

**St. John's United Church of Christ**  
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**Pastor Rebecca Sausser**

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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 28, 2024**

**10:00am**

**Tower Chimes**

**Janet Cook**

**Music to Gather:**

**“Holy, Holy, Holy!”**

**John Dykes, Arr. Philip Sparke**

**Copyright 2004 Anglo Music Press**

**Ken Mease, Trombone**

## \* **Welcome**

Call to worship based on Psalm 98

One: Sing to God a new song,

**All: for God has done marvelous things!**

One: Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth,

**All: for God is still doing marvelous things!**

One: Break into joyful song!

**All: Sing praises with lyre and melody and trumpets!**

One: Let the seas roar and the floods clap their hands!

**All: For God is coming to judge the world with righteousness.**

One: God is coming to judge the world with equity.

**All: Sing to God a new song!**

**Hymn “How Great Thou Art”**

Verse 1

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder

Consider all the works Thy hands have  
made,  
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,  
Thy pow'r thru-out the universe displayed!

### *Chorus*

*Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to  
Thee;*

*How great Thou art, how great Thou art!*

*Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to  
Thee;*

*How great Thou art, how great Thou art!*

### Verse 2

When thru the woods and forest glades I  
wander

And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees,  
When I look down from lofty mountain  
grandeur

And hear the brook and feel the gentle  
breeze,

## *Chorus*

### Verse 3

And when I think that God, His Son not  
sparing,  
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in –  
That on the cross, my burden gladly  
bearing,  
He bled and died to take away my sin!

## *Chorus*

### Verse 4

When Christ shall come with shout of  
acclamation  
And take me home, what joy shall fill my  
heart!  
Then I shall bow in humble adoration  
And there proclaim, my God, how great  
Thou art!

## *Chorus*

## 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 our glorious God and profess our faith with joy!

**All: Holy God, I praise your blessed name! Every day, in the least expected places, you are calling me and inviting me to be closer to you. Forgive me for the times that I act as though I am the one in charge, and give me the strength to let go of stress and anxiety, and all of the things that separate me from you. Help me to grow nearer my God, to you! Amen.**

Confession Response  Hymn #553, Refrain

**There is a balm in Gilead, to make the wounded whole,**

**There is a balm in Gilead, to heal the sin-sick soul.**

## Assurance of Grace

One: God is always there, ever present in our lives! Even when we aren't aware of God's presence in our lives, God is calling and beckoning us to grow closer in relationship!

**All: "Then Jesus said, 'Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.'"**

-Matthew 11:28

## Response to Words of Assurance

♪ Hymn #487 Verse 4

**Whether taking, whether giving,  
God alone remains forgiving,  
And with one true purpose holy  
to preserve our welfare solely.**

Scriptures

Bill Falla

Genesis 28: 10-22

Psalms 98

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: "Nearer My God to Thee"  
Rev. Becky Sausser

**Hymn #606** "Nearer, My God, to You"  
(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**

## Nearer, My God, to You

606

Sarah Flower Adams, 1841  
Adapt. Thomas H. Troeger

1. Near-er, my God, to you, near-er to you.  
I'll bear the cross as Christ calls me to do  
and pray each day a-new:  
Near-er my God, to you, near-er my God, to you, near-er to you.
2. When I am wan-der-ing as Ja-cob did,  
and in the deep-est night the path is hid,  
my dreams will bring me, too,  
Near-er my God, to you, near-er my God, to you, near-er to you.
3. Let Ja-cob's lad-der fill the sky a-bove,  
and an-gels car-ry down the faith and love  
to keep this goal in view:  
Near-er my God, to you, near-er my God, to you, near-er to you.
4. Then, wak-ing from the night to morn-ing air  
by Beth-el's stone, I'll know you heard my prayer,  
and how my yearn-ing grew:  
Near-er my God, to you, near-er my God, to you, near-er to you.

Gen. 28:10–22; Matt. 16:24



**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 #472, Verse 1  
**Precious Lord, take my hand, Lead me on, let me stand,  
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;  
Through the storm, through the night,  
lead me on to the light:  
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.**

Special Music      Ken Mease, Trombone  
    "Be Thou My Vision" Arr. James Curnow  
    Copyright 2000 Curnow Music Press, Inc.

Announcements

Jeff Rissell

Offering

# Offertory

"Praise the Name of Jesus" Mark Hayes

Copyright 1995 Latter Rain Music

\*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 #490** "I Want Jesus to Go with Me"

\* Commission and Blessing

\***Threefold Amen**

*Amen, Amen, Amen*

Music to go forth:

"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"

Arr. James Curnow

Copyright 2000 Curnow Music Press, Inc.

African-American spiritual; alt.

1. I want Je-sus to go with me;  
I want Je-sus to go with me;  
All a-long my pil-grim jour-ney,  
O I want Je-sus to go with me.
  
2. In my tri-als, O com-fort me;  
In my tri-als, O com-fort me;  
When my heart is al-most break-ing,  
O I want Je-sus to com-fort me.
  
3. When I'm in trou-ble, O stay with me;  
When I'm in trou-ble, O stay with me;  
When my head is bowed in sor-row,  
O I want Je-sus to stay with me.

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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](http://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