

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

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St Johns UCC Allentown

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

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

April 7, 2024

11:00am

Tower Chimes

Janet Cook

Music to Gather:

“Now the Green Blade Rises – Theme and Variations”

Wayne L. Wold

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*** Welcome**

Call to Worship

One: We gather together with joy in our hearts!

All: We unite our voices and sing songs of praise for the one who has come to save us!

One: Christ Jesus has conquered death; hallelujah! Amen!

All: Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

One: When we are overwhelmed and find ourselves in times of trouble, Christ is with us!

All: Christ whispers peace into our hearts, and we are made well!

One: We offer our praise and adoration to the light of the world.

All: Praise be to God the Creator, Jesus the Son, and the Holy Ghost!

Hymn #469 “O Grant Us Light”

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 uniting and uplifting God to profess the places where we are still learning and growing.

All: Holy Lord, I come before you today to profess that I am a work in progress. I don’t have it all together. In one moment, I am overwhelmed with joy and beauty, and just as quickly, I am overwhelmed with anxiety and suffering. Life feels so much like an ocean, rocking with each wave that comes. But in those moments when I am so

Lawrence Tuttiett, 1864; alt.

1. O grant us light, that we may know
wis-dom that you a-lone can give,
That truth may guide us as we go,
and vir-tue bless the lives we live.

2. O grant us light that we may find
where er-ror lurks in hu-man lore,
And turn to you our seek-ing minds,
and love your ho-ly Word the more.

3. O grant us light, that we may learn
how dead is life from you a-part,
How sure is joy for all who turn
to you an un-di-vid-ed heart.

4. O grant us light, when soon or late,
all earth-ly scenes shall pass a-way,
In you to find the o-pen gate,
to death-less home and end-less day.

Ps. 43:3

**overwhelmed, I know you are there.
Lord, help me tune my ear to listen for
your voice. You speak ‘peace’, and I am
free. Grant me your grace and serenity
for the journey and help me to
remember that you are always there.
Amen.**

Confession Response 🎵

Hymn #230 Verse 2

**Spring has dawned on earth today:
Christ has burst from prison, And from
three days’ sleep in death as the sun
has risen; All the winter of our sins,
long and gray, is flying
From the Light, to whom we give laud
and praise undying.**

Assurance of Forgiveness

One: When we come before the cross of
salvation and profess our unending need

for Jesus, we are met with love, grace,
hope, and peace!

**All: “Now may the Lord of peace himself
give you peace at all times and in every
way. The Lord be with all of you.” -2**

Thessalonians 3:16

Response to Words of Assurance 🎵

Gloria Patri

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the
beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.**

Amen.

Scriptures

Barney Cook

John 20:19-31

Acts 4:32-35

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: *"Peace be with you."*

Rev. Becky Sausser

Hymn #334 "Graced with Garments of
Great Gladness"

*(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**

334 Graced with Garments of Great Gladness

Johann Franck, c. 1649

Transl. Catherine Winkworth, 1863; alt.

1. Graced with gar-ments of great glad-ness,
I shall leave the depths of sad-ness,
En-ter in-to glo-ry's splen-dor,
there with joy my prais-es ren-der
To the One whose grace un-bound-ed
has this won-drous ban-quet found-ed.
Sing my soul, your sto-ry tell-ing:
Christ e-ter-nal in me dwell-ing.
2. Bright-ness, that my life so bright-ens,
Light, that all my soul en-light-ens,
Joy, that joins my heart in know-ing,
Fount, that is all be-ing flow-ing,
At your name I cry, "My Mak-er!"
Let me be a fit par-tak-er
Of this bless-ed food from heav-en,
for our good through Je-sus giv-en.
3. Je-sus, Bread of Life, I pray you,
let me glad-ly here o-bey you,
To your ta-ble here in-vit-ed
be your love by love re-quit-ed.
From this ban-quet let me mea-sure,
oh, how vast, how deep its trea-sure.
Through the mer-cies that you give me
as your own in heaven re-ceive me.

Isa. 61:10; John 6:35–58

**thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, forever. Amen.**

Prayer Response 🎵 Hymn # 241, Verse 3

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

Chancel Choir Anthem:

“We Will Walk in the Light!”

Don Besig Copyright 1998 Glory Sound

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God the Father, the
Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all
that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the
only Son of God, eternally begotten of the
Father, God from God, Light from Light,

true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

A CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

The Invitation

Communion Prayer

Pastor: God be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to God.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to God Almighty.

People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Pastor: Eternal God, you created the heavens and earth, giving breath to every living thing. We thank you for the gift of

creation and for the gift of life itself. We thank you for making us in your own image, for forgiving us when we act as though You have no claim on us, and for keeping us in your steadfast care.

We rejoice in Jesus Christ, the only one eternally begotten by you, who was born of your servant Mary and shared the joys and sorrows of life as we know it. We remember Christ's death, we celebrate Christ's resurrection, and in the beloved community of your church, we await Christ's return at the end of history.

We take courage from the abiding praise of men, women, and persons of faith in every age who stand as witnesses to your love and justice. With all the prophets, martyrs, and saints and with all the company of heaven, we glorify you singing...

People (Singing the Sanctus Hymn #795)

**Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of
Sabaoth;**

**Heaven and earth are full, are full, of
the majesty of Thy Glory.**

**Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the
highest.**

**Blessed is he that cometh in the
name of the Lord.**

**Hosannah, hosanna, hosanna in the
highest.**

Pastor: We remember that on the night He was betrayed and deserted, Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to the disciples, saying: "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

In the same way, Jesus also took the cup after supper, and gave thanks for it, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

People: By eating this bread and drinking this cup, we proclaim Christ's death, we celebrate Christ's resurrection, and we await Christ's coming again.

Pastor: Let us pray. Gracious God, we ask you to meet us where we are today in your mercy; we ask you to bless this bread and this cup and all of us with the outpouring of your Holy Spirit. Through this meal, make us the body of Christ, your church, your servant people, that we may be salt, light, and leaven in this world that you so deeply love.

Receiving the Elements

Pastor: Through the broken bread, we participate in the body of Christ. Through the cup of blessing, we participate in the new life that Christ gives. The gifts of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

(At this time our ushers will bring the bread representing the body of Christ into the congregation. If you prefer to receive individually wrapped elements, there will be wrapped communion cups on this tray that have both the bread and juice.)

Pastor: The body of Christ. (At this time, partake of the bread.)

Pastor: The blood of Christ. (At this time partake of the juice.)

Pastor: Let us join together in prayer.

People: As one body, we lament with those who lament. We hope with those who hope. We live with suffering. We live with beauty. Let us go from this table as a renewed community, doing the radical work of Jesus that calls us to live justice-making lives of faith. We are followers of God's way. We give thanks and praise! Amen!

Offering

Offertory

“Let Us All with Gladsome Voice”

Hans Arnold Metzger

Copyright 1995 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 #245** “The Day of Resurrection”

* Commission and Blessing

***Threefold Amen**

Amen, Amen, Amen

Music to go forth:

“Psalm XIX”

Benedetto Marcello

Copyright 1993 Tarzana Music Company

The Day of Resurrection

John of Damascus, 8th century

Transl. John Mason Neale, 1862; alt.

1. The day of res-ur-rec-tion! Earth, tell it out a-broad;
the Pass-o-ver of glad-ness, the Pass-o-ver of God.
From death to life e-ter-nal, from earth un-to the sky,
our Christ has brought us o-ver with hymns of vic-to-ry.

2. Our hearts be pure from e-vil, that we may see a-right
the Christ who reigns e-ter-nal in res-ur-rec-tion light;
We lis-ten for the teach-ings once heard so calm and plain,
for we, too, want to fol-low and raise the vic-tor strain.

3. Now let the heavens be joy-ful, let earth its song be-gin,
the whole world keep high tri-umph, and all that is there-in;
Let all things seen and un-seen their notes of glad-ness blend,
for Christ a-gain has ris-en, our joy that has no end.

Mark 16:1-6

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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

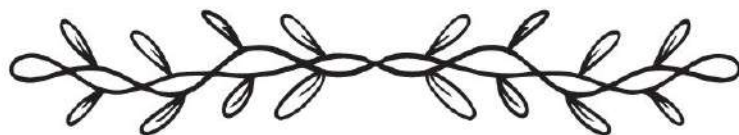
May 4 - Intergenerational Hike

May 12 - Confirmation Service 11am

May 19 - Pentecost Service 11am

June 16 - Church Picnic at Waldheim Park

June 23 - Youth Sunday



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

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