

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

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 21, 2024

10:00am

Tower Chimes

Janet Cook

Music to Gather:

“Hark the Herald Angels Sing”
Felix Mendelssohn, Carol Tornquist
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* **Welcome**

Call to Worship written by Rev. Joanna Haradar

One: Glory to God in the highest!

All: And hope to every discouraged heart.

One: Glory to God in the highest!

All: And peace to every conflicted soul.

One: Glory to God in the highest!

All: And joy to every downcast spirit.

One: Glory to God in the highest!

All: And love to everyone. *Let us sing praises to our God. Let us offer this light against the darkness.*

Hymn #132 “Joy to the World”

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 Prince of Peace & King of Kings to profess our need for Jesus in our lives!

Joy to the World!

Isaac Watts, 1719; alt.

1. Joy to the world! the Lord is come:
let earth its prais-es bring;
Let ev-ery heart pre-pare Christ room,
and heaven and na-ture sing,
and heaven and na-ture sing,
and heaven, and heaven and na-ture sing.

2. Joy to the earth! the Sav-ior reigns!
Let all their songs em-ploy;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
re-peat the sound-ing joy,
re-peat the sound-ing joy,
re-peat, re-peat the sound-ing joy.

3. Christ rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the na-tions prove
The glo-ries of God's righ-teous-ness
and won-ders of God's love,
and won-ders of God's love,
and won-ders, won-ders of God's love.

Ps. 98:4–9; Luke 2:11–15

All: Holy Lord Jesus, we come before you this morning remembering your blessed birth! Outside the green grass grows and the flowers are blooming and there is not a single snowflake in site, yet today we remember and honor that you came to earth to save us. You became fully God and fully human to make a way that we could receive eternal salvation. Hallelujah! Glory be to you on high! Amen!

Confession Response 🎵 Hymn #148, Verse 2
**Why lies the Child in manger bare where ox and ass are feeding? Give heed, draw near; for sinners here the silent Word is pleading. Nails, spear shall pierce him through,
The cross be borne for me, for you; Hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the child of Mary!**

Assurance of Grace

One: In Jesus Christ we find our Savior, our friend, our confident, and our eternal life!

All: “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” -John 3:16

Response to Words of Assurance

♪ Hymn #132 Verse 1

Joy to the world! The Lord is come: let earth its praises bring; Let every heart prepare Christ room, and heaven nature sing, and heaven nature sing, and heaven and heaven and nature sing.

Scriptures

Kathy Heckman

Isaiah 9:2-7 (*Page 553*)

Matthew 1:17-25 (*Page 777*)

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: "Christmas in July!"

Rev. Becky Sausser

Hymn #141 "Carol Our Christmas"

(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

Shirley Erena Murray, 1986

1. Car-ol our Christ-mas, an up-side-down Christ-mas:
snow is not fall-ing and trees are not bare.
Car-ol the sum-mer, and wel-come the Christ Child,
warm in our sun-shine and sweet-ness of air.

2. Sing of the gold and the green and the spar-kle,
wa-ter and riv-er and lure of the beach.
Sing in the hap-pi-ness of o-pen spac-es,
sing a na-tiv-i-ty sum-mer can reach!

3. Shep-herds and mus-ter-ers move o-ver hill-side,
find-ing, not an-gels, but sheep to be shorn;
Wise ones make jour-neys, what-ev-er the sea-son,
search-ing for signs of the truth to be born.

4. Right-side-up Christ-mas be-longs to the u-ni-verse,
made in the mo-ment a wom-an gives birth;
Hope is the Je-sus gift, love is the of-fering,
ev-ery-where, an-y-where, here on the earth.

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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 #124, Verse 3

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay close little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes, I pray. Bless all the dear children in your tender care, and fit us for heaven to live with you there.

Announcements

Jeff Rissell

Offering

Offertory

“I Wonder As I Wander” John Jacob Niles

Copyright 1934 G. Schirmer, 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 #129** “Good Christian Friends,
Rejoice”

* Commission and Blessing

***Threefold Amen**

Amen, Amen, Amen

Music to go forth:

“Carol For Another Christmas“

Henry Mancini and Al Stillman

Copyright 1966,1970 Northridge Music

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

German and Latin, 14th century
Transl. John Mason Neale, 1855; alt.

1. Good Chris-tian friends, re-joice
with heart and soul and voice;
now give heed to what we say:
Je-sus Christ is born to-day;
Ox and ass be-fore him bow,
a-sleep with-in the man-ger now.
Christ is born to-day, Christ is born to-day!

2. Good Chris-tian friends, re-joice
with heart and soul and voice;
now you know of end-less bliss:
Je-sus Christ was born for this!
God has o-pened heav-en's door,
and you are blessed for-ev-er-more.
Christ was born for this, Christ was born for this!

3. Good Chris-tian friends, re-joice
with heart and soul and voice;
now you need not fear the grave:
Je-sus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all
to gain the ev-er-last-ing hall.
Christ was born to save, Christ was born to save!

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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

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!

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