

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 3, 2022
Let Love Rise:
Waiting & Rising
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

Online Greeter:	Asher Beckwitt
Liturgist:	Rev. Holly R. Jackson
Usher(s):	TBD
In-Person Deacon:	John Bartkowiak
Zoom Deacon:	Asher Beckwitt
Preacher:	Rev. Suzanne-Adele Schmidt
Director of Music Ministry:	Stefan Petrov
Zoom Technical Support:	Tim Fuss

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: The seeds have been sown and harvested.

People: Thanks be to God the sower!

Liturgist: The harvest was brought in and the grain ground down.

People: Thanks be to God who prepares the way for us!

Liturgist: All the ingredients came together and the dough was kneaded until it was mixed through.

People: Thanks be to God who hides love in us and kneads hope into our lives.

Liturgist: Now it is time to let the dough rest and rise. See what God can do as we are lifted up to become a new creation.

People: Thanks be to God who reminds us to rest and find transformation!

*Opening Prayer

Liturgist: Divine Baker, you ask us to plant seeds of change, to harvest seeds of hope, to grind until justice is done, to mix everything together with the Spirit and to allow ourselves to be leavened. You demand that we rest. That we let creation breathe and rise on its own. That we watch as you transform the world around us with love. Holy One, you ask us to believe in a love so amazing that it can rise above violence, fear, scarcity, and shame. Open your worship and word to us now so that we hear anew your call to be part of the body of Christ and bread for a hungry world. Amen.

*Opening Hymn

“I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry”

#351

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 God, we confess that we live in a society that judges us by what we produce, how much we do, and what accolades we achieve. Yet, you call us to do what we can and then rest. We measure our days by the hours we put in and the to do lists we check off. Yet, you tell us we are worth far more than we could ever accomplish. Remind us again of the spiritual practices like prayer and gratitude and forgiveness that we can knead into our lives to let love rise. Help us to trust that unseen but

amazing transformations are taking place in our lives and in the world right now. Give us patience so that we can wait and rest in this season of Lent until we rise again with Christ on Easter. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Liturgist: God doesn't need much in order to make a big difference in our lives. Our confessions and our commitment to a life of faith and hope can be mixed together until new life bursts forth. We are forgiven and free. Let us live into that promise and work to liberate the world around us

***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.*

***Baptism of Eleanor Grace Miller**

Scripture Luke 13:6-9, 20-21

Sermon Rev. Suzanne Adele Schmidt

***Hymn** "Jesus Took the Bread" #343

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.**

***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 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 are found in the spirit with which we give them. This morning's offering will now be received.

***Offertory Prayer**

People: God of Rest and Rising, take these ingredients that we offer you and make them into a loaf that will feed thousands. Take our hopes and dreams and expand them until we better grasp your Realm of love and justice. Bless our giving that it becomes part of the yeast that bubbles up and transforms the world. Amen.

***Communion Invitation**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts!

People: We lift them up to God!

Pastor: Let love rise in you!

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

Pastor: Give thanks to God!

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

Communion Prayer

Pastor: Holy God, throughout all of creation you have sought to feed and nourish us, give us purpose and hope, and remind us to take the time we need to rest. You have modeled this for us over and over again. In the garden of Eden, manna in the desert, oil in famine, loaves and fishes, feasts for prodigals, and bread broken at the table. You have shown us what is good and right and true.

And yet we always doubt your generosity, we fear that we will not be or have enough, we hoard what we have, and we refuse to share. You could have given up on us. But in sending Jesus into the world you decided to walk among us in solidarity and teach us a different way. A way where all had enough, where all were fed, where all shared, and where all were loved. As beautiful as that story was and is, we still struggle to believe it and we struggle even more to live it.

Jesus knew the power of ritual and of hope to overcome even our deepest cynicism and despair. He gave us a simple set of words and actions to do when we ate together so that we could remember his teachings, his death, and above all his rising to new life. So that when we were tempted to give up, to not plant seeds, to not harvest the good, to not grind away the useless, to not mix and knead together love and justice, to not rest and let God work – when we ignored

all else but we sat down to break a loaf of bread and drink from the cup we would remember.

We would 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'.

Words of Institution

Pastor: Holy Spirit, come now and make of this bread and wine and juice a feast to celebrate life. Let it revive our spirits, challenge our complacency, and push us out of our comfort zones. As we enjoy this bread of heaven, the body of Christ broken for us, let it make us whole again. In this moment of communion may we find rest and the opportunity to let love rise. 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 listen to the music and ready themselves until we all eat the bread and drink the juice/wine together.)

***Prayer of Thanksgiving**

People: Generous God, having feasted at your table, been fed by your Word, and nourished in the presence of our community, we thank you for the many ways in which you have fed our bodies and souls this day. We go out from this church now renewed and revived, ready to live our calling anew to be a light in the shadows, salt for the earth, bread for the world, seekers of justice and joy, and your witness to all of creation. May our work and presence in the world bring the promise of peace just a little bit closer each day. Amen.

***Closing Music**

"Let us Talents and Tongues Employ"

#347

***Extinguish the Light**

***Benediction**

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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/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://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).