

St. John's United Church of Christ
36 S. Sixth Street, Allentown, PA 18101
Phone 610-433-0146

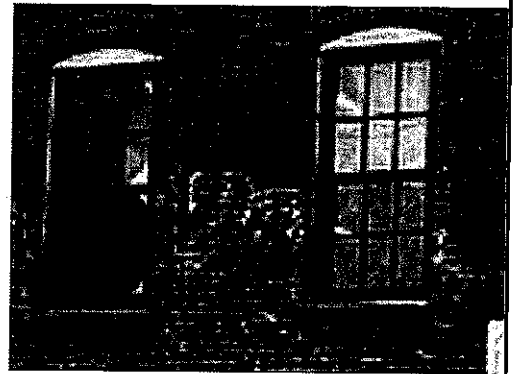
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St Johns UCC Allentown

Personal hearing devices are available from an usher.
***Indicates that people may stand as they are able.**

March 23rd , 2025

11:00am

Tower Chimes

Janet Cook

Music to Gather:

"Christ, the Life of All the Living"

Brian Henkelmann

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*** Welcome**

Call to Worship on Psalm 16

One: Come, bless the Lord, in whom we find our refuge and safety.

All: You are our God; all the good things come from You alone.

One: Come, bless the Lord, who gives us a rich inheritance, and surrounds us with abundance.

All: You are our God; our lives are in your hands.

One: Come, bless the Lord, who guides us on the path to eternal life, whose presence strengthens and sustains us.

All: You are our God; we will not be shaken.

One: Let's worship God together!

All: We worship the Lord, our God! Amen!

Hymn #459 "Come, O Fount of Every Blessing"

Robert Robinson, 1758; alt.

1. Come, O Fount of ev-ery bless-ing,
tune my heart to sing your grace;
streams of mer-cy, nev-er ceas-ing,
call for songs of end-less praise.
Teach me some me-lo-dious son-net,
sung by flam-ing tongues a-bove.
Praise the mount; I'm fixed up-on it,
mount of God's un-fail-ing love.
2. Here I pause in my so-journ-ing,
giv-ing thanks for hav-ing come,
come to trust, at ev-ery turn-ing,
God will guide me safe-ly home.
Je-sus sought me when a strang-er,
wan-dering from the fold of God,
Came to res-cue me from dan-ger,
bless-ed bod-y, pre-cious blood.
3. O to grace how great a debt-or
dai-ly I am drawn a-new!
Let that grace now, like a fet-ter,
bind my wan-dering heart to you.
Prone to wan-der, I can feel it,
wan-der from the love I've known:
Here's my heart, O take and seal it,
seal it for your ver-y own.

Ps. 36:7-9

Profession of Faith

One: No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here! Let us gather today in the presence of our loving God, knowing that we find a life of abundance and blessing in God's grace.

All: Holy Lord, we praise you with our whole beings as we gather today. In your presence we find an abundant life filled with grace and love. It feels so easy to be a Christian when we are joined together in these pews. It can feel more difficult when we leave these doors and try to navigate a world filled with so much need and scarcity. We see dangers and dead ends everywhere we look. Please lend us your eyes, God, so that we might see possibilities and excitement. Lend us your heart that we might share your love with the world. As we move from the scarcity of the world to the abundance found in you, help us to share the possibilities of your kingdom in our families, communities, and world. Amen.

Confession Response 🎵 Hymn #211 Verse 3

**And through these days of penitence,
and through this Passiontide,
Yes, evermore, in life and death,
O Christ, with us abide.**

Assurance of Grace

One: When we come before Jesus and lay our burdens and anxiety down, we find peace, love, and rest for our weary souls.

All: “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.” -Matthew 11:28-30

Response to Words of Assurance

🎵 Hymn #204, Verse 1

**“Take up your cross,” the Savior said,
“if you would my disciple be;
Take up your cross with willing heart
And humbly follow after me.”**

Scriptures

DuQuan Stellingburg

Reading 1: Psalm 63:1-8

(Pages 463-464)

Reading 2: Isaiah 55:1-9

(Page 592)

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: *"Invitation to Abundance"*

Rev. Becky Sausser

Hymn #489 "I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say"

(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.)

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

489

Horatius Bonar, 1846; alt.

1. I heard the voice of Je-sus say, "Come un-to me and rest;
Lay down, O wea-ry one, lay down your head up-on my breast."
2. I came to Je-sus as I was, so wea-ry, worn, and sad,
And there I found a rest-ing place, where Je-sus made me glad!
3. I heard the voice of Je-sus say, "Be-hold, I free-ly give
The liv-ing wa-ter; thirst-y one, draw near, and drink, and live."
4. I came to Je-sus, and I drank of that life-giv-ing stream;
My thirst was quenched, my soul re-vived, and now I am re-deemed.
5. I heard the voice of Je-sus say, "I am this lost world's Light,
Look un-to me; your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright."
6. I looked to Je-sus, and I found my guid-ing Star, my Sun;
And in that light of life I'll go till trav-eling days are done.

Matt. 11:28-30; John 4:7-15; 8:12

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 #508 Verse 5

**O Christ, by whom we come to God,
The Life, the Truth, the Way,
The path of prayer you too have trod:
Christ, teach us how to pray.**

Choir Anthem

“God Is There”

Jimbo Stevens

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Announcements

Jeff Rissell

Offering

Offertory: "Jesus, I Will Ponder Now"

Johann Sebastian Bach

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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 #23

"There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"

* Commission and Blessing

***Threefold Amen**

Amen, Amen, Amen

Music to go forth:

"Sweet the Moments, Rich in Blessing"

Rudolf Moser

Copyright 1956 Concordia Publishing House

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

Frederick William Faber, 1854; alt.

1. There's a wide-ness in God's mer-cy,
like the wide-ness of the sea;
there's a kind-ness in God's jus-tice,
which is more than lib-er-ty.
There's no place where earth-ly sor-rows
are more felt than in God's heaven;
there's no place where earth-ly fail-ings
have such kind-ly judg-ment given.

2. For the love of God is broad-er
than the mea-sures of our minds;
and the heart of the E-ter-nal
is most won-der-ful-ly kind.
If our love were but more faith-ful,
we would glad-ly trust God's word;
and our lives would show thanks-giv-ing
for the good-ness of our God.

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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
Omayra Santiago..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

Closed on Fridays and Saturdays

**If you are interested in receiving our weekly email,
please contact the church office.**

