

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.**

May 5, 2024

11:00am

Tower Chimes

Janet Cook

Music to Gather:

“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”

Variation Suite David P. Dahl

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* **Welcome**

Call to Worship

One: Christ is Risen!

All: He is risen indeed!

One: Christ walked among us and taught us how to lead good lives! He has shown us what is good and what the Lord requires of us!

All: To do justice, and love mercy, and to walk humbly with our God!

One: Today we shout with joy! For Christ ascends into the heavens!

All: He is seated at the right hand of God almighty!

One: In Christ we are made a new creation! Children of the king! Children of heaven!

All: Praise be to the holy one! Praise be to Jesus Christ, our Lord!

Hymn #260 “Hail the Day that Sees Christ Rise”
(sung to hymn tune #240)

Hail the Day That Sees Christ Rise

Charles Wesley, 1739; alt.

1. Hail the day that sees Christ rise, Al-le-lu-ia!
To a throne in par-a-dise; Al-le-lu-ia!
Christ, the Lamb for sin-ners given, Al-le-lu-ia!
En-ters now the high-est heaven. Al-le-lu-ia!
2. Christ, for you high tri-umph waits, Al-le-lu-ia!
Lift your heads, e-ter-nal gates! Al-le-lu-ia!
You have con-quered death and sin; Al-le-lu-ia!
You, our Sov-ereign, en-ter in! Al-le-lu-ia!
3. See! The nail-marked hands a-bove; Al-le-lu-ia!
Sing of God's re-deem-ing love; Al-le-lu-ia!
Hark! Christ's words our hearts as-sure: Al-le-lu-ia!
"I will send a Com-fort-er!" Al-le-lu-ia!
4. Christ for us still in-ter-cede, Al-le-lu-ia!
By your suf-fering for us plead; Al-le-lu-ia!
Make us wor-thy of the place, Al-le-lu-ia!
Which you of-fer us by grace. Al-le-lu-ia!
5. Now, though part-ed from our sight, Al-le-lu-ia!
In the depths of star-ry night, Al-le-lu-ia!
May our souls with you a-rise, Al-le-lu-ia!
Seek-ing whole-ness at your side. Al-le-lu-ia!

ASCENSION

6. There we will with you re-main, Al-le-lu-ia!
Heirs in your e-ter-nal reign; Al-le-lu-ia!
In the pres-ence of your face, Al-le-lu-ia!
We will dwell in heav-en's grace. Al-le-lu-ia!

Acts 1:6–11; John 14:16

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 one who conquered death to profess our need for his eternal salvation and grace.

All: Dear Jesus, I profess my profound and unending need for your grace and salvation! Forgive me for the times that I become distracted by the ways of this world, which draw my focus away from you. You have already conquered this world, and you have conquered death. In you there is no darkness at all. Help me to walk in that light. Help me to shine that light on the rest of the world so that everyone may come to know your love. I ask that you fill me with your spirit and fit me for heaven, to be with you there. Amen.

Confession Response 🎵 Hymn #502,

Verse 1

**Dear God, embracing humankind,
forgive our foolish ways;
Reclothe us in our rightful mind,
in purer lives your service find,
in deeper reverence, praise.**

Assurance of Forgiveness

One: When we come before our loving savior professing our need for his presence in our lives, we are met with that presence in abundance, we are filled with that spirit, and we are made children of heaven.

All: “Therefore, whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoever welcomes a little child like this in my name welcomes me.” Matthew

18:2-5

Response to Words of Assurance 🎵

Hymn #303 Verse 2

**Our Savior Jesus reigns, the God of
truth and love;**

**The Lamb who purged our stains
is crowned with power above.**

Lift up your heart, lift up your voice!

Rejoice, again I say, rejoice.

Scriptures

Kathy Heckman

Acts 1:1-11

Ephesians 1:15-23

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 Ascension."*

Rev. Becky Sausser

Hymn #386 “The Church’s One Foundation”

(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 #300, Verse 2/5

Through Christ shall endless prayer be made,

Borne by the Spirit’s ceaseless aid;

The Church's One Foundation

Samuel J. Stone, 1866; alt.

1. The church's one foun-da-tion
is Je-sus Christ our Lord;
we are Christ's new cre-a-tion
by wa-ter and the word;
From heaven Christ came and sought us
in love to set us free;
with pre-cious blood Christ bought us
for all e-ter-ni-ty.

2. E-lect from ev-ery na-tion,
yet one o'er all the earth,
one char-ter of sal-va-tion,
one God, one faith, one birth,
One name to-geth-er bless-ing,
one ho-ly food we share,
to one hope we are press-ing,
at one in work and prayer.

3. 'Mid toil and trib-u-la-tion,
and tu-mult of our war,
we wait the con-sum-ma-tion
of peace for-ev-er-more;
Till with the vi-sion glo-rious,
our long-ing eyes are blessed,
and the great church vic-to-rious
shall be the church at rest.

CHRISTIAN UNITY

4. Yet we on earth have un-ion
with God, the Three-in-One,
and mys-tic sweet com-mu-nion
with those whose rest is won.
O hap-py ones and ho-ly!
God, give us grace that we,
like them, the meek and low-ly,
may live e-ter-nal-ly.

Eph. 2:13–22; 4:4–6; 1 Cor. 3:11

**Angels descend with songs again,
And earth repeat the loud amen.**

Chancel Choir Anthem:

“A Communion Invitation”

Joseph M. Martin

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Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, Born of the Virgin Mary, Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, dead, and buried. He descended into hell; The third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, And is seated on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; And he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; The Holy catholic Church, the Communion of Saints; The Forgiveness of

sins; The Resurrection of the body, And the Life everlasting. 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!

Announcements

Jeff Rissell

Offering

Offertory

“Pastorale”

Camile Chaminade

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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.

***Hymn #257** “Alleluia! Gracious Jesus!”

* Commission and Blessing

***Threefold Amen**

Amen, Amen, Amen

Music to go forth:

“Psalm of Glory”

Lani Smith

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Alleluia! Gracious Jesus!

William C. Dix, 1867; alt.

1. Al-le-lu-ia! Gra-cious Je-sus!
Yours the scep-ter, yours the throne!
Al-le-lu-ia! Yours the tri-umph,
yours the vic-to-ry a-lone!
Hark! the songs of peace-ful Zi-on
thun-der like a might-y flood;
Je-sus, out of ev-ery na-tion
you've re-deemed us by your blood.

2. Al-le-lu-ia! Not as or-phans
are we left in sor-row now.
Al-le-lu-ia! You are near us;
faith be-lieves, nor ques-tions how.
Though the cloud from sight re-ceived you
when the for-ty days were o'er,
shall our hearts for-get your prom-ise,
"I am with you ev-er-more."

3. Al-le-lu-ia! Bread of an-gels,
you on earth our food, our stay.
Al-le-lu-ia! Here the sin-ful
flee to you from day to day.
In-ter-ces-sor, friend of sin-ners,
earth's Re-deem-er, plead for me,
and the songs that sound in heav-en
will re-peat your gra-cious plea.

4. Al-le-lu-ia! Christ e-ter-nal,
noth-ing can dis-rupt your reign;
Al-le-lu-ia! Born of Mar-y,
heaven and earth are your do-main.
Hu-man life you ful-ly en-tered,
tend-ing those we count the least,
serv-ing both as Priest and Vic-tim
in the eu-cha-ris-tic feast.

Eph. 1:15–23; Heb. 9:11–14

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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



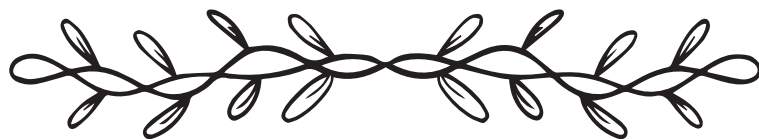
Dates

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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610-433-0146

