

**St. John's United Church of Christ
36 S. Sixth Street, Allentown, PA 18101**

Phone 610-433-0146

Email: stjohnsucc2@verizon.net

Website: www.stjohnsuccallentown.org

Pastor Rebecca Sausser

Phone: 570 – 581 - 0594

Email: revsausser@gmail.com

Visit us at www.stjohnsuccallentown.org

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.**

February 18, 2024

11:00am

Tower Chimes

Janet Cook

Music to Gather:

“By the Rivers of Babylon”

Johann Pachelbel Copyright C. F. Peters

Welcome

Call to Worship from Isaiah 55

One: Everyone who thirsts; come to the waters. Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live.

All: I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David.

One: For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater.

All: So shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

One: For you shall go out in joy and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

All: Let us come to the waters and find renewal, refreshment, and new life!

Hymn #167 “Mark How the Lamb of God’s Self-Offering”

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 our Triune God and profess our need for God’s life-giving spirit!

All: Creator, Son, and Spirit one, we profess our unquenchable need for your presence with us! As our bodies can only survive short periods of time without life sustaining water, so too can our spirit only last so long without your holy presence. Dehydration of our bodies and spirits yield the same result, we thirst. Lord, renew us with your healing water! And quench our thirst

Mark How the Lamb of God's Self-Offering

167

Carl P. Daw, Jr., 1990

1. Mark how the Lamb of God's self-offering
our hu-man sin-ful-ness takes on
In the birth-wa-ters of the Jor-dan
as Je-sus is bap-tized by John.
Hear how the voice from heav-en thun-ders,
"Lo, this is my be-lov-ed Son."
See how in dove-like form the Spir-it
de-scends on God's A-noint-ed One.

2. From this as-sur-ance of God's fa-vor
Je-sus goes to the wil-der-ness,
There to en-dure a time of test-ing
that read-ied him to teach and bless.
So we, by wa-ter and the Spir-it
bap-tized in-to Christ's min-is-try,
Are of-ten led to paths of ser-vice
through maz-es of ad-ver-si-ty.

3. Grant us, O God, the strength and cour-age
to live the faith our lips de-clare;
Bless us in our bap-tis-mal call-ing;
Christ's roy-al priest-hood help us share.
Turn us from ev-ery false al-le-giance,
that we may trust in Christ a-lone:
Raise up in us a cho-sen peo-ple
trans-formed by love to be your own.

Words Copyright © 1990 by Hope Publishing Company
Matt. 3:13-17; 4:1-2; Mark 1:9-13; Luke 3:21-22; Acts 10:34-38; 2:38-42

**with living water and fill us with your
holy Spirit! Amen.**

Confession Response 🎵

Hymn #211, Verse 2

**As you with Satan did contend, and did
the victory win,
O give us strength to persevere, in you
to conquer sin.**

Assurance of Forgiveness

One: When we come before the Lord to
profess our need for Christ's presence, we
find it in abundance and are made new!

**All: "As I went down in the river to pray,
studying about that good old way, and
who shall wear the robe and crown,
Good Lord, show me the way!"**

Response to Words of Assurance 🎵

Hymn #202 Verse 3

**O God of all the living, both banished
and restored,
compassionate, forgiving, our peace
and hope assured.**

**Grant now that our transgressing, our
faithlessness may cease.**

**Stretch out your hand in blessing, in
pardon, and in peace.**

Scriptures

Dick Schmoyer

Genesis 9:8-17

Mark 1:9-15

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: *"Baptism"*

Rev. Becky Sausser

Hymn #485 “O Love That Will Not Let Me Go”

(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 #205, Verse 5
Keep, O keep us, Savior dear, ever constant by your side;

O Love That Will Not Let Me Go

485

George Matheson, 1882; alt.

1. O Love that will not let me go,
I rest my wea-ry soul in you;
I give you back the life I owe,
that in your o-cean depths its flow
may swell with ar-dor true.

2. O Light that fol-lows all my way,
to you I yield my flick-ering flame;
Re-new my spir-it's fee-ble ray,
that from your bril-liant sun-lit day
it may new bright-ness claim.

3. O Joy that seeks me through my pain,
to you I can-not close my heart;
I trace the rain-bow through the rain,
and know the prom-ise is not vain
that you will ne'er de-part.

4. O Cross that rais-es up my head,
from you I dare not seek to flee;
Life's glo-ries with-er and are dead,
but from the ground there blos-soms red,
life that shall end-less be.

Rom. 8:38–39; John 8:12

**That with you we may appear at the-
eternal Eastertide.**

Chancel Choir Anthem:

“What Ruler Wades through Murky
Streams” Thomas A. Troeger
Copyright 1993 Oxford University Press

Announcements
Offering

Jeff Rissell

Offertory “Abide with Me”

Rick Parks and Harold DeCou
Copyright 1994 Lorenz Publishing Co.

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 #433 “In the Bulb There is a Flower”

* Commission and Blessing

***Threefold Amen**

Amen, Amen, Amen

Music to go forth:

“If Thou But Suffer” Robert Graham
Copyright 1984 Lorenz Publishing Co.

Permission to stream copyrighted material granted
by Christian Copyright Licensing International
Streaming Licensing #20215522

***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

In the Bulb There Is a Flower

Natalie Sleeth, 1985

1. In the bulb there is a flow-er; in the seed, an ap-ple tree;
in co-coons, a hid-den prom-ise: but-ter-flies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of win-ter there's a spring that waits to be,
un-re-vealed un-til its sea-son, some-thing God a-lone can see.

2. There's a song in ev-ery si-lence, seek-ing word and mel-o-dy;
there's a dawn for ev-ery dark-ness, bring-ing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the fu-ture; what it holds, a mys-ter-y,
un-re-vealed un-til its sea-son, some-thing God a-lone can see.

3. In our end is our be-gin-ning; in our time, in-fin-i-ty;
in our doubt there is be-liev-ing; in our life, e-ter-ni-ty.
In our death, a res-ur-rec-tion; at the last, a vic-to-ry,
un-re-vealed un-til its sea-son, some-thing God a-lone can see.

Copyright © 1986 by Hope Publishing Company

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!

Office Hours

Sunday: 9am-2pm

Monday- Thursday: 9am-3pm

Friday: 9am-2pm

Closed on Saturdays

SPRING

Dates

February 18 - Lenten Breakfast 9:30am

March 24 - Palm Sunday Service 11am

March 28 - Maundy Thursday Service 7:30pm

March 29 - Tenebrae Service 7:30pm

March 31 - Easter Morning Service 11am

**April 7 - Green Team Audit Potluck
following the service**

May 19 - Pentecost



**If you'd like to sponsor flowers for the Altar please
ask Andrea for more details :)**

stjohnsucc2@verizon.net

610-433-0146

