

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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April 10, 2022

Let Love Rise:

Baking the Bread of Life

Palm Sunday

10:00 a.m.

In-Person & Livestreamed through Zoom

Our Mission

UCC of 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
Usher(s):	TBD
In-Person Deacon:	Deb Anderson
Zoom Deacon:	Bryan Young
Pastor:	Rev. Holly R. Jackson
Bread Offering:	John Bartkowiak
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. Use the chat box for the passing of the peace and prayer requests or other worship responses. Chat directly to individuals as appropriate.

Welcome & Announcements

Welcoming the Light into Worship – Light your candle at home

Prelude

***Call to Worship**

Liturgist: There is only one more step for us to take in this journey to Let Love Rise.

People: It is time to bake the bread of life.

Liturgist: Once we put it in the oven, there is no turning back.

People: Our path is set as we journey to the table and the cross this week.

Liturgist: We join with the crowds on Palm Sunday eager for a glimpse of a savior.

People: We peek in on our loaf as it bakes and whisper, “Hosanna! Save us!” because we know in the breaking of this bread, we will find freedom.

Liturgist: Our final preparations are being made.

People: Our hearts are filled with expectation and hope for a taste of holiness and grace even as clouds gather in the distance, and we worry about what comes next.

***Opening Prayer**

Liturgist: Holy God, it is time for a parade. It is time for a protest. It is time to walk through the crucible of Holy Week in the hopes that we too can be baked into your new creation. What will happen as we make this journey yet again? Will love rise, as it has before? Will the gathered crowds find nourishing sustenance in Jesus’ words and actions? Will the authorities decide the Bread of Life is feeding too many people, exponentially sharing good news and hope for a better tomorrow that threatens their power? Will Your saving grace rise like steam from the oven encircling us in comfort? We think we know how this story goes, but what if we don’t? Teach it to us anew and let us crack open the crust to find the goodness hidden inside of us all. Amen.

***Opening Hymn**

“Pave the Way”

By Bret Hesla

Invitation to Confession

Liturgist: Accountability and truth is needed for growth. God does not want us to wallow in guilt or drown in despair and shame. Instead, in this time of confession let us remember what we need to let go of, or heal from, in order to truly be whole, as individuals and as a society. Imagine God knowing we have fallen flat, and yet over and over again kneading the yeast of love into our lives until we rise again. Let us offer God the truth of our lives first in silence and then in unison prayer. *(A chime calls us to a moment of silence)*

Prayer of Confession

People: Merciful and Saving God, we confess that we shout Hosanna because we do not know how to save ourselves. We feel overwhelmed by

the brokenness of humanity. We confess that even as we bake our bread we are afraid of getting burnt. We worry your fire will destroy us instead of transform us. We confess that we love a parade and anything else that distracts us, entertains us, and helps us ignore the pain of the week to come. Give us the nourishment that we need to sustain ourselves as we continue to struggle in the wilderness and at the foot of the cross. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Liturgist: The good news of the gospel is that Jesus did come to save us. He came to save us from ourselves and remind us of the abundant life God has promised us. When we are honest before God, God shares with us a feast of forgiveness. Broken bread that feeds our souls.

***Passing of the Peace**

***Sung Response** *"Let Us Break Bread Together on our Knees"*

*Let us break bread together on our knees.
Let us break bread together on our knees.
When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord have mercy on me.*

Message for All Ages

Scripture John 6:25-35

Contemporary Reading "Reprise" By Laura Martin

Sermon Rev. Holly Jackson

Choral Anthem

Honoring Stefan Petrov

Community Life and Concerns

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

"As the Grains of Wheat"

#783

*As the grains of wheat once scattered on the hill
were gathered into one to become our bread,
so may all your people from all the ends of earth
be gathered into one in you.*

Offertory Invitation

Liturgist: We sit around the oven in anticipation of the bread we can smell is baking, the feast that awaits us. This is an image of the goodness of God. In gratitude for the abundant table God sets for us again and again in our lives, we give back a portion of our bounty. We give so that others may also enjoy this meal of plenty around God's wide table of justice. This morning's offering will now be received.

Offertory Prayer

People: Baker God, we offer up these gifts knowing you can mix them together and bake them into more than enough for all. We give of ourselves as well, waving our palms, offering our cloaks, and shouting out your name, all in the hopes that you might save the world. Consecrate and bless all that we bring before you now in the service of your love rising to transform all of creation. Amen.

***Closing Music**

"All Glory, Laud, and Honor"

#216

***Extinguish the Light**

***Benediction**

Postlude

***Stand in Body or Spirit**

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Fellowship Time - Each week during Lent, friends in the community will share baked bread, coffee/tea, and conversation in the Gathering Room or on the side portico (weather permitting) immediately after worship.

New to our Congregation? Have questions?

Please consider leaving us your contact information at

<https://forms.gle/Rjicc2jdMmzCqCFh8>

Greeters and Liturgists are needed always!

If you are available on Sundays, please consider signing up at
[UCC of Seneca Valley: UCCSV Worship Support \(signupgenius.com\)](http://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 \(uccsenecavalley.org\)](http://uccsenecavalley.org)

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