

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.**

April 21, 2024

11:00am

Tower Chimes

Janet Cook

Music to Gather:

“Fantasia in C Major”

Johann Sebastian Bach

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*** Welcome**

Call to Worship

One: Earth, teach me stillness as the grasses are stilled with light. Earth, teach me suffering as old stones suffer with memory.

All: Earth, teach me humility as blossoms are humble with beginning. Earth, teach me caring as the mother who secures her young.

One: Earth, teach me courage as the tree which stands alone. Earth, teach me limitations like the ant which crawls on the ground.

All: Earth, teach me freedom as the eagle soars in the sky. Earth, teach me resignation as the leaves which die in the Fall.

One: Earth, teach me regeneration as the seed which rises in the Spring. Earth, teach me to forget myself as melted snow forgets its life.

All: Earth, teach me to remember kindness as dry fields weep in the rain.

John Yellow Lark

Hymn Tune #425 “For the Fruits of All Creation”

Prayer of Confession

One: God of blessings, the universe sings of your glory.

All: Deepen our gratitude for all you have made. Awaken in us a renewed commitment to care for the earth and each other. Cleanse us of the temptation to turn a blind eye.

One: Inspire us with openness to listen to those most harmed by climate change.

All: Grant us the courage to act urgently and wisely, even if it costs us something.

One: May our common home be healed and restored.

For the Fruit of All Creation

Fred Pratt Green, 1970

1. For the fruit of all cre-a-tion, thanks be to God.
For God's gifts to ev-ery na-tion, thanks be to God.
For the plow-ing, sow-ing, reap-ing,
si-lent growth while we are sleep-ing,
Fu-ture needs in earth's safe-keep-ing, thanks be to God.

2. In the just re-ward of la-bor, God's will is done.
In the help we give our neigh-bor, God's will is done.
In our world-wide task of car-ing
for the hun-gry and de-spair-ing,
In the har-vests we are shar-ing, God's will is done.

3. For the har-vests of the Spir-it, thanks be to God.
For the good we all in-her-it, thanks be to God.
For the won-ders that as-tound us,
for the truths that still con-found us,
Most of all that love has found us, thanks be to God.

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All: Make us a blessing to all people and all generations to come, by your grace and power in Christ Jesus. Amen.

Revised from the COP27 Climate Summit prayer from EcoJesuits

Confession Response 🎵

Hymn #589, Verse 2

**Within our passionate heart instill
The calm that ends all strain and strife;
Make us your ministers of life;
Purge us from lusts that curse and kill!**

Assurance of Forgiveness

One: Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

All: Through Jesus Christ we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in our hope of sharing the glory of God.

Romans 5:1-2

Response to Words of Assurance 🎵

Hymn #277 Verse 4

Holy, holy, holy, God the Almighty!

**All your works shall praise your name
in earth and sky and sea.**

Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!

God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Scriptures

Dick Schmoyer

Genesis 2:4-9

Revelation 21: 1-6

Acts 3:1-8

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: *“Let's Get Down to Earth”*

Rev. Rick Guhl

Hymn #557 *“Pray for the Wilderness”*

(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.

Pray for the Wilderness

Dan Damon, 1989; rev. 1994

1. Pray for the wil-der-ness, van-ish-ing fast,
pray for the rain for-est, o-pen and vast;
Pray for the wa-ter-falls, pray for the trees,
pray for the plan-et brought down by de-grees.

2. Learn from the el-e-phant, ea-gle, and whale,
learn from the drag-on-fly, spi-der, and snail;
Learn from the peo-ple in neigh-bor-ing lands,
learn from the chil-dren who play in their sands.

3. Work for the jus-tice cre-at-ed things need,
work for the health of each plant and its seed;
Work for the crea-tures a-buse has be-trayed,
work for the gar-den God's wis-dom once made.

4. Trust that God's Christ o-ver-came nails and wood,
trust that earth's peo-ple will turn to the good;
Trust that cre-a-tion for-ev-er will grow,
trust that God's good-ness to us o-ver-flows.

5. Pray for the at-mos-pHERE, pray for the sea,
learn from the riv-er, the rock, and the tree;
Work till sha-lom in full har-mo-ny rings.
Trust the con-nec-tion of all liv-ing things.

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Prayer Response 🎵 Hymn #611, Verse 2
**Bring to our troubled minds,
uncertain and afraid,
The quiet of a steadfast faith,
calm of a call obeyed.**

“This is My Father’s World” ` Brant Adams
Copyright 2001 Lorenz Publishing Co.

Jeff Rissell, soloist

Announcements

Jeff Rissell

Offering

Offertory

“Speak, O Lord, Thy Servant Heareth”
Johann Pachelbel Copyright 1953
Concordia Publishing House

*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 #286** "Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness"

* **Commission and Blessing**

***Threefold Amen**

Amen, Amen, Amen

Music to go forth:

"Fugue" ` George Frederic Handel

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James K. Manley, 1978; alt.

Refrain:

Spir-it, spir-it of gen-tle-ness, blow through the wil-der-ness,
call-ing and free, Spir-it, spir-it of rest-less-ness,
stir me from plac-id-ness, wind, wind on the sea.

1. You moved on the wa-ters, you called to the deep,
then you coaxed up the moun-tains from the val-leys of sleep;
And o-ver the e-ons you called to each thing,
“A-wake from your slum-bers and rise on your wings.”

Refrain:

2. You swept through the des-ert, you stung with the sand,
and you goad-ed your peo-ple with a law and a land;
When they were con-found-ed by their i-dols and lies,
then you spoke through your proph-ets to o-pen their eyes.

Refrain:

3. You sang in a sta-ble, you cried from a hill,
then you whis-pered in si-lence when the whole world was still;
And down in the cit-y you called once a-gain,
when you blew through your peo-ple on the rush of the wind.

Refrain:

4. You call from to-mor-row, you break an-cient schemes,
from the bond-age of sor-row the cap-tives dream dreams;
Our wom-en see vi-sions, our men clear their eyes.
With bold new de-ci-sions your peo-ple a-rise.

Refrain:

***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 :)**

stjohnsucc2@verizon.net

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