

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.**

February 25, 2024

11:00am

Tower Chimes

Janet Cook

Music to Gather:

“What Wondrous Love Is This”

Thomas Chesterton

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*** Welcome**

Call to Worship based on Psalm 98

One: Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises.

All: Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound of melody.

One: With trumpets and the sound of the horn make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD.

All: Let the sea roar and all that fills it, the world and those who live in it.

One: Let the floods clap their hands; let the hills sing together for joy at the presence of the LORD, for he is coming!

All: Praise the Lord! Make a joyful noise to God almighty!

Hymn #565 “God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending”

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 giver of every good gift that we may receive grace and mercy.

All: Creator, Son, and Spirit one, we come before you to humble our hearts and confess our deep need for your presence in our lives. We hear your words of love reminding us that we are yours. “I know the plans I have for you, plans for good and not for evil.” But these words of love can leave our minds when we are faced with hardship and struggle. Forgive us for our

God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending

565

Robert L. Edwards, 1961; alt.

1. God, whose giv-ing knows no end-ing,
from your rich and end-less store,
Na-ture's won-der, Je-sus' wis-dom,
cost-ly cross, grave's shat-tered door:
Gift-ed by you, we turn to you
of-fering up our-selves in praise;
Thank-ful song shall rise for-ev-er,
gra-cious do-nor of our days.

2. Skills and time are ours for serv-ing,
that your will on earth be done:
All at peace in health and free-dom,
rac-es joined, the Church made one.
Now di-rect our dai-ly la-bor,
lest we strive for self a-lone;
born with tal-ents, make us ser-vants
fit to an-swer at your throne.

3. Trea-sure, too, you have en-trust-ed,
gain through powers your grace con-ferred;
Ours to use for home and kin-dred,
and to spread the gos-pel Word.
O-pen wide our hands in shar-ing
as we heed Christ's age-less call,
Heal-ing, teach-ing, and re-claim-ing,
hon-oring you by lov-ing all.

STEWARDSHIP AND CREATION

4. Lend your joy to all our giv-ing,
let it light our pil-grim way;
From the night of anx-ious keep-ing,
loose us in-to gen-erous day.
Then when years on earth are o-ver,
and we've lived our hu-man span,
God, ful-fill be-yond our dream-ing,
all our stew-ard-ship be-gan.

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forgetfulness and remind us once again of your love for us. Fill us with your Spirit so that we might know you are always with us. 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 admit the places where we stumble, we are met with a loving embrace and a welcome home.

All: “Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.” -Isaiah 41:10

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

Felicia Knerr

Genesis 17: 1-7, 15-16

Romans 4:13-25

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: *“Faith and a Promise”*

Rev. Becky Sausser

Hymn #546 “Jesus, Lover of My Soul”

(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.

Charles Wesley, 1740; alt.

1. Je-sus, lov-er of my soul, let me to your bos-om fly,
While the near-er wa-ters roll, while the tem-pest still is high;
Hide me, O my Sav-ior, hide, till the storm of life is past;
Safe in-to the ha-ven guide, O re-ceive my soul at last!

2. Oth-er ref-uge have I none; in your hands, my des-ti-ny;
Leave, O leave me not a-lone, still sup-port and com-fort me.
All my trust on you is stayed, all my help from you I bring;
Cov-er my de-fense-less head with the shad-ow of your wing.

3. Plen-teous grace in you is found, grace to cov-er all my sin;
Let the heal-ing streams a-bound, make and keep me pure with-in.
Fount of life, your love im-part, fill my cup a-bun-dant-ly;
Spring up now with-in my heart, rise to all e-ter-ni-ty.

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Prayer Response 🎵 Hymn #205, Verse 5
**Keep, O keep us, Savior dear, ever
constant by your side;
That with you we may appear at the-
eternal Eastertide.**

Chancel Choir Anthem:

“A Lenten Prayer” Lloyd Larson
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Announcements

Jeff Rissell

Offering

Offertory

“Mach mit mir, Gott, nach deiner Gut”
Johann Gottfried Walther
Copyright C. F. Peters

*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 #24 “The God of Abraham Praise”**

* Commission and Blessing

***Threefold Amen**

Amen, Amen, Amen

Music to go forth:

“Grace”

Clay R. Christiansen

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Yigdal Elohim Chai

(The God of Abraham Praise)

Moses Maimonides, 12th century

Versification attrib. to Daniel ben Judah, c. 1400

Transl. Max Landsberg and Newton Mann, 1884; alt.

1 Yig-dal e-lo-him chai
 v'-yish-ta-bach,
 nim-tza v'-ein eit el
 m'-tzi-u-to
 E-chad v'-ein ya-chid
 k'-yi-chu-do,
 ne-lam v'-gam ein
 sof l'-ach-du-to.

1 The God of A-braham praise,
 all prais-es to God's name,
 who was and is and is to be,
 for-e'er the same!
 The one e-ter-nal God,
 be-fore what now ap-pears;
 the First, the Last: be-yond all thought
 through time-less years!

2 God's spir-it free-ly flows,
 high surg-ing where it will;
 God spoke of old in proph-et's word;
 that word speaks still.
 Es-tab-lished is God's law,
 and change-less it shall stand,

GOD

deep writ-ten on the hu-man heart,
in ev-ery land.

3 God has e-ter-nal life
im-plant-ed in the soul;
God's love shall be our strength and stay,
while a-ges roll.
All praise the liv-ing God!
Ex-tol that hal-lowed name,
who was, and is, and ev-er shall
be still the same!

4 The God of Sar-ah praise,
all prais-es to God's name,
who was and is and is to be, for-e'er the same!
The one e-ter-nal God,
be-fore what now ap-pears;
the First, the Last: be-yond all thought
through time-less years!

Gen. 12:1; 17:15–16; Exod. 3:14; Isa. 44:6; Rev. 4:8

***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!

Office Hours

Sunday: 9am-2pm

Monday- Thursday: 9am-3pm

Friday: 9am-2pm

Closed on Saturdays

SPRING

Dates

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 12 - Confirmation Service 11am

May 19 - Pentecost Service 11am

June 16 - Church Picnic at Waldheim Park



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

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