

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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May 1, 2022

Third Sunday in Easter:

Jesus the Persecuted

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:	Dave Schwab
Liturgist:	Deb Anderson
Usher(s):	Terri Molaski
In-Person Deacon:	John Bartkowiak
Zoom Deacon:	Camila Young
Pastor:	Rev. Holly R. Jackson
Music Support:	Beth Lauriat
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: Sing praises to God, all you faithful ones

People: God hears us in our fear and our sorrow

Liturgist: Where there was no way

People: God leads us in a new way

Liturgist: Where there was no mercy

People: God surprises us with fresh mercy

Liturgist: Where there was weeping

People: God invites us to step into a new dance.

***Opening Prayer**

Liturgist: You break in, O God, on the road. You break in exactly the way we don't believe. You break in and change everything. You break in and remind us who you are. You break in, O God, with a call, with an invitation. You break in with the truth. You break in with a new realm, a new world. You break in with your intent for the future. God, break in again to our lives and call us to be your workers. Break in again and use our gifts to build your realm. Break in again and change our world once more. Amen.

***Opening Hymn**

"This is the Day"

#84

Invitation to Confession

Liturgist: We seek to know who Jesus was and follow in his footsteps. Part of that journey requires us to be honest with ourselves and before God about the times when we have wandered away from the path Jesus sets before us. We seek God's grace for the moments when we have, as individuals and as a society, failed to live as Jesus taught us. We pause now to quiet our hearts in silence and then to ask for forgiveness and find hope in God's embrace.

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

Prayer of Confession

People: God of Forgiveness, hear now the confession of our sins. Our greed and anger often create enemies instead of friends. We sometimes fail to offer comfort and aid to those who are afraid and beat down by the burdens of life. We can be as blind and willful as Saul to the pain and the destruction we create. Forgive us, merciful One. Give us sight to see with your eyes, that we may bring hope and peace to our world. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Liturgist: God forgives us our shortcomings and sends deliverance through Christ, just as Jesus forgave Saul and used him to spread the gospel. Feel the love God showers upon you and know that your ministry to others makes a real difference in this world.

***Passing of the Peace**

***Sung Response**

"Halleluja"

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

Scripture

Acts 9:1-20

Contemporary Reading

"Phase One"

By Dilruba Ahmed

Sermon

Rev. Holly R. Jackson

Hymn

"Amazing Grace"

547 v. 1-3

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

"Spirit of the Living God"

#283

***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.***

Mission Moment

Dan Davis & Suzanne Adele Schmidt

Offertory Invitation

Liturgist: We invite you at this time to share God's abundance—in person in the offering plates at the doors or online or in any way that you feel called to do so. We come with our own special gifts. We come as a gifted congregation, marked by abundance. We make our offering for our community of faith and for the wider world.

Offertory Prayer

People: Holy One, you transformed the life of Saul. He was converted to your work as a disciple. We, too, have been transformed by your love. You earnestly listen for our daily response to your steadfast presence. Open our hearts so that we may walk consciously with you each day. We lift up this offering in the name of the Risen Christ. Amen.

Invitation to Communion

Pastor: 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 risen and Christ is ready to share.

Pastor: Come to the deep place in your life that Christ shows you.

People: We come, searching for nourishment.

Pastor: Come to the daybreak of hope.

People: We come even when we cannot see clearly.

Pastor: Come to join in community.

People: We come to a place of warmth and caring.

Communion Prayer

Pastor: On this May Day morning we remember that Jesus of Nazareth ate breakfast at his mother Mary's table, and never forgot that receiving a meal that is given is a holy way to begin every day.

We remember that Jesus taught at a table while Mary of Bethany listened, and that Mary of Magdala provided from the depths of gratefulness and generosity for the meals of all the followers.

We remember a rhythm in tambourine Miriam gave to every Passover, and that Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, broke the unleavened bread of that old commemoration of freedom, and offered a cup of new covenant, poured out for everyone in the upper room, and for everyone wading through sorrows or dancing for freedom who is willing to eat and drink now in his name for the life-giving of the world.

(People online 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, you give us what we need, a simple breakfast or a feast, the strength just to go on or the outlet for our great joy. Send your Spirit upon this bread to be sacred, in memory and in truth, and on this cup that we may drink in your love. 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.)

Prayer of Thanksgiving

People: God, we give you thanks for helping us to see, for showing us how to love even in the midst of persecution, for serving us and teaching us how to serve others, and for meeting us not only at this table but at all our tables. We accept your call to feed the spirits, minds, and bodies of all your people, and to share the good news of the gospel with all the world. Amen

***Closing Music**

"I Come With Joy"

#349 v. 1-4

***Extinguish the Light**

***Benediction**

Postlude

***Stand in Body or Spirit**

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Fellowship Time - Each week after worship we will share in snacks, 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).