

**St. John's United Church of Christ  
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**St Johns UCC Allentown**

**Personal hearing devices are available  
from an usher.**

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

**September 10, 2023**

**11:00am**

**Music to Gather “Be Thou My Vision”**

**Edward Broughton Copyright 1989**

**Lorenz Publishing Co.**

Welcome

\*Call to Worship based on the Beatitudes

One: You are blessed! Praise the Lord of every blessing!

**Many: When we are hungry and poor in spirit we will be blessed!**

One: When you are meek and when you are mourning, God is with you.

**Many: Let us strive to be pure in heart so we may see God!**

One: God calls us to be blessed, and to be a blessing in the world, let us carry forth Christ's love as peacemakers!

**All: Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God!**

**Hymn # 311 "Renew Your Church"**

## 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 blessing that we might receive mercy and grace.

**Many: Dear God, you call us your own children, and you tell us that we are blessed. Despite this great gift, sometimes we forget that we are called to be a blessing to the world. We read your words, 'blessed are the poor in spirit,' and we ignore the fact that this isn't just talking about us, and our pain. This blessing is for everyone. We are all your children. Help us to share your light and your blessing with the world. Help us to be peacemakers and children of God. Amen!**

Confession Response 🎵 Hymn 292, Verse 2  
***Breathe on me, Breath of God, until my heart is pure,  
Until with you I will one will, to do and to endure.***

Assurance of Forgiveness

One: When we come before the Lord of blessing, we are blessed! Jesus loves us so much that he died in our place to offer us the gift of eternal life.

**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 🎵  
***Gloria Patri***

Scriptures

Psalm 103:1-5

Matthew 5:1-18

Jeff Rissell

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

Sermon: *"To Be Blessed"*

Reverend Allan Kramer-Moyer

**Hymn #349** "I Come with Joy"

*(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 & 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 #575 , Verse 5

***O for a world preparing for  
God's glorious reign of peace,  
Where time and tears will be no more,  
and all but love will cease.***

Chancel Choir Anthem

“As Grains of Wheat”

Laurence Rosania

Copyright 1992 OCP Publications

# **Communion**

## **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.**

(At this time our ushers will bring the bread representing the body of Christ into the congregation. If you prefer to receive individually wrapped elements, there will be wrapped communion cups on this tray that have both the bread and juice.)

Pastor: The body of Christ. (At this time, partake of the bread.)

Pastor: The blood of Christ. (At this time partake of the juice.)

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

Offering

Offertory “Arioso” Johann Sebastian Bach

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Consolidated Music Publishers, Inc.

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.***

**Hymn #524 “This Little Light of Mine”**

**\*Commission and Blessing**

**\*Threefold Amen **

***Amen, Amen, Amen***

Music to go forth: "Allegro Vivace"

G. F. Handel

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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](http://www.stjohnsuccallentown.org) by clicking on the "Donate" button.

***The Altar flowers are in honor of St.  
John's UCC!***

**In emergencies**, please use exits found to the left and right of the altar, to the right of the front pew, and at the rear of the sanctuary. Follow **EXIT** signs.  
**No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you're welcome here.**  
**God is still speaking, ...**

**Serving St. John's...**

Rev. Becky Sausser.....Pastor  
Lois Mease... Music Director and Organist  
April Riddick.....Custodian  
Jim Saylor.....Sunday Sexton  
And too many volunteers to list!