

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

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

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

March 10, 2024

11:00am

Tower Chimes

Janet Cook

Music to Gather:

**“A Lenten Supplication” Rudolf Dittrich
Copyright 1915 The Boston Music Co.**

*** Welcome**

Call to Worship by Rev. Nancy Townley

One: We come with joy to this celebration of God's love!

All: Open our hearts, Lord, to receive your love.

One: We come with hope to this witness of God's power!

All: Challenge and encourage our spirits to serve you, Lord.

One: We come with a willingness to proclaim God's presence to all.

All: We thank God for this invitation to worship, witness and serve!

One: Let us praise the Lord!

All: We sing praises to the Lord of all!

Hymn #208 "God Loved the World"

Prayer of Confession

One: No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome

God Loved the World

Heiliges Lippen und Herzens Opfer, Stettin, 1778

Transl. August Crull, 1845; alt.

1. God loved the world, and lov-ing gave
a won-drous gift, the lost to save,
That all who would in Christ be-lieve
should ev-er-last-ing life re-ceive.
2. Christ Je-sus is the ground of faith,
who was made flesh and suf-fered death;
All who con-fide in Christ a-lone
are built on this chief cor-ner-stone.
3. If you are sick, if death is near,
this truth your trou-bled heart can cheer;
Christ Je-sus saves us all from death;
that is the firm-est ground of faith.
4. Be of good cheer, for God in Christ
for-gives the flock, by sin en-ticed,
And jus-ti-fied by Je-sus' blood
your bap-tism grants the high-est good.

John 3:16–17

here! Let us come before the Lord of love to profess our growing edges.

All: God of love, I praise you this and every day! It is through your great love that you created me. You knit me together and knew me before I was even born. You love me when I am at my best, and you love me even more fiercely when I am at my worst. Forgive me for the times that I act without love, and help me to grow in that love so that I might become an agent of love. Fill me with your Spirit and transform my heart. In your name I pray, 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 God of all love and profess that we are still learning and growing, we receive and outpouring of that love to hold us up and teach us how to love another and ourselves more perfectly.

All: “And above all this put-on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.” -Colossians 3:14

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.

Mission Moment

Bill Falla

Scriptures

Bill Falla

John 3:14-21

Ephesians 2:1-10

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: "Love Came Down"

Rev. Becky Sausser

Hymn #193 "In the Cross of Christ I Glory"
(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.)

John Bowring, 1825

1. In the cross of Christ I glo-ry,
tower-ing o'er the wrecks of time;
All the light of sa-cred sto-ry
gath-ers 'round its head sub-lime.
2. When the woes of life o'er-take me,
hopes de-ceive, and fears an-noy,
Nev-er shall the cross for-sake me:
Lo! it glows with peace and joy.
3. When the sun of bliss is beam-ing
light and love up-on my way,
From the cross the ra-diance stream-ing
adds more lus-ter to the day.
4. Bane and bless-ing, pain and plea-sure,
by the cross are sanc-ti-fied;
Peace is there that knows no mea-sure,
joys that through all time a-bide.
5. In the cross of Christ I glo-ry,
tower-ing o'er the wrecks of time;
All the light of sa-cred sto-ry
gath-ers 'round its head sub-lime.

Gal. 6:14

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

Chancel Choir Anthem:

**“A Choral Benediction” Don Besig
Copyright 1981 Glory Sound**

Announcements

Jeff Rissell

Offering
Offertory

“Christ, the Life of all the Living”
Friedrich Wilhelm Zachow
Copyright 1956 Concordia Publishing

*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 #199** “Alas! And Did My Savior
Bleed”

* Commission and Blessing

***Threefold Amen**

Amen, Amen, Amen

Alas! and Did My Savior Bleed
(At the Cross)

Isaac Watts, 1707; alt.

Refrain by Ralph E. Hudson, 1885; alt.

1. A-las! and did my Sav-ior bleed, and did my Sov-ereign die?
Would God de-vote that sa-cred head for sin-ners such as I?

Refrain:

At the cross, at the cross where I first found the light,
and the bur-den of my heart rolled a-way,
It was there by faith all my fears took flight,
and now I am hap-py all the day.

2. Was it for crimes that I have done, Christ groaned up-on the tree?
A-maz-ing pit-y! Grace un-known! And love be-yond de-gree!

Refrain:

3. Well might the sun in shad-ows hide, and shut its glo-ries in,
When Je-sus Christ my Sav-ior died for hu-man crea-tures' sin.

Refrain:

4. But tears of grief can-not re-pay the debt of love I owe;
Here, Christ, I give my-self a-way as all that I can do!

Refrain:

Gal. 2:20; 6:14; Phil. 2:2–12; Heb. 12:1–3

Music to go forth:

“My Faith Looks Up to Thee”

Karl Osterland

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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!

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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