

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.**

September 1, 2024

10:00am

Tower Chimes

Janet Cook

Music to Gather:

“My God, How Wonderful Thou Art”

Stephen Gabrielsen

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* **Welcome**

Call to Worship based on How Firm a Foundation

One: Our faith is built on the firm foundation of God's love!

**All: God's word guides and sustains us!
Jesus is our refuge!**

One: In every condition of life, and no matter where we go, God's strength is everlasting!

All: God said, "Fear not, I am with you, be not dismayed, for I will give you aid."

One: God strengthens us and helps us!

All: The rivers of sorrow shall not overflow, for God is with us!

One: God blesses us and loves us, praise God!

All: Praise God! The Lord almighty, God will be with us forever!

Hymn #42 "O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing"

O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

Charles Wesley, 1740; alt.

1. O for a thou-sand tongues to sing
my great Re-deem-er's praise,
The glo-ries ev-er ech-o-ing
the tri-umphs of God's grace!
2. My gra-cious Sav-ior and my God,
as-sist me to pro-claim,
To spread through all the earth a-broad
the hon-ors of your name.
3. Je-sus! the name that calms our fears,
that bids our sor-rows cease
Is mu-sic in the sin-ner's ears,
is life, and health, and peace!
4. Glo-ry to God, and love and praise
be ev-er, ev-er given
By all the saints in ev-ery age,
the church in earth and heaven.

Profession 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 divine Creator and profess our belief!

All: Creator, Son, and Spirit one! Thank you for the promises that you have prayed over me! In you I find my strength, my refuge, and my deliverance. The rivers of worry may seem to rise around me, but you will not let them overflow, and you will deliver me from troubles. You will never forsake me! You have laid a firm foundation of love which I stand upon today. Help me to be a good representative of your love to the world, and let me grow to be more like Christ with each passing day.

Amen!

Confession Response♪

Hymn #170, Verse 1

**Your ways are not our own,
O gracious God most high,
Yet we would follow in your paths
And on your love rely.**

Assurance of Grace

One: When we come into the presence of our Holy God we are filled with the Spirit and blessed beyond belief!

All: “Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; let your cry ring out, and sing praises!” -Psalm 98:4

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.**

Scriptures

Kathy Heckman

Zephaniah 3:14-20 (Page 760)

Ephesians 5:15-21 (Page 950)

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: "God sings over you!"

Rev. Becky Sausser

Hymn #407 "How Firm a 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.)

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

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 #769

**Hear our prayer, O God,
Hear our prayer, O God;
Incline your ear to us,
And grant us your peace.**

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

"I Will Sing of the Mercies"

James H. Fillmore

Copyright 1996 Pilot Point 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 #526** “We Are Marching in the Light of God”

Verse 1: We are marching

Verse 2: We are praying

Verse 3: We are singing

* Commission and Blessing

***Threefold Amen**

Amen, Amen, Amen

Music to go forth:

“O Sing to the Lord” Ellen Coman

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WITNESS

We are march-ing in the light of God,
we are march-ing in the light of God.

We are march-ing in the light of God,
we are march-ing in the light of God.

We are march-ing, Oo,
we are march-ing in the light of God.

We are march-ing, Oo,
we are march-ing in the light of God.

Ps. 89:15

***The Altar flowers are in celebration of
Kathy & Jeff Heckman's 51st Wedding
anniversary.***

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

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

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