

St. John's United Church of Christ
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Like us on Facebook at St Johns UCC Allentown

***Indicates that people may stand as
they are able.**

March 19, 2023

11:00am

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Tower Chimes

Music to gather

“Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us”

William B. Bradbury

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Welcome

Call To Worship: Rev. Katherine Hawkwer,
UCC

One: The Spirit of the Lord is upon us.

Many: The Spirit of the Lord is in us.

One: Anointing us,

Many: Sending us.

One: To bring good news

Many: to bind up

One: to proclaim favor

Many: to comfort

One: to provide and to loosen.

Many: The day of the Lord is coming!

**Hymn#247.....“My Shepherd Is the Living
God”**

Call to Confession and

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 who calls each of us by name to profess the places where we are still learning and growing.

Many: The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. But, O Lord, we are consumed with wanting more. You make me lie down in green pastures; and lead me beside still waters; you restore my soul. But, O Lord, other pastures seem greener. The waters aren't always still. Our souls still thirst. You lead me in right paths for your name's sake. O Lord, we long to be led by you, though we may complain along the path. Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff—they comfort

**me. And yet, O God, we do sometimes
fear. May we feel your presence, your
comfort and your forgiveness
anew. You prepare a table before me in
the presence of my enemies; you anoint
my head with oil; my cup overflows. O
God, sometimes we refuse to sit down
at your table. Forgive us and help us to
see your overflowing mercy. Surely
goodness and mercy shall follow me all
the days of my life, and I shall dwell in
the house of the Lord my whole life
long. Forgive us, God, and lead us into
your house. Amen.**

**-Adapted from Rev. Emily Schlaman
Larsen, Presbyterian Church**

Confession Response 🎵

Hymn #211 Verse 2

As you with Satan did contend, and did the
victory win,
O give us strength to persevere, in you to
conquer sin.

Assurance of Pardon:

One: When we come before the Lord of
every good gift and profess the places
where we are still learning and growing, we
are met with love and grace, and a peace
that goes beyond all understanding!

**Many: God redeems your life from the
Pit, and crowns you with steadfast love
and mercy, satisfying you with good as
long as you live so that your youth is
renewed like the eagle's.**

-Psalm 103:4-5

Assurance Response

Hymn #202 Verse 3

O God of all the living, both banished and restored,

compassionate, forgiving, our peace and hope assured.

Grant now that our transgressing, our faithlessness may cease.

Stretch out your hand in blessing, in pardon, and in peace.

Mission Moment:

Bill Falla

Scriptures: 1 Samuel 16:1-13

Psalm 23 & John 3:31-36

Dick Schmoyer

Prayer for Grace 🎵

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: "Anointed"

Pastor Becky Sausser

Hymn #546...

"Jesus, Lover of My Soul"

(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 #205, Verse 5

Keep, O keep us, Savior dear, ever
constant by your side;

That with you we may appear at the-eternal
Eastertide.

Chancel Choir Anthem

“God Is My Shepherd”

Kerry Pryor and Douglas Nolan

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Pastor Becky – Tenor Ukulele

Announcements

Jeff Rissell

Offertory

“Just As I Am” Arranged by Joel Raney
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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 #547...“Amazing Grace, How
Sweet the Sound”**

* Commission and Blessing

*** Threefold Amen** 🎵 #812

Amen, amen, amen.

Music to go forth

“The Old Rugged Cross”

George Bemmard

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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: www.stjohnsuccallentown.org by clicking on the "Donate" button.



*The altar flowers are on 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 Rebecca Sausser.....Pastor
Lois Meade.....Choir Director/Organist
April Riddick.....Custodian
Jim Saylor.....Sunday Sexton
Claudia Ewald.....Administrative Assistant

And too many volunteers to list!