

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.

January 22, 2023 Third Sunday after Epiphany 11:00am

Tower Chimes

Music to gather Variations on "All Glory Be to God on High" James Coe
Copyright 1983 Belwin Mills

Welcome

Call To Worship: from Psalm 27

One: The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

Many: The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

One: One thing I asked of the Lord; this I seek:

Many: to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, and to behold the beauty of the Lord in God's temple.

One: Teach me your way, O Lord, and lead me on a level path.

All: Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage;

Hymn#386..... "The Church's One Foundation"

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 Lord of unity to find our home in the body of Christ!

Many: Lord, as you have taught us, we bow down before you in all humility, gentleness and patience, supporting each other with love and trying to keep the unity of the spirit by the bonds of peace, that we may become "one body and one spirit," according to our common calling and vocation. With one voice, repenting of our divisions, we commit ourselves to working together for reconciliation,

peace, and justice, and we stand together in imploring you: help us to live as your disciples, overcoming selfishness and arrogance, hatred and violence; give us the strength to forgive. Inspire our witness in the world, that we might foster a culture of dialogue, and be bearers of the hope which your gospel has implanted in us. Make us instruments of your peace, so that our homes and communities, our parishes, churches, and nations might resonate more fully with the peace you have long desired to bestow upon us. Amen.

–Written by Nolan Palsma from Faithward

Confession Response 🎵 Hymn #170, Verse 1

Your ways are not our own,
O gracious God most high,
Yet we would follow in your paths
and on your love rely.

Assurance of God's Forgiveness

One: We see each individual as a unique and beautiful reflection of God's love, and when we are united we form one powerful and loving body of Christ, filled with grace and the spirit!

Many: "For even as the body is one and yet has many members, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ." -1 Corinthians 12:12

Assurance Response 🎵 Hymn #170, Verse 5

Forgiveness is our joy,
Receiving, giving, too.
Keep us from judgments hard and cruel,
That we may dwell with you.

Scriptures:

Matthew 4:12-23

1 Corinthians 1:10-18

Trudi Egan

Prayer of 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: "One Song, Many Voices"

Pastor Becky Sausser

Hymn #163....."Many are the Lightbeams"

(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 #507 Verse 2

No voice can sing, no heart can frame,
Nor can the memory find
A sweeter sound than your blessed name,
Savior of humankind.

Chancel Choir Anthem

“I Am Thine, O Lord”

A. L. Butler
copyright 1965 Choristers Guild

Announcements

Jeff Rissell

Offertory

“Just a Closer Walk With Thee”

James Denton
Copyright 1981 Lorenz Publishing Company

Doxology 🎵

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heav’nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.***

Prayer of Dedication

Hymn #164.....“ Arise, Your Light Is Come”

Commission and Blessing

*** Threefold Amen 🎵 #812**

Amen, amen, amen

Music to go forth

“Fugue”

Dietrich Buxtehude
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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 - stjohnsuccallentown - exactly as shown. You can also give on our homepage at www.stjohnsuccallentown.org by clicking on the "Donate" button.



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 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.

Serving St. John's...

Rebecca 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!