

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.**

July 7, 2024

10:00am

Tower Chimes

Janet Cook

Music to Gather:

“Voluntary”

Maurice Greene

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*** Welcome**

Call to Worship based on Psalm 136

One: O give thanks to the LORD, for God is good,

All: for God's steadfast love endures forever.

One: O give thanks to the God of gods

All: for God's steadfast love endures forever.

One: O give thanks to the Lord of lords,

All: for God's steadfast love endures forever;

One: Who alone does great wonders

All: for God's steadfast love endures forever;

One: who by understanding made the heavens,

All: for God's steadfast love endures forever;

One: O give thanks to the Lord, for God is good,

All: For God's steadfast love endures forever!

Hymn #407 “How Firm a Foundation”

Confession of Faith

One: No matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here! Let us come before the ruler of the universe and profess our profound need for God’s love!

All: Holy Lord, we profess the good news, that you are king above all kings, and worthy of all praise! You meet us where we are at! Whether it is a mountain top or a deep dark valley, your presence and love surrounds us. Whether we are accomplishing great feats, or doing mundane daily chores, your presence fills us. Help me to remember that you are in all things so that we might become more aware of your still speaking voice. Amen.

How Firm a Foundation

“K” in John Rippon’s *Selection of Hymns*, 1787; alt.

1. How firm a foun-da-tion for you has been laid,
by God in the Word, in the sac-ri-fice paid!
What more can God say than to you has been said,
to you, who for ref-uge to Je-sus have fled?
2. “Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dis-mayed,
for I am your God, I will still give you aid;
I’ll strength-en you, help you, and cause you to stand
up-held by my gra-cious, om-ni-po-tent hand.”
3. “When through the deep wa-ters I call you to go,
the riv-ers of woe shall not o-ver you flow;
For I will be with you, your trou-bles to bless,
de-liv-er-ing you from your deep-est dis-tress.”
4. “When through fi-ery tri-als your path-way shall lie,
my grace all-suf-fi-cient shall be your sup-ply;
the flame shall not hurt you; for I have de-signed
your soul to make pure just as gold is re-fined.”
5. “The soul that on Je-sus has leaned for re-pose,
I will not, I will not de-sert to its foes;
That soul, though all hell should en-deav-or to shake,
I’ll nev-er, no nev-er, no nev-er for-sake!”

Isa. 43:2–5; 2 Tim. 2:19; Heb. 13:5

Confession Response♪ Hymn #448, Verse 1

**Take my life, God, let it be
consecrated faithfully.**

**Take my moments and my days,
let them flow in ceaseless praise.**

Assurance of Grace

One: God is ever present in our lives! What a wonderful thing to know that even in the mundane, God's presence surrounds us!

**All: "The Lord your God is in your midst,
a mighty one who will save; God will
rejoice over you with gladness; God will
quiet you with love; God will exult over
you with loud singing."** -

Zephaniah 3:17

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.

New Member Service

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?

New Members: 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!

Welcome Jasmine, Felicita, Angelice, and Ethan!

Scriptures Nancy Kramer-Moyer

Luke 5:1-11 (*page 831*)

1 Corinthians 3:5-9 (*page 924*)

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: "A Sermon on Tediousness"
Rev. Becky Sausser

Hymn #173 "You Have Come down to the Lakeshore"

(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.

EPIPHANY SEASON

1. You have come down to the lake-shore
seek-ing nei-ther the wise nor the wealth-y,
But on-ly ask-ing for me to fol-low.

Refrain:

O Je-sus, you have looked in-to my eyes;
kind-ly smil-ing, you've called out my name.
On the sand I have a-ban-doned my small boat;
now with you I will seek oth-er seas.

2. You know full well my pos-ses-sions.
Nei-ther trea-sure nor weap-ons for con-quest,
Just these my fish-nets and will for work-ing.

Refrain:

3. You need my hands, my ex-haus-tion,
work-ing love for the rest of the wea-ry—
A love that's will-ing to go on lov-ing.

Refrain:

4. You who have fished oth-er wa-ters;
you, the long-ing of souls that are yearn-ing:
As lov-ing Friend, you have come to call me.

Refrain:

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Matt. 4:18–22; Mark 1:16–20; Luke 5:1–11

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 #507, Verse 1

**Jesus – the very thought to me
With sweetness fills my breast;
But sweeter far your face to see,
And in your presence rest.**

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!

Special Music: Jeff Rissell, soloist
“God Bless America”
Irving Berlin
Copyright 1966 Irving Berlin

Announcements Jeff Rissell
Offering
Offertory
“Benediction” Archangelo Corelli
Copyright 1977 Harold Flammer, Inc.

*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 #22** “Sing Praise to God, Who Has
Shaped”

Sing Praise to God, Who Has Shaped

Joachim Neander, 1680

Transl. Madeleine Forell Marshall, 1993

1. Sing praise to God, who has shaped and sus-tains all cre-a-tion!
Sing praise, my soul, in pro-found and com-plete ad-o-ra-tion!
Glad-some re-joice—or-gan and trum-pet and voice—
join-ing God's great con-gre-ga-tion.

2. Praise God, our guard-ian, who lov-ing-ly of-fers cor-rec-tion,
Who, as on ea-gle's wings, saves us from sin-ful de-jec-tion.
Have you ob-served, how we are al-ways pre-served
by God's pa-ren-tal af-fec-tion?

3. Sing praise to God, with sin-cere thanks for all your suc-cess-es.
Mer-ci-ful God ev-er loves to en-cour-age and bless us.
On-ly con-ceive, what god-ly strength can a-chieve:
strength that would touch and car-ess us.

4. Sing praise, my soul, the great name of your high God
com-mend-ing.
All that have life and breath join you, their notes sweet-ly blend-ing.
God is your light! Soul, ev-er keep this in sight:
a-men, a-men nev-er end-ing.

Ps. 68:4, 32; Ps. 105

* Commission and Blessing

***Threefold Amen**

Amen, Amen, Amen

Music to go forth:

“Praise Be to God”

Matt Powers

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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

2024 CALENDAR

July

- July 13 - VBS (5-7:30)

August

- August 7 - Book Study of "What if Jesus was Serious" by Skye Jethani (7pm)

September

- September 8 - Rally Day
- September 15 - First day Confirmation/Sunday School/Adult Forum

October

- October 6 - Planning Meeting Luncheon
- October 13 - CROP Walk (Allentown)

November

- November 3 - All Saints' Day

December

- December 1 - Advent Breakfast/First Sunday in Advent
- December 15 or 22 - Youth Pageant
- December 24 - Christmas eve service

If you'd like to sponsor flowers for the Altar please

ask Andrea for more details!

stjohnsucc2@verizon.net

610-433-0146

