

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

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July 19, 2020

Virtual Vacation with God: The Mountains

10:00am 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

Greeter: TBD

Liturgist: Russell Shelley

Pastor: Rev. Holly R. Jackson

Deacon: Deb Anderson

Director of Music Ministry: Stefan Petrov

Zoom Technical Support: Patrick Jackson

Instructions for Zoom Worship:

We invite you to come to worship with a candle to light. This can be a real flame or an electric candle. Since we're on a virtual vacation at the mountains this morning feel free to wear hiking wear or have your hiking gear with you.

Keep your microphone on mute during worship unless told otherwise. Words in bold are meant to be said aloud at home with the Pastor or Liturgist who will say them on the Zoom call. Sing along at home to the sung responses and hymns. Close all non-essential programs on your computer and silence all notifications so you don't become distracted. Use the chat box for the passing of the peace and prayer requests or other worship responses. Chat directly to individuals as appropriate. If you are having technical issues please chat message Patrick Jackson for help. The Zoom room opens at 9:30am and worship begins at 10.

Welcome & Announcements

Welcoming the Light into Worship – Light your candle at home

Prelude

Call to Worship

Liturgist: God stretches out the heavens and shapes the earth.

People: Come and give thanks!

Liturgist: God raises up the mountains and pours water into the seas.

People: Come and give thanks!

Liturgist: God calls forth plants from the soil and forms animals in infinite variety.

People: Come and give thanks!

Liturgist: God breathes upon us and fills us with life.

People: Come lift your voices in praise!

Liturgist: God gives our lives meaning through laughter and tears.

People: Come lift your voices in praise!

Liturgist: God touches our hearts through family and friends.

People: Come lift your voices in praise!

Liturgist: God loves us and blesses us with everything good.

People: Come and worship!

Liturgist: God loves us and overwhelms us with never-ending generosity.

People: Come and worship!

Liturgist: God loves us and surrounds us with love in abundance!

People: Come and worship!

Opening Prayer

Liturgist: O God, whose holiness is not limited to grand cathedrals or saintly persons, spectacular mountains or mountain-moving leaders;

O God, whose holiness is often discovered in simple everyday places and simple everyday folk, plant your holiness in this place, in us now.

Grow us this hour, that we might flower, right where we are.

Help us to reach the mountaintop with you and to know that you are also found in the valleys of our lives. In Jesus we pray. Amen.

Opening Hymn

"Blessed Be the Tie That Binds"

*Blessed be the tie that binds
our hearts in Christian love;
The sharing of a common life is like to that above.*

*Before our God we come
and pour our ardent prayers;
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our comforts and our cares.*

*We share each other's woes,
each other's burdens bear,
And often for each other flows a sympathizing tear.*

Confession

Liturgist: On this day which God has made, which God has given to us, we pause. We consider our hearts and hands, the good we have left undone, the harm we have caused, the ways we have been complicit in tearing the fabric of community. On this day which God has made, we are loved and grace awaits us. Let us begin first in silence and then in unison prayer.
(A chime calls us to a time of silence.)

**People: Holy and loving God,
we have dwelt in darkness
and preferred it to the light;
we have forgotten to value humility and compassion,
and have focused on our shame and our failures.
Smooth down the mountains of our arrogance,
and lift up the valleys of our doubts.
Open a path in the wilderness of our lives
that we might find our way to you again.
Refine us and prepare us once again
for life in your Realm.
Hear our prayer, O Lord. Amen.**

Words of Assurance

Liturgist: Rest and renew yourself in that knowledge that God hears our confessions and sends us peace. God knows our brokenness and sends us healing. God feels our exhaustion and sends us the Spirit to hold us up. You are forgiven and given a chance to begin again. Thanks be to God!

Passing of the Peace

(We will drop out of the powerpoint and unmute you. You are encouraged to wave, say Christ's peace aloud, and/or write your offering of peace to all in the chat.)

Sung Response –

*When peace, like a river, upholds me each day,
when sorrows like sea billows roll,
Whatever my lot, you have taught me to say,
“It is well, it is well with my soul.”
It is well with my soul,
it is well, it is well with my soul.*

Children's Message

Scripture

Exodus 24:12-18, Exodus 32: 1-14

Contemporary Reading

“Sacred Mountains”

by William Loader

Reflection

Rev. Holly Jackson

Musical Response

Community Life and Concerns

(We will drop out of the Powerpoint here. Please feel free to write your prayer concerns in the chat box.)

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.**

Sung Prayer Response -

***In the morning when I rise, in the morning when I rise
in the morning when I rise, give me Jesus.
Give me Jesus, give me Jesus,
you may have all this world, give me Jesus.***

Offertory Invitation

Liturgist: As all of creation yearns for freedom, we remember that all of life is bound up together. Our own spirits are entangled with the well-being of every living thing. With humility, let us acknowledge our own ongoing journeys of transformation as we seek to do our part in the collective labors of healing, justice, and companionship. In gratitude for the grace of God that sustains us, let us bring our offerings together.

Offertory Prayer

People: Spirit of Solidarity, wherever there is ache, you are there. You groan with those who suffer. You cry out through prophets calling for justice. You stir the spirits of the complacent and trouble the hearts of the indifferent. With thanks for your presence that transforms and your hope

that endures, we bring our offerings and pray that we may be faithful companions to one another and every neighbor in struggle. Amen.

Closing Music

“How Can I Keep From Singing”

NYC Virtual Choir and Orchestra

<https://youtu.be/VLPP3XmYxXg>

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Benediction

Extinguish The Light

Fellowship Time - Those who wish to stay and chat with others will be broken into small group breakouts to allow for more sustained conversation.

“Call to Worship” by the Mennonite Church Canada. “Opening Prayer” adapted from <http://www.myredeemerlives.com/prayers.html>, “Offertory Invitation and Prayer” written by enfleshed. Hymns and lyrics reprinted and streamed under ONE LICENSE # 724117-A. All Rights Reserved.

New to our Congregation or have questions? Please consider leaving us your contact information at <https://forms.gle/Rjicc2jdMmzCgCFh8>

Parents of Children and Youth

Here are some great coloring and activity pages for children and youth to complete while listening to worship. There is also a word search at the end of this bulletin.

<https://www.crayola.com/free-coloring-pages/print/mountains-coloring-page/>

<https://coloringpagesbymradron.blogspot.com/2015/10/printable-coloring-page-psalm-902-from.html>

<https://www.education.com/worksheet/article/word-search-planet-earth/>

Upcoming Sunday Worship Themes– Virtual Vacations with God

7/26/20 – Visiting Family

8/2/20 – The El Camino (Places We’d Love to Go but Probably Won’t)

8/9/20 – Visiting Different Churches

8/16/20 – The Forest

8/23/20 - Cities/Museums/Famous Landmarks

8/30/20 – Traveling for Events (Weddings, Family reunions, etc.)

9/6/20 – The Lake

Mindfulness Sessions on Mondays at 7pm

Ruel Billones will lead mindfulness sessions on Mondays from 7-8pm via Zoom. Please sign up here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d45adaf28aaf85-mindfulness>

or contact Beth Lauriat at balauriat@aol.com for more information.

The Lord's Prayer UCCSV Edition

The Lord's Prayer, also known as the prayer of our Savior or the "Our Father/Mother/God," has been a central part of Christian worship for centuries. Since it is derived from Jesus' instructions to the disciples when they asked him how they should pray, it is a powerful piece of witness when said out loud. But the exact wording of this key prayer has always been somewhat contested; different translations of the text use different words, for example "trespasses" versus "debts" versus "sins." but the important thing is the spirit of the prayer, and not the exact wording, and that's why we in this community say the prayer together the way that we do: people use the words that are most meaningful for them, and we wait for one another.

This is a lot more difficult to do over Zoom, as I am sure that you have noticed! In person we can make adjustments a little more easily, so we all stay roughly together in the prayer even as some of us say, for example, "lead us not into temptation" while others say "lead us not into the time of trial." But when we each pray the prayer in our own way at the same time, it makes a very powerful statement about the core values of diversity and inclusion in our community: different versions are both welcomed and celebrated.

What I would like to do is to produce a virtual version of our intentionally diverse common prayer practice. As Stefan has done with our "virtual choir" performances, I plan to layer different audio and video clips on top of one another in order to recreate the melodious cacophony we get when we pray this prayer together in person. But I can't do this without your help. I need you — yes, YOU — to record yourself saying this prayer in your own way, and send me the resulting audio or video (I can use either). You can record on your computer, or on your phone in "landscape" orientation

(turn it on its side). Best to do this inside or in a relatively quiet place outside, so that the audio quality is good. If you would like I can even meet you on Zoom and talk you through the recording process live.

If you are able to be part of this project, please get in touch with me at onyxdr@mac.com and I will give you further instructions about how to get your audio or video to me. Then I'll put them all together and produce something we can use in future worship services. I'd like to get the audio and video clips by Friday July 18th.

-Patrick Jackson

Zoom Worship Volunteer Opportunities

If you would like to help lead our Zoom worship experience there are ways you can help. We still need a "Greeter" and a "Liturgist" every Sunday. Greeters will welcome people as they come into the meeting before worship by voice or by chat and help by supplying important web links in the chat box. Liturgists will lead the service with Holly. We also welcome musical video offerings of instruments or voice that we can use during worship. In addition, we welcome pictures of our congregation during this time apart. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090849a4a722a02-uccsv>

In Person Pastoral Visits

Now that the weather is improving it is possible to do pastoral visits outside in a safe way. Pastor Holly is available to meet with you in the prayer garden (or in your yard if you can't get to the church). Visits will observe proper social distance and include masks, but are a way to connect in person. You don't even have to have a topic to discuss! This is just a way to feel a little more connected and normal again. Please email HollyRJackson@gmail.com to make an appointment.