

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 31, 2024 Easter Sunday 11:00am

Tower Chimes

Janet Cook

Music to Gather:

“All Creatures of Our God and King”

Stan Pethel

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Easter Band: Sarah Collier, flute
Savannah Grabowski, alto saxophone
Danny Collier, trumpet Becky Sausser,
trombone

*** Welcome**

Call to Worship inspired by Ministry Matters

One: Hallelujah! Christ is risen!

All: Christ is risen indeed!

One: Darkness has been vanquished!

All: The brilliant light of hope has come!

One: Come, let us worship and celebrate
the good news!

**All: Let us share the good news of great
joy!**

One: Christ is risen!

All: He is risen indeed! Amen!

Hymn #242 “The Strife Is O’er”

The Strife Is O'er

Latin, c. 1695

Transl. Francis Pott, 1861; alt.

Refrain: (sung before stanza 1 and after stanza 4)

Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia!

1. The strife is o'er, the bat-tle done,
the vic-to-ry of life is won;
The song of tri-umph has be-gun. Al-le-lu-ia!
2. The powers of death have done their worst,
but Christ their le-gions has dis-persed:
Let shouts of ho-ly joy out-burst. Al-le-lu-ia!
3. The three sad days are quick-ly sped,
Christ ris-es glo-rious from the dead:
All glo-ry to our ris-en Head! Al-le-lu-ia!
4. Christ, by your wounds on Cal-va-ry
from death's dread sting your ser-vants free,
That we may live e-ter-nal-ly. Al-le-lu-ia!

Refrain:

Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia!

1 Cor. 15:53-57

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 risen Lord to profess our unending need for his salvation!

All: Dear Jesus, on this most holy day when we celebrate your resurrection, I profess that I need you! I need your grace and forgiveness for the times that I fall short, and act selfishly instead of emulating your selfless love. I need your salvation which redeems my life and offers me a place in the kingdom of heaven as a child of God. I need your presence with me always, guiding my steps and spurring me on to act in ways that reflect your love and light. I need you Jesus! Amen!

Confession Response 🎵

Hymn #245, Verse 2

**Our hearts be pure from evil, that we
may see aright
The Christ who reigns eternal in
resurrection light;
We listen for the teachings once heard
so calm and plain,
For we, too, want to follow and raise the
victor strain.**

Assurance of Forgiveness

One: When we come before the cross of salvation and profess our unending need for Jesus we are met with grace and love unending!

All: “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.”

-1 Peter 1:3

Response to Words of Assurance 🎵

Hymn #241, Verse 3

**O Sovereign One, with us abide
In this our joyful Eastertide;
From every weapon death can wield,
Your own redeemed for ever shield.**

Scriptures

Kathy Heckman

Mark 16: 1-8

1 Corinthians 15: 1-11

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: "He Arose!"

Rev. Becky Sausser

Hymn #238 "Now the Green Blade Rises"

Now the Green Blade Rises

John M. C. Crum, 1928; alt.

1. Now the green blade ris-es from the bur-ied grain;
Wheat that in dark earth for man-y days has lain;
Love lives a-gain, that with the dead has been:
Love is come a-gain like wheat that ris-es green.

2. In the grave they laid their Love whom hate had slain,
Think-ing that their Love would nev-er wake a-gain,
Laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un-seen:
Love is come a-gain like wheat that ris-es green.

3. Christ came forth at Eas-ter, like the ris-en grain,
Je-sus, who for three days in the grave had lain,
Quick from the dead the ris-en One is seen:
Love is come a-gain like wheat that ris-es green.

4. When our hearts are win-try, griev-ing, or in pain,
Christ's warm touch can call us back to life a-gain,
Fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:
Love is come a-gain like wheat that ris-es green.

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Matt. 27:57-28:7; Luke 23:50-24:12

(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 #237, Verse 1

**I come to the garden alone,
while the dew is still on the roses;
And the voice I hear, falling on my ear,
The Son of God discloses.**

**And he walks with me, and he talks with
me,
And he tells me I am his own,
And the joy we share as we tarry there,
None other has ever known.**

Announcements

Jeff Rissell

Offering

Offertory “Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee”
Stan Pethel

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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.

Chancel Choir Anthem:

“Sound the Trumpet” Dale Peterson

Copyright 1984 Glory Sound

Danny Collier, trumpet

Hymn #233 “Christ the Lord Is Risen
Today”

* Commission and Blessing

* **Threefold Amen**

Amen, Amen, Amen

Music to go forth:

“Toccata” from Symphonie No. 5

Charles Marie Widor

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Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

Charles Wesley, 1739; alt.

1. Christ the Lord is risen to-day, Al-le-lu-ia!
Mor-tal tongues and an-gels say: Al-le-lu-ia!
Raise your joys and tri-umphs high, Al-le-lu-ia!
Sing, glad heavens, and earth re-ply: Al-le-lu-ia!

2. Let the Vic-tor's peo-ple sing, Al-le-lu-ia!
Where, O death, is now your sting? Al-le-lu-ia!
Dy-ing once, Christ lives to save, Al-le-lu-ia!
Where your vic-to-ry, O grave? Al-le-lu-ia!

3. Love's re-deem-ing work is done, Al-le-lu-ia!
Fought the fight, the bat-tle won, Al-le-lu-ia!
Death in vain for-bids Christ rise, Al-le-lu-ia!
God has o-pened par-a-dise, Al-le-lu-ia!

4. Soar we now where Christ has led, Al-le-lu-ia!
Fol-lowing our ex-alt-ed Head, Al-le-lu-ia!
Made like Christ, like Christ we rise, Al-le-lu-ia!
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Al-le-lu-ia!

Matt. 28:5–8; 1 Cor. 15:20–22; 54–57

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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

**The flowers gracing our altar this Easter morning are
given....**

In memory of Patrick and my parents by June Hanley.

In memory of Walter YenoLevich, Micheal YenoLevich,
and Donald Roberts by Cindy Dannenhower.

In memory of Elizabeth & Ralph Todd, Margaret & Earl Miller, and Abbey Wrabel by Ralph & Doris Todd.

In memory of my father Thomas Heinze, my grandparents G. Chester Sr. & Agnes Heinze, and G. Chester Jr. & Jean Heinze by Nancy Rissell.

In honor of my mother Esther Heinze by Nancy Rissell.

In honor of St. John's Sunday School by Nancy Rissell.

In memory of my husband Thomas R. Heinze & son-in-law Matthew Gutt by Esther Heinze.

In memory of our parents & brothers by Kathy & Jeff Heckman.

In memory of Jeanette & Paul L. Saylor Sr., Bernice M. Bramick and Loved Ones by Brenda and James W. Saylor Sr.

In memory of our parents by Allan & Nancy Kramer-Moyer

In honor of Jeanette & Dick Schmoyer by Allan & Nancy Kramer-Moyer.

In memory of Loved Ones by Bruce DeLong.

In memory of Loved Ones by Bonnie & Bill Falla.

In loving memory of Karline Mosebach by Jay Mosebach.

In memory of Estella Saylor & Loved Ones by Jim & Becky Bronfenbrenner.

In honor of our grandchildren and Pastor Becky by Jim & Becky Bronfenbrenner.

In memory of Loved Ones by Tom Raub.

In memory of our parents Stephen & Lillian Schaffer, Paul & Loretta Wikerd by Carol Wikerd & Richard Schaffer.

In memory of Thomas R. Heinze, Mr. & Mrs. G. Chester Heinze, Sr., Mr. & Mrs. G. Chester Heinze, Jr., and Mr. & Mrs. Byron E. Cook by Barney & Janet Cook.

In memory of Sedora Raub & Violet Delong by Bruce DeLong & Tom Raub.

In memory of Valerie Ford by Dick and Jeanette Schmoyer.

In memory of Wouter de Nie & Mom and Gram by Trudi Egan.

In honor of Monique and the boys, my grandchildren, and my St. John's Family by Trudi Egan.

In honor of Logan Michael Edwards by Bob & Susan Fegley

In memory of my husband by Sterna Klingborg.

In honor of loved ones by Sterna Klingborg.