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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**

October 26, 2025

11:00am

Tower Chimes

Janet Cook

**Music to Gather: "A Mighty Fortress Is Our
God" Thomas Chesterton**

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***Welcome**

Call to Worship after Psalm 46

One: God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble

Many: Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in in the heart of the sea; though the waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

One: Be still and know that I am your God who is exalted among the nations and on the earth.

Many: The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge!

Hymn #407..... “How Firm a Foundation”

Profession of Faith

One: No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here! Let us then gather together to confess our shortcomings, confident of God's mercy for us in Jesus Christ.

How Firm a Foundation

“K” in John Rippon’s *Selection of Hymns*, 1787; alt.

1. How firm a foun-da-tion for you has been laid,
by God in the Word, in the sac-ri-fice paid!
What more can God say than to you has been said,
to you, who for ref-uge to Je-sus have fled?
2. “Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dis-mayed,
for I am your God, I will still give you aid;
I’ll strength-en you, help you, and cause you to stand
up-held by my gra-cious, om-ni-po-tent hand.”
3. “When through the deep wa-ters I call you to go,
the riv-ers of woe shall not o-ver you flow;
For I will be with you, your trou-bles to bless,
de-liv-er-ing you from your deep-est dis-tress.”
4. “When through fi-ery tri-als your path-way shall lie,
my grace all-suf-fi-cient shall be your sup-ply;
the flame shall not hurt you; for I have de-signed
your soul to make pure just as gold is re-fined.”
5. “The soul that on Je-sus has leaned for re-pose,
I will not, I will not de-sert to its foes;
That soul, though all hell should en-deav-or to shake,
I’ll nev-er, no nev-er, no nev-er for-sake!”

Isa. 43:2–5; 2 Tim. 2:19; Heb. 13:5

All: God of our forebearers, in the past you have raised up brave and able servants to guide and reform your church through tumultuous times. We find ourselves in such times today. When faced with these challenges, we must confess that too often we seek the quick and easy way, not the true path of reform found in your Word. Forgive us and instill in our hearts the will of Jesus that seeks always to establish your realm here on earth. Might we be not merely hearers but also doers of your Word. Amen (after The Worship book)

Confession Response 🎵 Hymn #410, V 2

**Only be still, and wait God's pleasure
In cheerful hope, with heart content,
Trusting that grace which knows no
measure**

**Will be unbounded Love be sent;
Nor doubt our inmost wants are clear**

To One who holds us always near.

Assurance of Grace

One: Believe in the Word of God that in Christ we are forgiven, in him we are made whole

All: By that Word, the righteousness of God is revealed through faith for faith, as it is written, “The one who is righteous will live by faith.” (Rom 1:17)

Response to Words of Assurance: 🎵 Hymn #23, verse 2

For the love of God is broader than the measures of our minds; And the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind. If our love were but more faithful, we would gladly trust God’s word, And our lives would show thanksgiving for the goodness of our God.

Scriptures

Danny Collier

Reading: 1 Peter 3: 8-22 (pages 988-989)

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: "The Reformation: A Never-ending Journey"
Rev. Dr. Bill Falla

Hymn #315..... "O Word of God Incarnate"

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

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

O Word of God Incarnate

William W. How, 1867; alt.

1. O Word of God in-car-nate,
O Wis-dom from on high,
O Truth un-changed, un-chang-ing,
O Light of cloud-ed sky:
We praise you for the ra-diance
that from the hal-low-ed page,
a lan-tern to our foot-steps,
shines on from age to age.
2. O God, we hold this trea-sure
from you, its source di-vine,
a light that to all a-ges
through-out the earth will shine;
It is the chart and com-pass
that all life's voy-age through,
'mid mists and rocks and tem-pest,
still guides, O God, to you.
3. O make your church, dear Sav-ior,
a lamp of pur-est gold,
to bear be-fore all peo-ple
your true light as of old!
O teach your wan-dering pil-grims
by this their path to trace,
till, doubt and striv-ing end-ed,
they meet you face to face.

Ps. 119:105

from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Prayer Response 🎵 Hymn #508 Verse 2

**Prayer is the simplest form of speech
That infant lips can try;
Prayer, the sublimest strains that reach
The Majesty so nigh.**

Chancel Choir “Walking in Faith with Our
Lord!” Don Besig

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Announcements Jeff Rissell

Offering

Offertory “Christ, the Cornerstone”

Benton Price

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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 #439.....“ A Mighty Fortress Is
Our God”**

*** Commission and Blessing**

*** Threefold Amen**

Amen, Amen, Amen

Music to Go Forth “Built on a Rock”

David Cherwien

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A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

439

Martin Luther, c. 1529

Transl. Frederick H. Hedge, 1853; adapt. Ruth Duck, 1981

1. A might-y for-tress is our God,
a bul-wark nev-er fail-ing,
Our pres-ent help a-mid the flood
of mor-tal ills pre-vail-ing.
For still our an-cient foe
does seek to work us woe
with craft and pow-er great,
and armed with cru-el hate,
on earth with-out an e-qual.
2. Did we in our own strength con-fide,
our striv-ing would be los-ing,
But there is one who takes our side,
the One of God's own choos-ing.
You ask who that may be?
Christ Je-sus sets us free!
With might-y power to save,
vic-to-rious o'er the grave,
Christ will pre-vail tri-um-phant.
3. And though this world with dev-ils filled
should threat-en to un-do us,
We will not fear for God has willed
the truth to tri-umph through us.

The Altar flowers are in memory of Mr. & Mrs. Paul Saylor Sr. and in memory of Bernard Lackner and Bernice Bramich.

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