

**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.**

November 12, 2023

11:00am

Tower Chimes

Danny Collier

Music to Gather:

“Valleys and Mist” from *Songs of the Sun*
Eric Ewazen Copyright 2013 Theodore
Presser Company

Ken Mease, Trombone

Welcome

Call To Worship Adapted from Psalm 66

One: Shout joyfully to God, all the earth!

**All: Sing praises to the glory of God's
name! Make glorious God's praise!**

One: Say to God:

**All: "How awesome are your works! All
the earth worships you,**

One: Sings praises to you.

All: Sings praises to your name!"

One: Come and see God's deeds;

All: God's works for human beings are awesome.

- Austin Hill

Hymn # 92 "Day is Done"

Prayer of Confession

All: Compassionate God, you know the purposes of our hearts and the will of all creation. Hear with mercy our confession that we have not cared for Earth and all creatures as you meant for us to do; we have not cared for one another as you have commanded; we have not loved ourselves with the regard that honors wholeness and peace of mind. Be our guide, our judge, our joy. Show us the way of your life abundant, and turn us always to that path so that we may live and move in renewed commitment to what is just and

James Quinn, S. J., 1969; alt.

1. Day is done, but love un-fail-ing
dwells ev-er here;
Shad-ows fall, but hope, pre-vail-ing,
calms ev-ery fear.
God, our Mak-er, none for-sak-ing,
take our hearts, of Love's own mak-ing,
Watch our sleep-ing, guard our wak-ing,
be al-ways near.

2. Dusk de-scends, but light un-end-ing
shines through our night;
You are with us, ev-er lend-ing
new strength to sight:
One in love, your truth con-fess-ing,
one in hope of heav-en's bless-ing,
May we see, in love's pos-sess-ing,
love's end-less light!

3. Eyes will close, but you un-sleep-ing
watch by our side;
Death may come, in love's safe-keep-ing
still we a-bide.
God of love, all e-vil quell-ing,
sin for-giv-ing, fear dis-pel-ling,
Stay with us, our hearts in-dwell-ing,
this e-ven-tide.

**good, healing us and all creation. We
beg this in Jesus' name. Amen.**

*- Kimberly Bracken Long, Feasting on the
Word*

Confession Response 🎵

Hymn # 558, Verse 2

**When we see your lights of heaven,
moon and stars, your power displayed,
Who are we that you should love us,
creatures that your hand has made.
Born of earth, yet full of yearning,
mixture strange of good and ill.
From your ways to often turning, yet
your love does seek us still.**

Assurance of Forgiveness

One: One fact remains that does not
change: God has loved you, loves you
now, and will love you always.

**All: This is the good news that brings us
new life.**

Response to Words of Assurance 🎵

Hymn #567, Verse 6

**Christ, the Word before creation
As creation's final goal,
Once you came for earth's redemption;
By your Spirit make us whole.
Then, O God, the new creation
will your praise forever sing.**

Scriptures

Juel Pyle

Isaiah 24:1-11

Hebrews 11:1-3

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: *"Where Is the Hope?"*

Rev. Rick Guhl

A Litany of Lament and Hope (Romans 8 and Isaiah 55)

One: I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us.

All: Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters.

One: For creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God.

All: For as the rain and snow come down from heaven and do not return until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout.

One: For creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of those who subjected it.

All: So shall my word be that goes out from my mouth, it shall not return empty...

One: That creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay.

All: But it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

One: We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now...

All: For you shall go out in joy, and be led back in peace.

One: And not only creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.

All: The mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

One: Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words.

All: Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress, instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; it shall be to the Lord for a memorial, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

Hymn #569 “Touch the Earth Lightly”

(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.)

Touch the Earth Lightly

Shirley Erena Murray, 1992

1. Touch the earth light-ly, use the earth gent-ly,
nour-ish the life of the world in our care:
Gift of great won-der, ours to sur-ren-der,
trust for the chil-dren to-mor-row will bear.

2. We who en-dan-ger, who cre-ate hun-ger,
a-gents of death for all crea-tures that live,
We who would fos-ter clouds of dis-as-ter—
God of our plan-et, fore-stall and for-give!

3. Let there be green-ing, birth from the burn-ing,
wa-ter that bless-es, and air that is sweet,
Health in God's gar-den, hope in God's chil-dren,
re-gen-er-a-tion that peace will com-plete.

4. God of all liv-ing, God of all lov-ing,
God of the seed-ling, the snow, and the sun,
Teach us, de-flect us, Christ re-con-nect us,
us-ing us gent-ly, and mak-ing us one.

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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 #510, Verse 3

**Grant us diligence in doing,
Patience when your truth pursuing,
Eager to receive renewing,
God of mercy, hear us.**

Offering

Offertory “As the Deer”

Martin Nystrom

Copyright 1993 Maranatha! Music

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 # 607 "We Would be Building"

* Threefold Amen

Amen, Amen, Amen

Music to go forth:

"I Sing the Mighty Power of God"

Arr. Otis Skillings

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We Would Be Building

Purd E. Deitz, 1935; alt.

1. We would be build-ing; tem-ples still un-done
o'er crum-bling walls their cross-es scarce-ly lift,
wait-ing till love can raise the bro-ken stone,
and hearts cre-a-tive bridge the hu-man rift.
We would be build-ing, Ar-chi-tect Di-vine,
re-veal the shape of life in your de-sign.

2. Teach us to build; up-on the sol-id rock
we set the dream that hard-ens in-to deed,
ribbed with fine steel, both time and change to mock,
the un-fail-ing pur-pose of our no-blest creed.
Teach us to build; O Mak-er, lend us sight
to see the tow-ers gleam-ing in the light.

3. O keep us build-ing, Sav-ior; may our hands
ne'er fal-ter when the dream is in our hearts,
when to our ears there come di-vine com-mands
and all the pride of sin-ful will de-parts.
We build with you; O grant en-dur-ing worth
un-til your prom-ised realm shall come on earth.

Matt. 7:24–27; Luke 6:47–49; 1 Esd. 5:56–7:15

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*The Altar flowers are sponsored by June Hanley,
In honor of all the veterans.*

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.

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
Andrea Williams...Administrative Assistant
Lois Mease... Music Director and Organist
April Riddick.....Custodian
Jim Saylor.....Sunday Sexton

And too many volunteers to list!