

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 29, 2024

11:00am

Tower Chimes

Janet Cook

Music to Gather:

“Now We Pray Unto Thee”

Dietrich Buxtehude

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* **Welcome**

Call to Worship from Psalm 100

One: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth!

All: Serve the Lord with gladness; come into God's presence with singing.

One: Know that the Lord is God.

All: It is God who made us, and we belong to God! We are God's people and the sheep of the Lord's pasture.

One: Enter the Lord's gates with thanksgiving and God's courts with praise. Give thanks to God; Bless God's name!

All: For the Lord is good; God's steadfast love endures forever and God's faithfulness is to all generations.

Hymn #32 "God of the Sparrow, God of the Whale"

God of the Sparrow God of the Whale

Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1983

1. God of the spar-row
God of the whale
God of the swirl-ing stars
How does the crea-ture say Awe
How does the crea-ture say Praise

2. God of the earth-quake
God of the storm
God of the trum-pet blast
How does the crea-ture cry Woe
How does the crea-ture cry Save

3. God of the rain-bow
God of the cross
God of the emp-ty grave
How does the crea-ture say Grace
How does the crea-ture say Thanks

4. God of the hun-gry
God of the sick
God of the prod-i-gal
How does the crea-ture say Care
How does the crea-ture say Life

Profession of Faith

One: No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here! Let us gather together in song and shout of celebration to profess our need for God in our lives!

All: Holy God, Creator of the universe and Lord of all time and space, I praise you this day. Though I am but one person on a planet of nearly eight billion, you know me, and love me, and sing over me with a song of loud praise. Grant me the strength to carry your song of love in my heart. Bless me with bravery to sing of your love to the world. Thank you, God, that I am fearfully and wonderfully made in your image. Amen.

Confession Response

♪ Hymn #251, Verse 2

You are the source of mercy and of grace, Reigning omnipotent in every place; So rule in us and our whole being sway. Shine on us with the light of your pure day.

Assurance of Grace

One: Today we come before God with humble hearts to express our gratitude and joy for God's steadfast love for us!

All: "So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him." - 1 John 4:16

Response to Words of Assurance

Hymn#275, Verse 4

**To you, great One in Three,
Eternal praises be forevermore.
Your sovereign majesty may we in glory
see,
And to eternity love and adore.**

Mission Moment

Bill Falla

Scriptures

Felicia Knerr

Psalm 66 (Page 464-465)

Psalm 100 (Page 484)

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

Mental
Health
is a
Universal
Human
Right



*"God will not falter or lose heart until
justice prevails throughout the earth."*

(Leviticus 14:34)

A World with Mental Health Justice for all is God's Dream for Us

This year's Neighbors in Need theme **"Mental Health Justice for All: Mental Health is a Universal Human Right"** highlights our God-given right to mental health.

Everyone is created in God's image, and everybody should receive quality mental health care.

In 2015, the General Synod of the United Church of Christ passed a resolution to become **WISE** (Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive, and Engaged) for mental health.

A just world for all is a world where the human rights and well-being of people with mental health challenges are respected, no matter who you are or where you are in life's mental health journey.

We believe we all have a God-given right to the following to support mental health:

- 1.** *The right to be protected from known harms to mental health; a universal right which applies to the entire population, but especially the vulnerable including children and oppressed peoples.*
- 2.** *The right to access quality and affordable care when a person is experiencing mental health challenges.*
- 3.** *The right to freedom and dignity, including the right of choice for mental health care.*

Visit www.mhn-ucc.org to learn more about these mental health principles.

The 2024 Neighbors in Need theme



“Mental Health Justice for All:

Mental Health is a Universal Human Right”

provides us with an opportunity to re-ignite our efforts to build a more justice world for all, dismantling the shame and stigma of mental health challenges.

We invite you to be part of God’s work of mental health justice, join the WISE movement for mental health in your congregation, and support the Neighbors in Need offering.



October 10th is World Mental Health Day.

For more information visit:

<https://wmhdofficial.com/>

In a Just World, Mental Health is a Universal Human Right!

Please join us in supporting the

2024 Neighbors in Need Special Mission Offering.



Two-thirds of your donations to NIN support advocacy, programming, and grants. One-third of your generous gifts directly support CAIM.

www.ucc.org/nin.



Sermon: "Creation Sings!"

Rev. Becky Sausser

Hymn #195 "The Old Rugged Cross"

(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.

On a Hill Far Away
(The Old Rugged Cross)

George Bennard, 1913; alt.

1. On a hill far a-way stood an old rug-ged cross,
the em-blem of suf-fering and shame;
And I love that old cross where the dear-est and best
for a world of lost sin-ners was slain.

Refrain:

So I'll cher-ish the old rug-ged cross,
till my tro-phies at last I lay down;
I will cling to the old rug-ged cross,
and ex-change it some-day for a crown.

2. Oh, that old rug-ged cross, so de-spised by the world,
has won-drous at-trac-tion for me;
For the dear Lamb of God left the glo-ry of heaven
to bear it to cold Cal-va-ry.

Refrain:

3. In that old rug-ged cross, which bore Love so di-vine,
a won-drous beau-ty I see,
For up-on that old cross Je-sus suf-fered and died
to par-don and sanc-ti-fy me.

Refrain:

4. To the old rug-ged cross I will ev-er be true,
its shame and re-proach glad-ly bear;
When God calls me some-day to my home far a-way,
there God's glo-ry for-ev-er I'll share.

Refrain:

Heb. 12:2; James 1:12

Prayer Response 🎵 Hymn #611, Verse 5

**O Day of God, draw near
As at Creation's birth;
Let there be light again,
And let your reign begin on earth.**

Chancel Choir: "Colorful Creator"

Ruth Duck

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Announcements

Jeff Rissell

Offering

Offertory

"Pastorale"

Francois Couperin

Copyright 1965 J. Fischer & Bro.

*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 #561** “When in Our Music God is
Glorified”

* Commission and Blessing

***Threefold Amen**

Amen, Amen, Amen

Music to go forth:

“All Glory, Laud, and Honor”

Georg Friedrich Kaufmann

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***The Altar flowers are from Kathy & Jeff
Heckman in memory Leslie
Bartholomew, who passed away
September 30, 2023***

When in Our Music God Is Glorified

561

Fred Pratt Green, 1972

1. When in our mu-sic God is glo-ri-fied,
and ad-o-ra-tion leaves no room for pride,
It is as though the whole cre-a-tion cried:
Al-le-lu-ia!

2. How of-ten, mak-ing mu-sic, we have found
a new di-men-sion in the world of sound,
As wor-ship moved us to a more pro-found
Al-le-lu-ia!

3. So has the church, in lit-ur-gy and song,
in faith and love, through cen-tu-ries of wrong,
Borne wit-ness to the truth in ev-ery tongue:
Al-le-lu-ia!

4. Let ev-ery in-stru-ment be tuned for praise!
Let all re-joice who have a voice to raise!
And may God give us faith to sing al-ways:
Al-le-lu-ia!

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2 Chron. 5:11-14

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