

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

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

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

November 26, 2023

11:00am

Tower Chimes

Janet Cook

Music to Gather:

“Prelude and Fugue in C Major”
Johann Sebastian Bach
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Welcome

Call to Worship by ‘Discipleship Ministries’

One: Come to worship Jesus Christ, Alpha and Omega, the one who is, who was, and is to come

Many: We come to worship the one who rules justly

One: Come to worship Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, the ruler of the kings of the earth!

Many: Bread of Heaven, God with us!

One: Good Shepherd, True Vine!

Many: Eternal Word, Great I AM!

One: Wonderful Counselor, Prince of Peace!

All: We come to worship Jesus Christ, King of kings and Lord of lords! To him

**be glory and dominion forever and ever!
Amen!**

Hymn #300 “Jesus Shall Reign”

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: Lord Jesus, you have said, “My realm is not of this world.” And yet, we confess, sometimes we still get seduced by the values of empire: wealth and power and glory. Loving God, you see us as we are. You know our secret battles and all the ways in which we fail to live out your call upon our lives. Never give up on us, God. Use us, even in our brokenness. Forgive us and

Isaac Watts, 1719; alt.

1. Je-sus shall reign wher-e'er the sun
does its suc-ces-sive jour-neys run;
God's realm shall stretch from shore to shore
till moons shall wax and wane no more.
2. Through Christ shall end-less prayer be made,
borne by the Spir-it's cease-less aid;
Like sweet per-fume new hymns shall rise
with ev-ery morn-ing sac-ri-fice.
3. Peo-ple and realms of ev-ery tongue
dwell on God's love with sweet-est song,
And in-fant voic-es shall pro-claim
their ear-liest prayers in Je-sus' name.
4. Bless-ings a-bound where-e'er Christ reigns:
the pris-oners leap to lose their chains,
The wea-ry find e-ter-nal rest,
and all who suf-fer want are blessed.
5. Let ev-ery crea-ture rise and bring
trib-utes of praise for all to sing;
An-gels de-scend with songs a-gain,
and earth re-peat the loud a-men.

Ps. 72; Rev. 1:4b-8

renew us. Help us to enthrone you in our lives. Amen!

-By Cara Heafey, UK
for Worshipwords.co.uk

Confession Response 

Hymn #502, Verse 1

**Dear God, embracing humankind,
forgive our foolish ways;
Reclothe us in our rightful mind,
In purer lives your service find,
in deeper reverence, praise.**

Assurance of Forgiveness

One: When we come before Christ and confess our growing edges and our deep need for his presence in our lives, we are met with grace and joy, and love!

Many: "It is the LORD who goes before you. God will be with you; God will not

**fail you or forsake you. Do not fear or be
dismayed.”** -Deuteronomy 31:8

Response to Words of Assurance 🎵

Hymn #55, Verse 5

**Praise God who rules all worlds, the
risen Christ adore.**

**Praise God the Spirit, Holy Fire, one
God for evermore!**

**Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice, give thanks and
sing.**

Scriptures

Kathy Heckman

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

Matthew 25:31-46

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: *“Reign of Christ”*

Rev. Becky Sausser

Hymn #303 “Rejoice, Give Thanks and Sing”

(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

Charles Wesley, 1746; alt.

1. Re-joyce, give thanks and sing;
your Sov-ereign God a-dore!
For Christ has robbed death's sting
and tri-umphs ev-er-more.
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice!
Re-joyce, a-gain I say, re-joyce.
2. Our Sav-ior Je-sus reigns,
the God of truth and love;
The Lamb who purged our stains
is crowned with power a-bove.
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice!
Re-joyce, a-gain I say, re-joyce.
3. Christ Je-sus can-not fail
to rule both earth and heaven;
The keys of death and hell
are to the Sav-ior given.
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice!
Re-joyce, a-gain I say, re-joyce.
4. Re-joyce in glo-rious hope,
for Christ the Judge shall come,
And take the faith-ful up
to their e-ter-nal home.
We soon shall hear a heaven-ly voice
a-bove the trum-pet's sound, "Re-joyce!"

Phil. 4:4; Rev. 3:7; 19:6-7

**thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, forever. Amen.**

Prayer Response 🎵 Hymn #510, 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.

Chancel Choir Anthem:

“Sing of the Glory”

Jon Paige

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Announcements

Jeff Rissell

Offering

Offertory

“All Glory Be to God on High”

Frederich Wilhelm Zachau

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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.**

Hymn #301 "Crown With Your Richest
Crowns"

* Commission and Blessing

* Threefold Amen

Amen, Amen, Amen

Music to go forth:

"Postlude in C"

Christian Cappilen

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Crown with Your Richest Crowns

301

Matthew Bridges, 1851, and Godfrey Thring, 1874
Adapt. Thomas H. Troeger, 1993

1. Crown with your rich-est crowns
the Lamb up-on the throne;
Hark! how the heaven-ly an-them drowns
all mu-sic but its own.
A-wake, my soul, and sing
of Christ who died for you,
And to your ris-en Sav-ior bring
your thanks for life made new.

2. Crown Christ whose love has flowed
down hands and feet and side.
Look past the peak of Cal-vary's road
to Christ the glo-ri-fied.
The sun that lights the sky
is pale be-fore that sight.
At prayer we glimpse then turn
the eye from mys-ter-ies so bright.

3. Crown Christ the truth, the life
who tri-umphed o'er the grave
And rose vic-to-rious in the strife,
this fal-len world to save.
Christ's glo-ries now we sing,
Christ's name we mag-ni-fy,

REIGN OF CHRIST

Who died e-ter-nal life to bring,
and lives that death may die.

4. Crown Christ who rules in peace,
whose power a scep-tre sways
From pole to pole, that wars may cease,
and all be prayer and praise:
Christ's reign shall have no end,
for 'round those wound-ed feet a
fra-grant gar-den shall ex-tend
for-ev-er green and sweet.

5. Crown Christ who holds the years,
em-brac-ing space and time,
Cre-a-tor of the roll-ing spheres,
in-ef-fa-bly sub-lime:
All hail, Re-deem-er, hail!
For you have died for me;
Your praise shall nev-er, nev-er fail
through-out e-ter-ni-ty.

John 19:16–18, 31–34; Rev. 7:9–10

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

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!