

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

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

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

September 17, 2023

11:00am

**Music to Gather “Idyl” Sigfrid Karg-Elert
Copyright 1944 Edward B. Marks Music
CorporationWelcome**

Welcome

Call to Worship by Rev. Nancy Townley

One: Lord, you have called us to the mountaintop.

Many: Help us to look forward to where you would have us go.

One: Help us to listen carefully to the words of your healing love.

Many: Open our hearts and spirits to receive your glorious directions.

One: Place your trust in the Lord in all your ways.

Many: Lord, we have come here to give our lives to you.

Hymn # 521..... “In Solitude”

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 Christ to profess our need for his love and grace!

Many: Dear Jesus, today we remember when you made the time to sit with your disciples and those who were gathered, to teach them how to be in relationship with you, and with one another in your sermon on the mount. You tell us to love one another, you tell us to forgive one another, you tell us to care for one another. Lord, forgive us for the times when we fall short of these commands. Forgive us for the times when we look only to our own self-interest and forget to care for our brothers and sisters and siblings. Grant us your holy insight daily, so that we might see the world through your eyes and be not only blessed, but be a blessing. Amen.

Confession Response 🎵

Hymn #510, Verse 1

**Grant us wisdom to perceive you,
Hearts awakened to receive you,
minds alert to thoughts that grieve you,
God of mercy, hear us.**

Assurance of Forgiveness

One: None of us is perfect, even if we strive to be. That is why it is so reassuring, and such a wonderful gift to know that when we fall short, that Christ is there to catch us. Jesus walks alongside us, healing our hearts, and calling us to carry one another's burdens.

Many: “Bear one another's burdens, and then this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.”
-Galatians 6:2

Response to Words of Assurance 🎵

Hymn #521, Verse 4

**Grant us courage to proclaim you;
Savior of our lives we name you!
May our actions never shame you;**

God of mercy, hear us.

Scriptures

Bill Falla

Matthew 5:21-42

Mathew 6: 9-14

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: "Was Jesus Serious?"

Rev. Becky Sausser

Hymn #568 "Come to Tend God's Garden"

(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 #521, Verse 2

**Grant us faithfulness in praying,
Strength to keep our souls from
straying,
Sense to cease from disobeying,
God of mercy, hear us.**

Chancel Choir Anthem

“Standin’ in the Need of Prayer”

Kathryn S. Schulz

Copyright 1966 Choristers Guild

Announcements

Jeff Rissell

Offering

Offertory "Benediction"

Arcangelo Corelli

Copyright 1977 Harold Flammer, 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 # 526 "We Are Marching in the Light
of God"**

Verse 1: We are marching in the light of
God

Verse 2: We are praying in the grace of
God

Verse 3: We are singing in the joy of God

* Threefold Amen

Amen, Amen, Amen

Music to go forth:

“Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus”

Paul Kretzschman Copyright 1953

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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 in honor of the
Wedding Anniversary of
Tom and Esther Heinze.***

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!