

St. John's United Church of Christ
36 S. Sixth Street, Allentown, PA 18101
Phone 610-433-0146
Email: stjohnsucc2@verizon.net
Website: www.stjohnsuccallentown.org
Pastor Rebecca Sausser
Phone: 570 – 581 - 0594
Email: revsausser@gmail.com
Visit us at www.stjohnsuccallentown.org
Like us on Facebook at St Johns UCC Allentown

*Indicates that people may stand as they are able.

November 27, 2022

First Sunday of Advent

11:00am

Tower Chimes

Music to gather

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

Wayne L. Wold

Copyright 2010 Augsburg Fortress

Welcome

Call To Worship: Isaiah 2:1-5

One: In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it.

Many: Many peoples shall come and say, “Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.”

One: For out of Zion shall go forth instruction and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

Many: He shall judge between the nations and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks;

One: nation shall not lift up sword against nation; neither shall they learn war any more.

All: O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord

Hymn#117.....“ Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates”

Today we celebrate the first Sunday in advent and light the candle of Hope! Hope can be difficult to find these day, but the apostle Paul reminds us that hope is the destination of our faith; "Faith is the reality of what we hope for, the proof of what we don't see." First Thessalonians chapter 1 verse 3 calls us to remember that our hope is found firmly planted in our faith in Christ. "We remember before our God and father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ." Jesus gives us hope for the journey and hope for a future in which everyone born has a place at the table, and enough to eat.

(Light candle)

Responsive Scripture (Hebrews 11:1-3)

One: Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

Many: Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval.

One: By faith we understand that the world was prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

All: Let us prepare our hearts and minds for the coming of our savior Jesus Christ this Advent season!

Hymn # 116, verse 6

O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer
Our spirits by your advent here;
Love stir within the womb of night,
And death's own shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel!

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 light of the Lord so that we might see!

Many: Jesus Christ, our light in the darkness, we praise you this day! In this advent season we remember how you came to earth to save us. Your grace and salvation are a gift freely given; it is in you that we find our hope! Yet often after the advent season is over and the Christmas decorations are put away, we forget that it is in you that we find hope, peace, love, and joy. Lord, forgive us for the times that we forget to help our neighbor and share the love and light that we have found in you. Forgive us for the times that we are not good stewards of your many blessings, holding on instead of letting go and letting God. Renew us this advent season and help us to be the hope, peace, love, and joy in the world. Amen.

Confession Response 🎵 Hymn # 131, Verse 3

And you, beneath life's crushing load,
whose forms are bending low,
Who toil along the climbing way,
with painful steps and slow,
Look now, for glad and golden hours
come swiftly on the wing;
O rest beside the weary road,
and hear the angels sing!

Assurance of God's Forgiveness

One: It is in this time and season that we remember that Christ came into the world not to judge the world but to save it! When we come before the lord to profess our shortcomings, we are met with grace, love, and compassion.

Many: "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him." -John 3:17

* Response to Words of Assurance: Hymn #125, Refrain

Gloria, Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo.

Gloria, Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo.

Scriptures:

Matthew 24:36-44

Romans 13:11-14

Trudi Egan

Congregational Response 🎵

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: Hope

Pastor Becky Sausser

**Hymn #179....."We Yearn, O Christ, for Wholeness" Tune #102
(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 # 117 Verse 3

Redeemer, come! I open wide
my heart to you; here, Christ, abide!
Let me your inner presence feel;
Your grace and love in me reveal.

Chancel Choir Anthem

"Sing Hosanna"

Michael Jothan

Copyright 1977 Breckenhorst Press

Announcements

Jeff Rissell

Offertory

"Once He Came in Blessing"

Johann Sebastian Bach

Copyright 1955 Concordia Publishing House

Doxology

Prayer of Dedication

Hymn#112....."Keep Awake, Be Always Ready"

* Commission and Blessing

* **Threefold Amen** 🎵 #812

Amen, amen, amen

Music to go forth

"Hosanna to the Living Lord"

Friedrich Wilhelm Zachow

Copyright 1955 Concordia Publishing House

Permission to stream copyrighted material granted by
Christian Copyright Licensing International
Streaming Licensing #20215522

Special Announcements/Reminders:

You can give ELECTRONICALLY from your mobile device using the Give+ (Plus) app. You can also give on our homepage at www.stjohnsuccallentown.org by clicking on the "Donate" button.



Mission Opportunity:

If you are looking for ways that you can assist in the recovery from Hurricane Ian, you can make your contribution through St. John's. Your donations will go to the National UCC effort which is in support of Church World Service and other church related organizations already operating in Florida and the Carolinas. You may do so by using the blue pew envelopes or your weekly envelope and designate it for Ian Relief. The need is great and the recovery will be long so please consider helping if and when you can.

Parking Passes! If you come to St John's during the week, we ask that you park in the lower lot, which is reserved for St John's church members. If you regularly come and use the upper parking lot, please contact Pastor Becky with your license plate number, make, model, and color of your vehicle and she will give you an updated parking pass. This is not required for Sunday mornings. **On Sundays you can also use the lot a half block west of the church at the southeast corner of Church and Walnut St.**

The alter 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!