

**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 17, 2024**

**11:00am**

**Tower Chimes**

**Janet Cook**

**Music to Gather:**

**“Lord Jesus, Think on Me” Bert Carlson**

**Copyright 1995 Augsburg Fortress**

## **\* Welcome**

Call to Worship adapted from Rev. Meghan Walker

One: I love you, Lord, my strength.

**All: The Lord is my solid rock, my fortress, my rescuer!**

One: My God is my rock—I take refuge in the Lord.

**All: God is my shield, my salvation's strength, my place of safety.**

One: Holy God, you are the one who saves people who suffer and walk in darkness.

**All: You are the one who lights my lamp and illuminates my darkness.**

One: Nothing compares to you, o Lord. No one comes close.

**All: “With God, we can meet any challenge and overcome any obstacle.”**

**As you were for David then, be for us today a solid rock, a safe fortress, a strong rescuer.”**

# Hymn #207 “Just as I am”

## 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 love to profess our growing edges.

**All: Triune God, Creator, Son, and Spirit One, I praise your holy name! It is in you that I find my comfort, and it is from you that all blessings flow. You have wrapped me in love and tender mercies, but I profess that I have not always acted in ways that reflect your love to the world. In the cup of salvation, you have brought me into the new covenant with you and told me as often as I drink of this cup of blessing, I must do so in remembrance of you. But too often, as soon as I leave the table, I act as though you have no claim on me. Forgive me,**

Charlotte Elliott, 1836; alt.

1. Just as I am, with-out one plea  
but that your blood was shed for me,  
And that you called in-vit-ing me,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!
2. Just as I am, though tossed a-bout  
with man-y a con-flict, many a doubt,  
Fight-ings and fears with-in, with-out,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!
3. Just as I am, you will re-ceive,  
will wel-come, par-don, cleanse, re-lieve;  
Be-cause your prom-ise I be-lieve,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!
4. Just as I am, your love un-known  
has bro-ken ev-ery bar-rier down;  
Now to be yours, and yours a-lone,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

John 6:37; Eph. 2:14

**Lord, and help me to lead a Christ-centered life. 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 of all blessings to profess the places where we are still learning and growing, we are met with grace upon grace!

***All: “For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.”*** -

*John 1:16-17*

## 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.**

## **Welcoming Our Newest Member: June Hanley**

This morning, we welcome June Hanley to  
the St. John's family!

Rev: By your baptism you were made one  
with us in the Body of Christ and the  
church. Today we rejoice in your  
pilgrimage of faith, which brought you to  
this time and place. We give thanks for  
every community of faith that has been

your spiritual home, and we celebrate your presence in this household of faith! Do you promise to participate in the life and mission of this family of God's people, sharing regularly in the worship of God and enlisting in the work of this local church as it serves this community and the world?

**June: I promise with the help of God!**

Rev: Let us, the members of St. John's United Church of Christ express our welcome and affirm our mutual ministry in Christ.

**Many: WE welcome you with joy in the common life of the church. We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the Power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love and be witnesses of our risen Savior!**

Scriptures

Becky Bronfenbrenner

Jeremiah 31:31-34

Hebrews 5:5-10

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: *"The New Covenant"*

Rev. Becky Sausser

**Hymn #190** "Beneath the Cross of Jesus"  
(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.)



## Beneath the Cross of Jesus

Elizabeth C. Clephane, 1872; alt.

1.   Be-neath the cross of Je-sus I glad-ly take my stand,  
the shad-ow of a might-y rock with-in a wea-ry land;  
A home with-in the wil-der-ness, a rest up-on the way,  
from the burn-ing of the noon-tide heat, and the bur-den of the day.
2.   Up-on the cross of Je-sus with-in my mind I see  
the ver-y dy-ing form of One who suf-fered there for me;  
And from my griev-ing heart with tears two won-ders I con-fess—  
the won-ders of Christ's glo-rious love and my un-wor-thi-ness.
3.   I take, O cross, your shad-ow for my a-bid-ing place;  
I ask no oth-er sun-shine than the sun-shine of Christ's face;  
Con-tent to let the world go by, to know no gain or loss,  
my sin-ful self my on-ly shame, my glo-ry all the cross.

Isa. 32:2; 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:

“Prayer for Partnership” Tom Mitchell  
Copyright 1990 Choristers Guild

Announcements

Jeff Rissell

Offering  
Offertory

“I Cling to Thee”

Old English

Copyright 1961 California Music Press

\*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 #212** “O Jesus Christ, May Grateful  
Hymns”

\* Commission and Blessing

\***Threefold Amen**

*Amen, Amen, Amen*

Music to go forth:

Bradford Gray Webster, 1954; alt.

1. O Je-sus Christ, may grate-ful hymns be ris-ing,  
in ev-ery cit-y for your love and care;  
In-spire our wor-ship, grant the glad sur-pris-ing  
that your blessed Spir-it rous-es ev-ery-where.
2. Grant us new cour-age, nev-er proud, but hum-ble,  
strong in your strength to ven-ture and to dare;  
To lift the fall-en, guide the ones who stum-ble,  
seek out the lone-ly and God's mer-cy share.
3. Show us your Spir-it, brood-ing o'er each cit-y,  
as you once wept a-bove Je-ru-sa-lem,  
Seek-ing to gath-er all in love and pit-y,  
and heal-ing those who touch your gar-ment's hem.

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Matt. 23:37–39; Luke 13:34–35

“Jesus, Still Lead On” Paul Manz  
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***The Altar flowers are sponsored by our  
newest member June Hanley, who  
wishes everyone a Happy Saint  
Patrick's Day!***

**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](http://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

## MISSION MOMENT

### “WELCOMING NEIGHBORS: REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS”

The United Nations High Commission on Refugees reports that there are currently almost 110 million people forcibly displaced from their homes. This figure includes at least 36.4 million refugees, in addition to another 6 million Palestinians. It is the highest number of displaced in recorded human history.

Most often, we think of displaced persons as those who have fled wars, violence, or persecution, but there are many other reasons for migration, such as lack of economic opportunity, lack of access to natural resources like water, food, and energy, and climate change.

In the Middle East and Europe, One Great Hour of Sharing supports programs of partners in Morocco, Italy, Greece, Turkey, Lebanon, and Palestine which responds to the needs of those who have been forced from their homes. The Evangelical Church in Morocco is a church that is predominantly made up of people from more than 15 African countries.

It has opened its doors through its International Mutual Aid Committee (CEI) to provide basic immediate needs for new arrivals, who have come to Morocco from many of the same African countries as its members.

The migrants in Morocco have experienced much hardship before arriving there, such as human trafficking and other forms of exploitation. They are desperate to pass through the country to Europe, to rest and remain, worn out from their experience, or simply wish to return home. They arrive in need of physical and mental health care, and spiritual care.

The CEI attempts to address these needs, living out Jesus’ teaching that, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself” (Mark 12:31). It offers care for newborn children and their mothers, medical assistance, vocational training, microloans for entrepreneurial projects, and scholarships for study.

In these ways, people who are in the greatest of need are able to enjoy something of the fullness of life, as the Evangelical Church in Morocco welcomes, loves, and cares for the most vulnerable of people.

Dr. Peter E. Makari, Ph.D., Global Relations Minister, Middle East and Europe, Global Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and United Church of Christ



*Migrant beneficiaries with the CEI team, near Agadir, Morocco*



*Local CEI coordinator in Agadir, Morocco*



# 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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