

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**

November 23, 2025

11:00am

Tower Chimes

Janet Cook

Music to Gather: “Lead on, O King Eternal!”

Michael Helman

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Welcome

***Call to Worship based on Psalm 104**

One: Around the world this day, the universal church celebrates the *"The Reign of Christ."*

All: Christ Jesus was a friend to the poor, the meek and the merciful,

One: We shout for joy! For Jesus has been enthroned above all authority and power in this world and in the world that is to come.

All: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth, serve the Lord with gladness come into his presence with singing.

One: Jesus was there in the beginning and was the Word and the word was with God!

All: Enter his gates with thanksgiving, come into his courts with praise. Amen and Amen!

Hymn #303 "Rejoice, Give Thanks and Sing"

One: No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey you are welcome here! Today we come into the holy presence of the Lord with

Charles Wesley, 1746; alt.

1. Re-joyce, give thanks and sing;
your Sov-ereign God a-dore!
For Christ has robbed death's sting
and tri-umphs ev-er-more.
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice!
Re-joyce, a-gain I say, re-joyce.
2. Our Sav-ior Je-sus reigns,
the God of truth and love;
The Lamb who purged our stains
is crowned with power a-bove.
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice!
Re-joyce, a-gain I say, re-joyce.
3. Christ Je-sus can-not fail
to rule both earth and heaven;
The keys of death and hell
are to the Sav-ior given.
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice!
Re-joyce, a-gain I say, re-joyce.
4. Re-joyce in glo-rious hope,
for Christ the Judge shall come,
And take the faith-ful up
to their e-ter-nal home.
We soon shall hear a heaven-ly voice
a-bove the trum-pet's sound, "Re-joyce!"

Phil. 4:4; Rev. 3:7; 19:6-7

joyful hearts. Let us profess our unending need for Jesus in our lives!

**All: Holy God, you make all things new!
Here we stand at the end of another year,
with the leaves falling and dying, and the
animals retreating to their burrows. It can
feel depressing to us as the days sunlight
grow shorter; but then we remember that
you make all things new! In the same way
that you will renew the earth in springtime
with the sprouting of wonderful greens, you
renew us! Thank you God for your love, help
us to be good stewards of creation and of
one another. Amen.**

Confession Response 🎵 Hymn #43, Verse 2

**Breathe, O breathe your loving Spirit
Into every troubled breast;
Let us all in you inherit,
Let us find your promised rest;
Take away our love of sinning;
Alpha and Omega be;**

**End of faith, as its beginning,
Set our hearts at liberty.**

Words of Reassurance

One: Beloved, even when we lose heart, we must remember that God is always with us. The love of Jesus Christ goes before us and surrounds us.

All: “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new”
2 Corinthians 5:17

Response to Words of Assurance: 🎵 Hymn #305, v2

**God rules from on high, almighty to save,
And still God is nigh, whose presence we have.**

**The great congregation God’s triumphs
shall praise,
Ascribing salvation to Jesus always.**

Scriptures

Felicia Knerr

Reading 1:

Luke 23:33-43

Reading 2:

Colossians 1:11-20

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: "Christ the King"

Rev. Rebecca Sausser

Hymn #300..... "Jesus Shall Reign"

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

Isaac Watts, 1719; alt.

1. Je-sus shall reign wher-e'er the sun
does its suc-ces-sive jour-neys run;
God's realm shall stretch from shore to shore
till moons shall wax and wane no more.
2. Through Christ shall end-less prayer be made,
borne by the Spir-it's cease-less aid;
Like sweet per-fume new hymns shall rise
with ev-ery morn-ing sac-ri-fice.
3. Peo-ple and realms of ev-ery tongue
dwell on God's love with sweet-est song,
And in-fant voic-es shall pro-claim
their ear-liest prayers in Je-sus' name.
4. Bless-ings a-bound where-e'er Christ reigns:
the pris-oners leap to lose their chains,
The wea-ry find e-ter-nal rest,
and all who suf-fer want are blessed.
5. Let ev-ery crea-ture rise and bring
trib-utes of praise for all to sing;
An-gels de-scend with songs a-gain,
and earth re-peat the loud a-men.

Ps. 72; Rev. 1:4b-8

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 #510 Verse 4

**Grant us courage to proclaim you;
Savior of our lives we name you!
May our actions never shame you;
God of mercy, hear us.**

Chancel Choir "O Lord, Our Lord, How
Excellent Thy Name." Joseph M. Martin

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Announcements

Jeff Rissell

Offering

Offertory “Fugue” Dietrich Buxtehude
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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 #76 “Sent Forth by God’s Blessing”**

* Commission and Blessing

* **Threefold Amen**

Amen, Amen, Amen

Music to Go Forth:

“Praise the Almighty!” Robert J. Powell

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Omer Westendorf, 1964

1. Sent forth by God's bless-ing,
our true faith con-fess-ing,
the peo-ple of God from this dwell-ing take leave.
The ser-vice is end-ed,
O now be ex-tend-ed
the fruits of our wor-ship in all who be-lieve.
The seed of the teach-ing,
re-cep-tive hearts reach-ing,
shall blos-som in ac-tion for God and for all.
God's grace did in-vite us,
and love shall u-nite us
to work for God's realm and to an-swer the call.
2. With praise and thanks-giv-ing
to God ev-er liv-ing,
the tasks of our ev-ery-day life we will face.
Our faith ev-er shar-ing,
in love ev-er car-ing,
em-brac-ing God's chil-dren of each tribe and race.
With your grace you feed us,
with your light now lead us,
u-nite us as one in this life that we share.
Then may all the liv-ing
with praise and thanks-giv-ing
give hon-or to Christ and that name which we bear.

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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

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