

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 28, 2025

11:00am

Tower Chimes

Janet Cook

Music to Gather:

**Prelude on "Balm in Gilead" Fred B.
Binckes**

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***Welcome**

Call to Worship inspired by Psalm 91

One: You who find your shelter and your comfort in God, you will say,

All: “You are my refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I trust.”

One: God will deliver you from the snare of the hunter and from the deadly pestilence;

All: God will pull me under his wings to offer refuge, as a mother hen protects her chicks.

One: God’s faithfulness is a shield and defense. You will not fear the terror of the night or the arrow that flies by day

All: Because I have made the LORD my refuge, the Most High my dwelling place, no evil shall befall me.

One: For God will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways.

All: Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

Hymn #471.....“ What a Covenant”

Profession of Faith

One: No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey you are welcome here! Today as we gather in the presence of Jesus Christ, we find that his grace and blessing is already before us. Let us profess the places where we are still learning and growing.

All: Precious Lord, we gather together in this holy place to profess that we are carrying heavy burdens. Some of us carry the heavy burdens of anxiety and fear. Some of us carry the burdens of grief and loss. Even though we know that you are always with us, we move through seasons of our lives where we feel distant from you. Bless us in these dark nights of the soul. Heal us with the

Elisha A. Hoffman, 1887; alt.

1. What a cov-e-nant, what a joy di-vine,
lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms.
What a bless-ed-ness, what a peace is mine,
lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms.

Refrain:

Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all a-larms;
lean-ing, lean-ing, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms.

2. Oh, how sweet to walk in this pil-grim way,
lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms.
Oh, how bright the path grows from day to day,
lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms.

Refrain:

3. What have I to dread, what have I to fear,
lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms?
I have bless-ed peace with my Sav-ior near,
lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms.

Refrain:

Deut. 33:27

power of your love and grace. Help us learn to lean safely and secure in your everlasting arms. Amen.

Confession Response 🎵 Hymn #469,
Verse 2

**O grant us light that we may find
Where error lurks in human lore,
And turn to you our seeking minds,
And love you holy Word the more.**

Assurance of Grace

One: Beloved community, even when we walk through the toughest seasons of our lives, Jesus is with us. Christ walks besides us and carries our burdens.

**All: "Though our sorrow may last for the night, our joy comes with the morning."
-Psalm 30:5**

Response to Words of Assurance:

♪ Hymn #474, v1

I'm so glad, Jesus lifted me,

I'm so glad, Jesus lifted me,

I'm so glad, Jesus lifted me,

Singing glory, hallelujah, Jesus lifted me.

Service of Baptism

Rev: I would like to invite the parents and godparents of Mia London Negron forward at this time for the sacrament of Baptism!

Rev: They were bringing children to Jesus that Jesus might touch them; and the disciples rebuked them. But when Jesus saw it, Jesus was indignant, and said, the children come to me, do not hinder them; for to such belongs the realm of God. Truly I say to you, whoever does not receive the realm of God like a child

shall not enter it.” And Jesus took them in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands upon them.

The sacrament of baptism is an outward and visible sign of the grace of God. Inasmuch as the promise of the gospel is not only to us but also to our children, baptism with water and the Holy Spirit is the mark of their acceptance into the care of Christ’s church, the sign and seal of their participation in God’s forgiveness, and the beginning of their growth into full Christian faith and discipleship.

Rev: Do you desire to have your child baptized into the faith and family of Jesus Christ?

Parents: We do

Rev: Will you encourage this child to renounce the powers of evil and to receive the freedom of new life in Christ?

Parents: We will, with the help of God.



Rev: Will you teach them, that they may be led to profess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior?

Parents: We will, with the help of God.

Rev: Do you promise, by the grace of God, to be Christ's disciple, to follow in the way of our Savior, to resist oppression and evil, to show love and justice, and to witness to the world and word of Jesus Christ as best you are able?

Parents: We do, with the help of God.

(To the Congregation)

Rev: Jesus Christ calls us to make disciples of all the nations and to offer them the gift of grace and baptism. Do you, who witness and celebrate this sacrament, promise your love, support, and care to the one who is to be baptized as they live and grow in Christ?

Congregation: We promise our love and support, and care.

(The parents and child step forward at this time for the act of Baptism)

Rev: Mia London Negron , I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen!

Rev: The Holy Spirit be upon you Mia child of God, disciple of Christ, member of the church!

Mia London Negron born on April 27, 2019

Parents: Manuel Negron and Michelle Figueroa

Godparents: Edwin Santiago Lopez, Mervinson Lopez

Siblings: Egypt Jahnae Wagner, Mia Brielle Negron

Grandparents: Adela Figueroa, Aurea Negron

Scriptures

Becky Bronfenbrenner

Reading 1: Deuteronomy 33:24-29

(page 171)

Reading 2: John 14:1-7

(page 873)

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: "Leaning on the Everlasting
Arms"

Rev. Becky Sausser

**Hymn #476... "My Life Flows on in
Endless Song"**

(Note: Ushers will collect "Prayer Cards" during this time. Prayer cards are in the pews.)

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 #465 Verse 4

**Bless me in every task I face,
Begun, continued, done for you;
Fulfill your will in all I do,
And grant me your abundant grace.**

My Life Flows on in Endless Song

476

(How Can I Keep from Singing)

Anon. in *Bright Jewels for the Sunday School*,
ed. Robert Lowry, 1869; alt.
St. 3, Doris Plenn, c. 1957

1. My life flows on in end-less song; a-bove earth's lam-en-ta-tion,
I hear the sweet, though far-off hymn that hails a new cre-a-tion.
Through all the tu-mult and the strife, I hear the mu-sic ring-ing;
It finds an ech-o in my soul—how can I keep from sing-ing?

2. What though my joys and com-forts die? My Sav-ior still is liv-ing.
What though the shad-ows gath-er 'round? A new song Christ is
giv-ing.
No storm can shake my in-most calm, while to that Rock I'm
cling-ing;
Since Love com-mands both heaven and earth, how can I keep from
sing-ing?

3. When ty-rants trem-ble, sick with fear, and hear their death knells
ring-ing;
When friends re-joice both far and near, how can I keep from
sing-ing?
In pris-on cell and dun-geon vile our thoughts to them are wing-ing;
When friends by shame are un-de-filed, how can I keep from
sing-ing?

4. I lift my eyes; the cloud grows thin; I see the blue a-bove it;
And day by day this path-way smooths, since first I learned to
love it.

Chancel Choir “*Cantemos!*” Dave and
Jean Perry

Copyright 2017 BLP Choral Music

Announcements

Jeff Rissell

Offering

Offertory "The Lord's Prayer" J. S. Bach
Copyright 1955 Lorenz Publishing Co.

* 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 #475.....“ God’s Eye Is on the Sparrow”**

* Commission and Blessing

* **Threefold Amen**

Amen, Amen, Amen

Music to Go Forth

“O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing”

Dave Cherwien

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***The Altar flowers are in honor of our
Music Director Lois Mease, placed by
Jim and Becky Bronfenbrenner.***

Special Announcements/Reminders:

You can give ELECTRONICALLY from your
mobile device using the VancoMobile

Civilla D. Martin, c. 1905; alt.

1. Why should I feel dis-cour-aged, why should the shad-ows come,
Why should my heart be lone-ly and long for heaven and home,
When God is ev-er my por-tion? My con-stant friend will be:
God's eye is on the spar-row, and I know God watch-es me;
God's eye is on the spar-row, and I know God watch-es me.
I sing because I'm hap-py, I sing be-cause I'm free,
God's eye is on the spar-row, and I know God watch-es me.

2. "Let not your heart be trou-bled," Christ's ten-der word I hear,
And rest-ing on God's good-ness, I lose my doubts and fears;
Though by the path God leads me but one step I may see:
God's eye is on the spar-row, and I know God watch-es me;
God's eye is on the spar-row, and I know God watch-es me.
I sing because I'm hap-py, I sing be-cause I'm free,
God's eye is on the spar-row, and I know God watch-es me.

3. When-ev-er I am tempt-ed, when-ev-er clouds a-rise,
When song gives place to sigh-ing, when hope with-in me dies,
I then draw close to my Sav-ior, from care I am set free:
God's eye is on the spar-row, and I know God watch-es me;
God's eye is on the spar-row, and I know God watch-es me.
I sing because I'm hap-py, I sing be-cause I'm free,
God's eye is on the spar-row, and I know God watch-es me.

Matt. 10:26-30; Luke 12:4-7

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