

**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 22, 2022

**Sixth Sunday in Easter:**

**Jesus the Liberator**

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:	Russell Shelley
Usher(s):	Deb Anderson
In-Person Deacon:	Bethany Fuss
Zoom Deacon:	John Bartkowiak
Pastor:	Rev. Holly R. Jackson
Guest Preacher:	Rev. Otis Moss
Music Support:	Beth Lauriat, Bethany Fuss
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**

**(\*Stand in Body or Spirit)**

#### **\*Call to Worship**

Liturgist: Let the Creator be home among us.

**People: In our hearts, may God be welcome.**

Liturgist: May God's love shape our every thought.

**People: May our actions lead to God's justice.**

Liturgist: May our words be words of life.

**People: May God's Spirit lead us. May God's peace dwell within us.**

#### **\*Opening Prayer**

Liturgist: To you, O God, we lift up our souls.

To you we offer our praise and prayer,

our worship and thanksgiving,

even our very lives.

Make your ways known to us.

Show us the path on which we should walk.

Lead us in your truth and teach us.

For you alone are the God who saves and liberates us,

the God of justice;

the God in whom we trust;

and the One on whom we wait.

Amen.

#### **\*Opening Hymn**

“Lead on Eternal Sovereign”

#573

#### **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: Holy God, we confess to you our pain:**

**The pain we have inflicted on others,**

**The pain that keeps us awake at night,**

**The pain of strangers across the world whose lives we cannot touch,**

**And the pain of systems unyielding and untouchable.**

**We invite you into our pain**

**We invite you to heal us, forgive us, and liberate us.  
To undo what is crushing and wrong, and to inspire us to do the same.  
To bring peace and even joy. To live into liberation. Amen.**

**Words of Assurance**

Liturgist: Friends, hear the good news of the gospel. You are set free! Where once you had been tied down by sin and oppression and shame, now you are untied and liberated from all that destroys. Where once people were bound, now they are free to live lives of justice and peace. We are forgiven. Let us live into that truth.

**\*Passing of the Peace**

**\*Sung Response**

“Halleluja”

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

**Scripture**

Acts 16:25-34

**Sermon**

Rev. Otis Moss for Ecumenical Advocacy Days

**Hymn**

“I Thank You Jesus”

#41

**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 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:** Generous God, you offer us life that overcomes death, light that overcomes shadows, hope that overcomes our deepest despair, and freedom that liberates us from all that oppresses. In response we offer our tithes and gifts, but also our minds, hearts, bodies, and witness as well. May our minds be about understanding who you are and who you long for us to be in this world. May our hearts overflow with your love and compassion for the poor, the oppressed, and the forgotten. May our bodies carry us out of the tombs of isolation to engage our neighbors as sisters and brothers. May our witness be the “Alleluias!” we take with us to bring hope to everyone we meet! Amen.

**\*Closing Music**

“Renew Your Church”

#311

**\*Extinguish the Light****\*Benediction****Postlude****(\*Stand in Body or Spirit)**

*Call to Worship by Michael Anthony Howard. Hymns and lyrics reprinted and streamed under ONE LICENSE # 724117-A. All Rights Reserved.*

**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: UCC Seneca Valley Worship Support \(signupgenius.com\)](https://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 \(uccsenecavalley.org\)](https://uccsenecavalley.org)

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