

St. John's United Church of Christ
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*Indicates that people may stand as they are able.

August 7, 2022

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

10:00am

Tower Chimes

Music to gather

“Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Thy Word”

Johann G. Walther

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Welcome

Call To Worship: Psalm 50

One: The mighty one, God the Lord, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

Many: Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines forth.

One: Our God comes and does not keep silent; before God is a devouring fire and a mighty tempest all around.

Many: Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and pay your vows to the Most High.

All: We call upon the Lord in the day of trouble and God will deliver us, and we shall glorify God's holy name!

Hymn#423.....“Great Is Your Faithfulness”

Prayer of Confession

One: No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here! Let us come before the God of mercy and grace, confessing our shortcomings so that we might receive forgiveness.

Many: Loving God, we come before you today with things on our hearts and minds. Good things and bad things, worries and praises, so many things that it can feel like we are drowning in anxieties and to do lists and all the things that demand our attention. Then we hear your voice saying ‘do not be afraid little

flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.' You recenter us and ground us in your love. Help us to be more focused on you, and help us to bring about the kingdom on earth, sharing your mercy and love. May you be our greatest treasure, because where our treasure is our heart is also. Amen.

Confession Response 🎵 Hymn # 346, Verse 2

Look on the heart by sorrow broken,
look on the tears by sinners shed,
And be your feast to us the token
that by your grace our lives are fed.

Assurance of God's Forgiveness

One: When we come before the Lord and lay down our burdens before the cross, we find the peace of the Holy Spirit the fills us with a sigh too deep for words.

Many: "Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful." -Colossians 3:15

* Gloria 🎵

***Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.***

Scriptures:

Janet Cook

Luke 12:32-40

Genesis 15:1-6

Prayer for Grace (sung)

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.

Children's Moment

Pastor Becky Sausser

Sermon: "Relax, Love, Live"

Pastor Becky Sausser

Hymn #336....." Here, O My Lord, I See You Face to Face"

(Note: Ushers will collect "Prayer Cards" during this time. Prayer cards are in the pews. We invite you to fill one out if you have a joy or prayer request to share.)

Morning Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy 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 thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Prayer Response 🎵 Hymn # 328 Verse 4

For you our restless spirits yearn,
where-e'er our changing lot is cast;
Glad, when your smile on us you turn,
Blessed, when by faith we hold you fast.

A Celebration of Holy Communion (See insert)

The Invitation

Communion Prayer

Pastor: God be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to God.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to God Almighty.

People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Pastor: Eternal God, you created the heavens and earth, giving breath to every living thing. We thank you for the gift of creation and for the gift of life itself. We thank you for making us in your own image, for forgiving us when we act as though You have no claim on us, and for keeping us in your steadfast care.

We rejoice in Jesus Christ, the only one eternally begotten by you, who was born of your servant Mary and shared the joys and sorrows of life as we know it. We remember Christ's death, we celebrate Christ's resurrection, and in the beloved community of your church, we await Christ's return at the end of history.

We take courage from the abiding praise of men, women, and persons of faith in every age who stand as witnesses to your love and justice. With all the prophets, martyrs, and saints and with all the company of heaven, we glorify you singing...

People (Singing the Sanctus Hymn #795)

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Sabaoth;

Heaven and earth are full, are full, of the majesty of Thy Glory.

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.

Hosannah, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

Pastor: We remember that on the night He was betrayed and deserted, Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to the disciples, saying: "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

In the same way, Jesus also took the cup after supper, and gave thanks for it, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

People: By eating this bread and drinking this cup, we proclaim Christ's death, we celebrate Christ's resurrection, and we await Christ's coming again.

Pastor: Let us pray. Gracious God, we ask you to meet us where we are today in your mercy; we ask you to bless this bread and this cup and all of us with the outpouring of your Holy Spirit. Through this meal, make us the body of Christ, your church, your servant people, that we may be salt, light, and leaven in this world that you so deeply love.

Receiving the Elements

Pastor: Through the broken bread, we participate in the body of Christ. Through the cup of blessing, we participate in the new life that Christ gives. The gifts of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

Pastor: I invite our organist, ushers, camera crew, and servers forward at this time to receive Holy Communion.

Pastor: At the direction of our usher, I would invite you to come forward to receive the elements of Holy Communion. We still have individually wrapped Communion elements available; just let me know when you come forward. If you would prefer to receive Communion in the pew, please notify the usher.

(At the direction of the usher, please come forward in a single line to receive the elements. Please partake when you receive them and return to your seat.)

Pastor: Let us join together in prayer.

People: As one body, we lament with those who lament. We hope with those who hope. We live with suffering. We live with beauty. Let us go from this table as a renewed community, doing the radical work of Jesus that calls us to live justice-making lives of faith. We are followers of God's way. We give thanks and praise! Amen!

Announcements

Jeff Rissell

Hymn #405..... " There Are Some Things I May Not Know

* Commission and Blessing

* **Threefold Amen** 🎵 #812

Amen, amen, amen

Music to go forth

"Voluntary"

Maurice Greene
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Special Announcements/Reminders:

You can give ELECTRONICALLY from your mobile device using the VancoMobile app. You can download this app from the Apple and Google App stores. The church's name is - stjohsuccallentown - exactly as shown. You can also give on our homepage at www.stjohsuccallentown.org by clicking on the "Donate" button.



The altar flowers are in honor of St. John's UCC.



**Our hands.
God's work.**

**No matter who you are or where you are on life's
journey, you're welcome here.
God is still speaking, ...**

Personal **hearing devices** are available from an usher in rear of church.

Use of **electronic devices** during worship may be distracting to your neighbor. Please refrain unless a personal emergency.

In emergencies, please use exits found to left and right of the altar, to the right of the front pew, and at the rear of the sanctuary.

Follow **EXIT** signs.

Please make sure your name has been added to the church attendance each Sunday. Then if contact tracing is necessary, we will be able to notify you. Thank you.

Please note: If you have a **prayer request**, please fill out a card found in the pew and the **ushers will pick it up during the second hymn.**

Serving St. John's...

Pastor Becky Sausser.....Pastor
Lois Mease..... Music Director and Organist
April Riddick.....Custodian
Jim Saylor.....Sunday Sexton
Claudia Ewald.....Administrative Assistant

And too many volunteers to list!