

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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April 18, 2021

Third Sunday in Easter

Ecumenical Advocacy Days Worship: Imagine God's Earth and People Restored

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: To Be Determined

Liturgist: John Bartkowiak

Pastor: Rev. Holly R. Jackson

Deacon: Tim 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 (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

“Samdo Sul Changgo”

Sebastian Wang

Opening Prayer

Liturgist: Spirit of God, you establish the dance of Creation; here by your wisdom are both life and death, growth and decay, sunshine and storm, the nest and the hunt. Sustained by these wonders, we creatures of dust join in the great and mysterious rhythms of your Creation. Give us a future that trusts in you and cares for your earth and all your people. Give us the vision and the will to see your creation restored. For all these things, O Gracious God, in the name of Jesus Christ, and with the company of the Holy Spirit, we pray. Amen.

Opening Hymn

“Vamos Todos Al Banquete”

by Guillermo Cuéllar

Invitation to Confession

Liturgist: Every community owes its existence and vitality to generations from around the world who contributed their hopes, dreams, and energy to making the history that led to this moment. Some were brought here against their will, some were drawn to leave their distant homes in hope of a better life, and some have lived on this land for more generations than can be counted. Truth and acknowledgment are critical to building mutual respect and connection across all barriers of heritage and difference. We begin this effort to acknowledge what has been buried by honoring the truth. Let us take a moment to consider the many legacies of violence, displacement, migration, and settlement that bring us together here today. *(A chime calls us to a moment of silence.)*

Prayer of Confession

People: Holy God, you have given us a world of beauty, and we have spoilt it. A world to feed us, yet we allow so many to go hungry. A world of riches, and we are unwilling to share. A world to care for, and yet we often focus only on ourselves. We did not create this system, but we continue to benefit from it. Our abundance can be traced to the oppression and exploitation of others. Forgive us, gracious God, every time your heart is saddened by our selfishness, every time we have no thought for others, no cares but ours. Enable us to see this world as a gift from you that can be shared, and those who live on it as our neighbors. We ask that your name may be glorified, through the beauty of this world, and the service of our lives. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Liturgist: God created us in love and yearns for us to live in peace and justice. Anytime that we seek mercy and choose to live closer to the ideals of God’s Realm, God eagerly forgives us and offers us peace. You are bathed in God’s grace and freed to begin again. 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.)

Response "We are Marching In the Light of God"

We are marching in the light of God. (4x)
We are marching, Oo, we are marching in the light of God

Children's Message

Scripture Psalm 85:8-13, 2 Peter 3:2-13, Luke 24:36b-48

Sermon The Most Reverend Michael Curry

Musical Response "God Has Work for Us to Do" By Mark Miller

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 Remember Me"

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom

Offertory Invitation

Liturgist: God has given us the gift of creation, the gift of our very lives. There is nothing we could offer that would ever equal that gift. However, God encourages to give out of our abundance, to offer back to the world the talents we have, the hours of service we can give to our community, and the financial resources that can benefit others. These gifts may seem small by themselves, but offered together as a community we believe that God can use them to transform the world.

Offertory Prayer

People: All good gifts come from you, dear God, revealing glimpses of your grace. We offer these gifts now, knowing that they come first from you, with blessings from your family of creation, then from us. We depend upon you and your creation for all that we call "ours." Bless these offerings. Use them to bring about your new earth, where justice is at home. Amen.

Closing Music

"It is Raining"

Extinguish The Light

Benediction

*EAD Worship 2021 gratefully acknowledges the following authors and composers whose materials are employed in worship. **Liturgy** developed by Dr. Jessica M. Smith, Rev. Mike Neuroth, Rebekah Choate, Rev. Amber Henry Neuroth, Sr. Marie Lucey, and Sr. Maria Orlandini. **Opening Prayer** adapted from All Creation Sings! Augsburg Fortress, 2020. **"Vamos Todos Al Banquete"** Words and Music - Guillermo Cuéllar. ©1988 GIA Publications, Inc. **Land Acknowledgement (Call to Confession)** text adapted from U.S. Bureau of Arts and Culture, www.usdac.us/nativeland. **Prayer of Confession** adapted from a prayer by John Birch, **"God Has Work For Us To Do,"** Video use granted by General Commission on Religion and Race. Words and Music: Mark A. Miller, Hope Publishing ©2013 Worship video editing and production by Perisphere Media. Worship video editing and production by Perisphere Media. Music 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>

3-in-1 Working/Walking Fellowship Opportunity (New Date)

Please join us on Sunday, April 25 between 1 and 3 for a chance (brought to you by Property Operations) to help tidy up our grounds while walking in fellowship with others; pick sticks and trash bags in hand. There will also be some tidying up of the beds in the back by the labyrinth if you prefer. The Fellowship Committee will provide drinks and some snacks and Bethany Fuss, on behalf of the Social Action Board, will be selling Equal Exchange coffee and chocolate (the kind where the farmers get a fair price for their products).

And while we're at it, let's show our neighbors we are a community of kindness and support. There will also be two opportunities that day to donate; either food, garden flowers or a little of both. The food collected will go to Germantown Help which provides food for needy Germantown families. The flowers will be put into bouquets and given, along with cards we will sign, to neighboring Asian owned businesses to show our support and solidarity in light of the most recent attacks on the broader Asian community in this country. It's a colorful way to say, "We see you and we value you and your place in our community."

As always, proper COVID protocols will be used, with masks and social distancing required.

Adopt-A-Road

Join UCCSV members and friends in working to keep a stretch of Middlebrook Road beautiful.

What to Expect: We will break into small groups, walk along sidewalks, and pick up trash and recyclables for approximately 1 hour.

What to Bring: Bring your own equipment for personal use if you prefer to minimize virus transmission. We will provide trash grabbers, gloves, reflective vests, and trash/recycling bags.

When: 9:00 AM; Second Saturdays, May through October

Where to Meet: Meet in the parking area for 12850 Middlebrook Road near our Adopt-A-Road highway sign, across from the Bank of America. *** This is a new location. *** You can also enter the parking area from Crystal Rock Road next to Seneca Valley High School.

Contact: Jenny at utzhome@gmail.com if you are interested in participating or if you have questions (including concerns about questionable weather)

"Bearing Witness" - a Black Lives Matter Tribute and Community Art Share

On Sunday May 2nd, from 1pm until 8pm, the community Art Share will be an event at the church, where everybody, young and old, has the opportunity to make an artistic contribution to our experiences with racism and exclusion, re-affirming that black and brown peoples lives matter.

Art is many things. It can be a drawing, painting or sculpture, but it can also be a poem, a photograph or a story. It can be a song or a dance. The intention is to share our church communities' contributions, to begin and continue a dialog among us, as well as the wider communities around us.

We want to especially encourage the young people to contribute and share, as well as younger children and their parents, who may be able to relate to the topic.

In sharing our experiences, emotions and perspectives with art, we are attempting to create a community and be a haven for all of us to express ourselves artistically. While some pieces may be more professionally rendered than others, the message and importance of each piece is the focus and will be appreciated. This could be the beginning of an annual occurrence. Please contact Sabine Cox (sabineecox@gmail.com) if any questions.

Upcoming Sunday Worship at UCCSV

April 18 - Earth Day Celebration: Ecumenical Advocacy Days - Imagine God's Earth and People Restored

April 25 - Earth Day Celebration: Lois Sumser preaching

May 2- Practicing Resurrection: What's Perfect Love Got to Do with It? (Communion Sunday)

May 9 - Practicing Resurrection: Why Bodily Resurrection Matters

May 16 - Practicing Resurrection: New Life Rooted in Justice

May 23 - Pentecost Sunday - Practicing Resurrection: The Resurrection of the Church

May 30 - Central Atlantic Conference Worship