

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.**

May 21, 2023

11:00am

Ascension of the Lord

Tower Chimes

Music to gather

“Morning Has Broken”

Lani Smith Copyright 1991

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Welcome

Call To Worship: Psalm 47

One: Clap your hands, all you peoples; shout to God with loud songs of joy.

Many: For the Lord, the most high, is awesome, a great King over all the earth.

One: He subdued peoples under us and nations under our feet.

Many: God chose our heritage for us, the pride of Jacob whom God loves.

One: God has gone up with a shout, the Lord with the sound of a trumpet.

Many: Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our King, sing praises.

All: For God is the king of all the earth; sing praises with a psalm.

Hymn#257.....“Alleluia! Gracious Jesus!”

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 Lord of heaven and earth to profess the places where we are still learning and growing.

Many: Praise the Lord! King Jesus, we shout with joy, we praise you throughout the Earth! Today we remember that, though you were fully God and fully man, you came humbly to this world. You taught us how to lead good lives. You walked alongside us, you healed us, and forgave us of our sins. We ask today that you forgive us once more. Forgive us for the times that we acted out of fear instead of love. Forgive us for the times that we act as though you have no claim on us. You are God over heaven and earth, and in you we find eternal life! Give us your

strength and guidance so that we can lead lives that reflect your love. Amen.

Confession Response 🎵 Hymn #40,
Verse 4

You are the way, the truth, the life;
Grant us that way to know,
That truth to keep, that life to win,
Whose joys eternal flow.

Assurance of Pardon:

One: Today we remember and celebrate that Jesus rose from the dead, that he conquered death so that we might not perish, but have everlasting life! This is promised to all who come before him and profess that Jesus is Lord!

Many: “The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.” -Psalm 51:17

Assurance Response Hymn #260 Verse 1,
sung to tune #430

Hail the day that sees Christ rise,
To a throne in paradise;
Christ, the Lamb for sinners given,
Enters now the highest heaven.

Scriptures: Judy Garrigan
Luke 24: 44-53
Acts 1:1-11

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: "You Raise Me Up"
Pastor Becky Sausser

Hymn #55...

“Rejoice, You Pure in Heart”

(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#260, Verse 4,
sung to #294

Christ for us still intercede,
By our suffering for us plead;
Make us worthy of the place,
Which you offer us by grace.

Chancel Choir Anthem

“The Colors of Your Grace”
Mark Hayes Copyright 2005
Lorenz Publishing Company

Announcements

Jeff Rissell

Offertory

“Glory Be to Jesus”
Newman W. Powell
Copyright 1953 Concordia
Publishing House

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#259..“A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing”

* Commission and Blessing

* **Threefold Amen** 🎵 #812

Amen, amen, amen.

Music to go forth

“Fanfare and Statement on

‘Hail the Day that Sees Him Rise’”

Edward Broughton

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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.



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 flower is in memory of
Jeanette Saylor and Bernice Bramich
by Jim and Brenda Saylor.*



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

Summer Dates

- **June 25-** Annual Church Picnic at Bucky Boyle Park
 - Begins after the 10am church service, arrive for 11am, bring swim suits!
- **July 15-** Castle Quest Vacation Bible School
 - VBS begins with a hotdog cook-out in the parking lot; the event is 5-7:30pm at the church.
- **August 12-** St. John's Movie Night
 - Join us for a family friendly movie, popcorn and fun! Then join us again on Sunday for a sermon about the movie.
- **August 20-** Lehigh Valley PRIDE
 - This year St. John's UCC Allentown will join other congregations at the Penn Northeast Conference table!



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.....Choir Director/Organist
April Riddick.....Custodian
Jim Saylor.....Sunday Sexton
Claudia Ewald.....Administrative Assistant

And too many volunteers to list!