WELCOME
No matter who you are, or where you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here.
Due to the coronavirus, we are using technology to worship together in cyberspace.
Please log in about 10:15 to make sure your “virtual pew” (phone, laptop, device) works.
Please make sure your audio is working so others may celebrate your presence.
Then, please “mute” your volume as you gather.

MUSIC FOR GATHERING
“There Is A Balm in Gilead” Arranged by William Dawson
The Westmoreland Festival Chorus and George Singleton (Recorded at the Lincoln Temple in 2016)
Thanks to Alec Davis, Music Director/Organist at
Westmoreland Congregational UCC in Bethesda, for coordinating today’s music.

There is a balm in Gilead
To make the wounded whole;
There is a balm in Gilead
To heal the sin-sick soul.

Sometimes I feel discouraged,
And think my work’s in vain,
But then the Holy Spirit
Revives my soul again.

If you cannot sing like angels,
If you cannot preach like Paul,
You can tell the love of Jesus,
And say ‘He died for all.’

GATHERING & WELCOME
Rev. Alexis Kassim
Little River UCC, Annandale VA

CALL TO WORSHIP
Rev. Sarah Lund
UCC Minister for Disabilities and Mental Health Justice
One: We gather together in a season that exposes the inequalities of our society. From the coronavirus pandemic, to economic hardship, to police violence and racial injustice, to discrimination against the LGBTQ community, we see the need for God’s presence and justice.
All: We are ready to change!
One: We gather in recognition of our broken healthcare system, the challenge of accessing mental healthcare, and the burden of medical debt on those already burdened.

All: **We are ready to learn!**
One: We gather to hear stories of both suffering and hope.
All: **We are ready to listen!**
One: We gather as individuals and congregations from across the Potomac Association of the United Church of Christ.
All: **We are ready to act!**
One: We gather for prayer, inspiration and action.
All: **We are ready to worship!**

**GUIDED REFLECTION ON JOYS, CONCERNS, AND CONFESSION**

Rev. Ellen Jennings
Cleveland Park Congregational UCC, Washington, DC

**PRAYING TOGETHER:**

**LORD’S PRAYER: FATHER, MOTHER**

Heavenly Father, heavenly Mother,
Holy and blessed is your true name.
We pray for your reign of peace to come,
We pray that your good will be done,
Let heaven and earth become one.
Give us this day the bread we need,
Give it to those who have none.
Let forgiveness flow like a river between us,
From each one to each one.
Lead us to holy innocence
Beyond the evil of our days -
Come swiftly Mother, Father, come.
For yours is the power and the glory and the mercy:
Forever your name is All in One.

*Inspired by Matthew 6: 9-13, Luke 11: 2-4,
Composed by Parker Palmer, Spirituality and Practice*

**ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

Rev. Freeman Palmer
Conference Minister, Central Atlantic Conference, UCC

**PASSING THE PEACE**

We will unmute everyone for a moment of greeting and peace-passing.
You may also type your words of peace in the chat box.
Feel free to wave at others as sign of greeting and peace.
After the “cacophony of peace,” we will return to mute for a moment of silent peace passing.

**MUSIC**

“My Soul in Stillness Waits”

**SCRIPTURE READING**

Ephesians 2:1-10

Rev. Marvin Silver
Associate Conference Minister, Central Atlantic Conference, UCC

You were dead through the trespasses and sins in which you once lived, following the course of
this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of the flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which God loved us, even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with Christ, and made us sit with Christ in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the coming ages God might show the immeasurable riches of God’s grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God—not because of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE
Rev. Amber Henry Neuroth
Hope UCC, Alexandria, VA

SERMON
“Prepared Beforehand”
David Finnegan-Hosey
Chaplain, Barton College, Wilson, NC
Author, Grace Is A Pre-Existing Condition and Christ on the Psych Ward

MUSIC

INVITATION TO OFFERING
Rev. Timothy Tutt
Westmoreland Congregational UCC, Bethesda MD

MOMENT OF WITNESS
Katie Adams
Policy Advocate for Domestic Issues, UCC Washington Office
Sandy Sorensen
Director, UCC Washington Office

BLESSEDING OF OUR GIFTS AND WORK
Rev. Audrey Price
Associate Conference Minster, Central Atlantic Conference, UCC

Bless the gifts we have to give, O God.
Gifts of time and money and energy and prayers.
Bless the generous gifts we share to purchase medical debt.
Bless the compassionate gifts we offer as people of the United Church of Christ.
Bless the creative and caring gifts we show forth in the universe
as humans sharing this planet.
Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE
Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss
First Congregational Church, Washington, DC
Rev. Jason Carson Wilson
Justice & Witness Committee, Potomac Association, UCC

Holy and healing God, we are grateful that you have brought us together as people and as
congregations into one body today for worship and action. Thank you for prophetic words and fresh ideas. You are the Source of healing for our bodies and for our unjust systems, and so we turn to you now in prayer.

**Moment of Silent Prayer**

Bring our hearts together in these prayers as we join together in action.

We pray today for those suffering from the effects of two pandemics: COVID-19 and systemic racism.

We raise our voices to you today with fervent hope that vaccines for both plagues are found.

O Creator, we beg you for strength and hope as COVID-19 takes people’s lives and breath away.

Your fabulously Black creations cry out for fortitude as we watch those meant to serve and protect rob our melanated siblings of breath and life.

We long for a day when we’re no longer treated like 3/5ths of a human.

Give us strength and hope to recover from both pandemics.

We lift up all those patients with chronic illnesses and those on slow paths to recovery.

We lift up Black families plunged into despair after senseless deaths at the hands of police.

May they find your comfort and encouragement.

We pray for all those who are navigating a mental health journey.

We pray for those who struggle.

May they know peace.

We pray for families, especially those grappling with the burden of caregiving.

We pray for those who are unable to be together.

We pray for therapists, aides, nurses, doctors, and other healthcare providers, overwhelmed in a demanding system during a crisis.

We pray for chaplains, social workers and other mental health workers, who care for our whole selves - physical, emotional and spiritual.

We pray for our broken and unjust system that burdens those who are already suffering with difficult choices and large debts.

We pray for your radical transformation of these systems.

Inspire us and others to aid and advocacy.

**Moment of Silent Prayer**

We claim today your covenant promises of love, protection and healing.

We live into that love and offer all these prayers and more.

We pray, giving thanks for your healing grace that fills us and redeems us.

In Jesus’ name, Amen.

**MUSIC**

“The Lord Bless You and Keep You”  
Peter Lutkin
Westmoreland Chancel Choir (Recorded April 17, 2016)

The Lord bless you and keep you;

The Lord lift his countenance upon you, and give you peace;

The Lord make his face to shine upon you,

and be gracious unto you. Amen

**BENEDICTION**

Rev. Kaeley McEvoy
Westmoreland Congregational UCC, Bethesda MD
You are invited to remain on the Zoom call after the service for a book discussion of “Grace is a Pre-Existing Condition” with today’s preacher, author David Finnegan-Hosey.

This shared worship service is an experience of Christ Congregational UCC, Silver Spring, MD; Cleveland Park UCC, Washington, DC; First Congregational UCC, Washington, DC; Hope UCC, Alexandria, VA; Little River UCC, Annandale, VA; and Westmoreland Congregational UCC, Bethesda, Maryland.

The following congregations and denominational partners have committed to take part in the DMV UCC effort to buy and pay off medical debt: Christ Congregational UCC, Silver Spring, MD; Cleveland Park UCC, Washington, DC; First Congregational UCC, Washington, DC; Hope UCC, Alexandria, VA; Little River UCC, Annandale, VA; Rock Spring Congregational UCC, Arlington, VA; The United Church Foggy Bottom, Washington, DC; UCC Central Atlantic Conference Justice & Action Network; UCC of Seneca Valley, Germantown, MD; UCC Potomac Association Justice & Action Committee; United Christian Parish, Reston, VA; Wellspring UCC, Centreville, VA; and Westmoreland Congregational UCC, Bethesda, Maryland.

You may contribute to the DMV Medical Debt relief effort by giving a designated contribution to any of these churches or you may give online http://bit.ly/DMVDebtDonate. Please give under the ‘Medical Debt Buyout Project’ line item. Westmoreland UCC is serving as the holding place for all funds raised. All gifts will go directly to RIP Medical Debt.

Join the Anti-Racist Initiative of the UCC Central Atlantic Conference by going to www.letjustice.org/initiative-racialjustice. Sign up to show you commitment, to get information, and to work with other church leaders to confront racism.

Support the right to vote by going to www.letjustice.org and joining the UCC Central Atlantic Conference effort to register voters and to work for every person to have the right to vote without fear, intimidation, limitations and false information.

For more information about the UCC Ministry for Disabilities and Mental Health Justice, email Sarah Lund at lunds@ucc.org or go to www.ucc.org/disabilities_and_mental_health_justice.