the beginning of Lent, the Social Action Board announced that there would be three opportunities to demonstrate the Micah 6:8 directive to "love mercy."

The first opportunity focused on food insufficiency on the local level and the second at the national and international level through UCC's annual One Great Hour of Sharing offering.

The third opportunity is assisting Germantown Help during their Easter outreach. UCCSV is teaming up with two other faith communities in Montgomery County, Journey's Crossing Church (JCC) and Hindu American Community Services, Inc. Most of those receiving groceries will pick them up at JCC's parking lot. Of the 300 grocery sets, 50 will

be set aside for UCCSV to deliver to folks with limited mobility/transportation who cannot come to JCC themselves.

We need 8-10 UCCSV drivers to show up at JCC (corner of Century Blvd. and Cloverleaf Center Dr.) at 9 a.m. on Saturday April 3rd and deliver the groceries immediately after pickup. Noel Lin will receive a list of the 50 recipients in advance so that we can contact them to let them know to expect delivery. **If you would like to help with the delivery, please email Noel Lin noellin50@gmail.com by March 29.**

If you would like to contribute toward gift cards for Easter food, you may do so through the church website (look for the Germantown Help option) or by sending a check to the church P.O. box.

100 Acts of Service to the Community in 2021

We know UCCSV makes an important contribution to our community as individuals and as a whole group, but we want to go further by documenting our acts of service and celebrating them. Let's see how quickly we can get to 100 acts of service to the community! If you have done an act of service to the community this year we want to know about it. Acts of service include more formal acts of volunteerism like tutoring or delivering food or cleaning up the neighborhood park to helping out a neighbor with technology or other task. An act of service can be running errands for others or paying it forward in some way. How do you serve our community? How are you making a difference? If you have completed an act of service please email Marybeth Thomason who is compiling a list for us. MarybethThomason921@gmail.com. Send along your name and your act of service. We'll celebrate your contribution and have it become part of our effort as a whole church to reach 100 acts of service by this summer!

Holy Week Worship

April 1 - Maundy Thursday, Worship at 7pm

April 2 - Good Friday, Worship at 7pm

April 4 - Easter Sunday, Worship at 10am