

St. John's United Church of Christ
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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 16th , 2025

11:00am

Tower Chimes

Janet Cook

Music to Gather:

“Meditation on What Wondrous Love is This”

Philip Hayden

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Ann Kunkel, Harp

* **Welcome**

Call to Worship

One: Trust in the Lord Your God with all your heart, and soul, and strength!

All: We lean not on our own understandings, but trust in every word of God.

One: We praise God, for we know that God is good!

All: God's mercies never fail us! We are renewed and restored!

One: Let us come before the Lord today to proclaim our joy and our love!

All: We love the Lord with all our hearts and souls and strength!

Hymn #208..... "God Loved the World"

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 God to profess our belief in the promises we received through God's holy word!

God Loved the World

Heiliges Lippen und Herzens Opfer, Stettin, 1778
Transl. August Crull, 1845; alt.

1. God loved the world, and lov-ing gave
a won-drous gift, the lost to save,
That all who would in Christ be-lieve
should ev-er-last-ing life re-ceive.

2. Christ Je-sus is the ground of faith,
who was made flesh and suf-fered death;
All who con-fide in Christ a-lone
are built on this chief cor-ner-stone.

3. If you are sick, if death is near,
this truth your trou-bled heart can cheer;
Christ Je-sus saves us all from death;
that is the firm-est ground of faith.

4. Be of good cheer, for God in Christ
for-gives the flock, by sin en-ticed,
And jus-ti-fied by Je-sus' blood
your bap-tism grants the high-est good.

John 3:16–17

All: Creator, Son, and Spirit one, we gather together in this beloved community to praise your holy name! On Ash Wednesday we remembered that we were made from ash and to ash we would return if it were not for your grace and salvation. Isaiah said that everything passes away like the blades of grass in the wind, but You, Oh God, are eternal. In you we find our eternity, in you we find salvation, in you we are made whole. Help us to leave a legacy of love and grace so that future generations may come to know you more. 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 our Lord and profess our unquenchable thirst for God's presence, we find abundance and grace.

All: "Anyone who believes in Jesus may come and drink! For the Scriptures declare, 'Rivers of living water will flow from his heart.'" -John 7:38

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

Nancy Kramer-Moyer

Reading 1: Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18(Pages 10-11)

Reading 2: Philippians 3:17-4:1 (Pages 954)

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: *"Leaving a Legacy"*

Rev. Becky Sausser

Hymn #451 "Now be my Vision"

(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

Ancient Irish text, c. 8th century; transl. Mary E. Byrne, 1905
Versified by Eleanor H. Hull, 1912; adapt.

1. Be now my vi-sion, O God of my heart;
noth-ing sur-pass-es the love you im-part—
You my best thought, by day or by night,
wak-ing or sleep-ing, your pres-ence my light.

2. Be now my wis-dom, and be my true word;
ev-er with-in me, my soul is as-sured;
Moth-er and Fa-ther, you are both to me,
now and for-ev-er your child I will be.

3. Rich-es I need not, nor life's emp-ty praise,
you, my in-her-i-tance, now and al-ways;
You and you on-ly are first in my heart,
great God, my trea-sure, may we nev-er part.

4. Sov-ereign of heav-en, my vic-to-ry won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heav-en's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, what-ev-er be-fall,
still be my vi-sion, O Rul-er of all.

**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.**

Special Music

“What Wondrous Love is This”

Traditional Folk Song, arr. Ann Kunkel

Rev. Rebecca Sauser, soloist

Ann Kunkel, Harp

Announcements

Jeff Rissell

Offering

Offertory:

“Whate’er My God Ordains is Right”

Johann Pachelbel

*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 #212

“O Jesus Christ, My Grateful Hymns”

* Commission and Blessing

***Threefold Amen**

Amen, Amen, Amen

Music to go forth:

“My Faith Looks Up to Thee”

Karl Osterland

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Bradford Gray Webster, 1954; alt.

1. O Je-sus Christ, may grate-ful hymns be ris-ing,
in ev-ery cit-y for your love and care;
In-spire our wor-ship, grant the glad sur-pris-ing
that your blessed Spir-it rous-es ev-ery-where.

2. Grant us new cour-age, nev-er proud, but hum-ble,
strong in your strength to ven-ture and to dare;
To lift the fall-en, guide the ones who stum-ble,
seek out the lone-ly and God's mer-cy share.

3. Show us your Spir-it, brood-ing o'er each cit-y,
as you once wept a-bove Je-ru-sa-lem,
Seek-ing to gath-er all in love and pit-y,
and heal-ing those who touch your gar-ment's hem.

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Matt. 23:37-39; Luke 13:34-35

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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.**

