

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 17, 2022

Easter Sunday:

Love Has Risen

10:00 a.m.

In-Person & Livestreamed through 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

Liturgist:	Terri Molaski
In-Person Deacon:	John Bartkowiak & Deb Anderson
Zoom Deacon:	Camila Young
Preacher:	Rev. Holly R. Jackson
Director of Music Ministry:	Stefan Petrov
Celloist:	Jacques-Pierre Malan
Zoom Technical Support:	Patrick Jackson
Music before the service:	Aria con Variazioni by G.F. Handel with Laura Lineberger

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

The Swan

by C. Saint-Saens

*Call to Worship

Liturgist: They went to the cross,

People: And watched you breathe your last.

Liturgist: They ran to the upper room, where they had just broken bread,

People: And they locked the door in fear and disbelief.

Liturgist: Then, a few women went to the tomb, but you were not there.

People: Love had Risen!

Liturgist: You were already out sharing the bread of life.

People: Today we remember and today we celebrate.

Liturgist: Family of God, Christ is risen!

People: Christ is Risen Indeed!

Liturgist: Alleluia!

People: Alleluia! Amen!

*Opening Prayer

Liturgist: Holy God, there are so many ways for a recipe to go wrong. We could mix up the ingredients or bake at the wrong temperature. Similarly, we are always imperfectly following your directions in life. We are grateful that no matter how much we mix up the steps, your result is always the same. Love always rises. Help us to listen for your good news of comfort and joy today. Show us the paths to transformation. Give us confidence that your recipe, and your love for us, will never fail. Amen.

*Opening Hymn

“The Day of Resurrection”

#245

Invitation to Confession

Liturgist: Like flour rising to a delicious loaf of bread,

Easter is a story of transformation—

Death to life; despair to hope; betrayal to forgiveness.

We need that type of transformation—every day and all the time.

So join me in the prayer of confession,

for in our truth-telling with the divine, we are transformed.

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

Prayer of Confession

People: Holy God, we understand that in the cycles of our lives, death and grief are always present. In baking, the yeast dies, so the bread can rise.

We confess that we often live as if death gets the last word, as if no rise is coming. We isolate from community, and we lash out against one another.

We are like the women rushing to the tomb, like the crowd waiting for bread. We need the good news of Easter. Let Your Love rise for us today, Amen.

Words of Assurance

Liturgist: This is a new day, the day of God's good news! Alleluia! Love has Risen! Christ is Risen! We are forgiven! Forgiven to live new lives of peace, justice, and love. Alleluia! Amen.

***Passing of the Peace**

***Sung Response**

"Halleluja"

Halle, halle, hallelujah!
Halle, halle, hallelujah!
Halle, halle, hallelujah!
Halleluja, halleluja!

Message for All Ages

Scripture

Luke 9:10-17; Luke 24:1-12

Choir Anthem

Ave Verum Corpus by W. A. Mozart

Sermon

Rev. Holly R. Jackson

***Hymn**

"I Come to the Garden Alone" #237

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.**

***Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me;
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.***

Offertory Invitation

Liturgist: We rise by lifting others. In giving of ourselves and our resources we trust that God can do the work of leavening. In offering our first fruits we acknowledge it is not about how much we give, but the value of our gifts is found in the spirit with which we give them. This morning's offering will now be received. Alleluia!

***Offertory Prayer**

People: God of Alleluias—You have rolled away the stone and set a table before us. You have brought us together into one community, placing your love like leaven in the world. You are constantly working toward our final transformation. So, today, we lift up this offering as our commitment to Let Love Rise. We pray that you can use it to bring about your promised day where all are known, all are loved, and all fed. In your name we pray. Alleluia. Amen.

Communion Invitation

Pastor: The night before Jesus was arrested, he gathered with his friends for a meal. This was not their first meal together. These disciples had eaten with tax collectors and on mountainsides. They'd had fish and loaves in mixed company and meals on the road. For them, this was another night with another meal—and it might have felt like going through the motions of a recipe. But it didn't end up the way they expected.

On this night, Jesus took bread and fed his friends. And in doing so, he said to them, you matter to me. You belong here. No matter what you do or leave undone, this seat is saved for you. Friends, that same promise exists for us today.

No matter where you are in your journey of love and faith, you are welcome here. You belong here. There is a seat saved for you.

So come to this Table. Come to this table no matter who you are or what your journey to this moment has been. Come to this table celebrating your background, celebrating who you love, celebrating your age and place in life, and celebrating your uniqueness. Come to this table bringing all that you are – with your fears and your hopes and your heart on your sleeve; for this is God's Table, and God's love is always guaranteed. It is real, and it is strong, and it is for you. At this table, God makes us into a community in the Risen Christ, equipping us for the heartbreak and injustice of this

world. So come to this table. Love has already risen and Christ is ready to share.

All of all of you are welcome here.

***Communion Prayer**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts!

People: We lift them up to God! Alleluia!

Pastor: Let love rise in you!

People: We trust God is working in us even now. Alleluia!

Pastor: Give thanks to God!

**People: We give thanks to the One who so generously feeds us.
Alleluia!**

Pastor: Our God, whose name is blessed and holy, with the Word and the Spirit, you conspired against chaos, shrouding mountains in clouds, teaching birds how to sing, carving paths for waters to race to the seas.

You shaped us in your image, calling us together to bring in the harvest, to mill the grain, to knead the dough, and to bake the bread. But we did not want to be tied to your apron strings, and so, we followed the recipes devised by sin and death. You sent prophets to us, who called us back to you over and over, trying to leaven the bread of your kin-dom. We would not pay attention. Finally sent your Beloved to us, so we might understand that the Bread of Life eliminates our hunger. With the Bread of Life, there is always enough with some left over. In celebration of Love's Rise, we affirm:

***All: Christ has died. Christ is Risen. Christ will come again. Alleluia!**

One: Your beloved, our sibling, Jesus, was not afraid to become one of us, being faithful to your call. He was willing to walk in the shadowed corners of life, dying like the yeast, so that your love would rise.

(People at home are invited to mimic my actions as I consecrate the elements.)

We remember that on the night in which he 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, blessed it 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'.

Holy God, like dough into bread, you transform our lives. Like loaves and fish, your bounty is always enough to share. Pour out your Spirit on these gifts of bread and cup, so that we are renewed in your love. Extend this table, so that every seat in the room, and all the seats of those online are included. Let Love Rise, today and every day. Amen.

Sharing the Bread and Cup

(Those in the pews are invited to come forward and get the communion elements and then return to your seats. We will bring the elements to those who cannot come forward for any reason. Please wait to consume the elements until all are once again seated. Those at home can ready themselves until we all eat the bread and drink the juice/wine together.)

Communion Music

Meditation by J. Massenet

Apres un Reve by G. Faure

Prayer of Thanksgiving

People: Holy God, we thank you for all your good gifts - our daily bread, the gifts of this table, and your Risen Son, the Bread of Life. As we grow in hope and work for justice, your love continues to rise. Alleluia! Amen.

***Closing Music**

"Christ The Lord is Risen Today"

#233

***Extinguish the Light**

***Benediction**

Postlude

"Tarantella"

by D. Popper

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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 \(signupgenius.com\)](https://www.signupgenius.com/UCCofSenecaValley/UCCSV-Worship-Support)

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://www.uccsenecavalley.org/donate)

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