

**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.**

November 3, 2024

11:00am

Tower Chimes

Sarah & Danny Collier

**Music to Gather: "By All Your
Saints" Robert A. Hobby**

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* **Welcome**

Call to Worship

One: Teach us your ways, O Lord!

Many: Teach us what it means to love one another as you have loved us.

One: Show us your ways, O Lord!

Many: Show us what it means to act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly.

One: Guide us in your ways, O Lord!

Many: Guide us beside the still waters that we may find rest for the journey!

One: Teach us your ways, O Lord!

Many: Teach us to love one another because God is love!

Hymn #299.....“For All the Saints”

For All the Saints

William W. How, 1864; alt.

1. For all the saints who from their la-bors rest,
who to the world their stead-fast faith con-fessed,
your name, O Je-sus, be for-ev-er blessed.
Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!

2. You were their rock, their ref-uge, and their might:
you, Christ, the hope that put their fears to flight;
'mid gloom and doubt, you were their one true light.
Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!

3. Still may your peo-ple, faith-ful, true, and bold,
live as the saints who no-bly fought of old,
and share with them a glo-rious crown of gold.
Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!

4. Ringed by this cloud of wit-ness-es di-vine,
we fee-bly strug-gle, they in glo-ry shine;
yet in your love our faith-ful lives en-twine.
Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!

5. And when the strife is fierce, the war-fare long,
steals on the ear the dis-tant tri-umph song,
then hearts are brave a-gain, and faith grows strong.
Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!

Heb. 12:1

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 the God of love to profess our need for Jesus Christ!

All: Creator, Son, and Spirit One, we praise you today! Today we remember that we are connected, one to another, through your holy love. Today we expressed gratitude for the ones who first taught us what your love looks like. We ask for your grace and guidance as we teach your love to others. Help us to be good stewards of your love and light, and bless us today as we remember our connection to the saints through you. Amen.

Confession Response 🎵 Hymn #507,
Verse 3

**O hope of every contrite heart,
O joy of all the meek,
How kind you are to those apart,
How good to those who seek?**

Assurance of Grace

One: When we come before our Lord to profess our faith, we find hope and love abounding in Jesus Christ!

Many: “May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” -

Romans 15:13

Response to Words of Assurance: Hymn #8, Verse 4

**Praise to the living God, around, within,
above, Beyond the grasp of human
mind, but whom we know as love.**

**In these tumultuous days, so full of
hope and strife, May we bear witness t
the Way, O source and Goal of life.**

Remembering The Saints

William Knauf

Janet Blankowitsch Ciocca

Sherry Ciocca

Elaine Young

Doris Todd

Nancy Zekey

Scriptures

Duquan Stellingburg

Mark 12:28-34

Revelation 5:1-5, 11-14

Congregational Response 🎵 (aka prayer for grace)

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: *"Teach Me Love"*

Rev. Becky Sausser

Hymn #298 "O Savior, for the Saints"
(Note: Ushers will collect "Prayer Cards" during this time. Prayer cards are in the

Richard Mant, 1837; alt.

1. O Sav-ior, for the saints who strove in you to live,
Who fol-lowed you with-out com-plaint, our grate-ful
hymn re-ceive.
2. O Sav-ior, for the saints who strove in you to die,
Who loved and served with-out re-straint, ac-cept our thank-ful cry.
3. They all in life and death, with you, O Christ, in view,
Learned from the Ho-ly Spir-it's breath to suf-fer and to do.
4. For this, your name we bless and hum-bly pray a-new
That we, like them, in ho-li-ness may live and die in you.

Rom. 14:7-9

pews. We invite you to fill one out if you have a joy or prayer request to share.)

Morning Prayer and 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 #292, Verse 4

Breathe on Me, Breath of God, so shall I never die, But live with you the perfect life Of your eternity.

Chancel Choir: "Softly and Tenderly" Arr. by Patti Drennan

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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
Offering

Jeff Rissell

Offertory "Grace" Clay R. Christiansen
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*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 #295 "I Sing a Song of the Saints
of God"**

*** Commission and Blessing**

***Threefold Amen**

Amen, Amen, Amen

Music to go forth: "O God, Our Help in
Ages Past" Benjamin M. Culli Copyright
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I Sing a Song of the Saints of God

295

Lesbia Scott, 1929; alt.

1. I sing a song of the saints of God,
faith-ful their whole lives through,
who brave-ly la-bored, lived, and died
for the God they loved and knew.
And one was doc-tor, and one was a queen,
and an-oth-er a shep-herd in pas-tures green:
they were saints of God, if you know what I mean.
God, help me to be one, too.

2. They loved their God and they lived that love.
It was lov-ing that made them strong.
They did what was right, for Je-sus' sake,
lived just-ly their whole lives long.
And one was a proph-et, and one was a priest,
and an-oth-er was slain by a fierce wild beast:
there is no earth-ly rea-son, none in the least,
why I should-n't be one, too.

3. They lived not on-ly in a-ges past,
there are hun-dreds of thou-sands still.
The world is filled with liv-ing saints
who choose to do God's will.
You can meet them in school, on the road, or at sea,
in a church, in a train, in a shop, or at tea:
for the saints are folk like you and like me,
and I mean to be one, too.

***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
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

Closed on Fridays and Saturdays

