

Call to worship

One: "This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it." (Psalm 118)

All: "My lips will shout for joy when I sing praises to you; my soul shouts for joy! (Psalm 71:23)

One: The Lord your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save! God will rejoice over you with gladness.

All: "Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. (Romans 12:12)

One: Let us gather together with shouts of praise as we await the joy of Christmas morning!

All: "Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit" (Psalm 51:12)

Hymn #116... "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" v. 1, 2, 6 & 7"

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum, 1710

Based on ancient antiphons from Advent Vespers

Transl. John Mason Neale, 1851, and others; alt.

St. 2, 7, transl. Henry Sloane Coffin, 1916; alt.

1. O come, O come, Em-man-u-el,
and ran-som cap-tive Is-ra-el
That mourns in lone-ly ex-ile here,
un-til the Child of God ap-pear.
Re-joice! Re-joice! Em-man-u-el
shall come to you, O Is-ra-el!
2. O come, O Wis-dom from on high,
and or-der all things far and nigh;
To us the path of knowl-edge show,
and help us in that way to go.
Re-joice! Re-joice! Em-man-u-el
shall come to you, O Is-ra-el!
3. O come, O come, O A-do-nai,
who came to all on Si-nai high,
And from its peak a sin-gle law
pro-claimed in maj-es-ty and awe.
Re-joice! Re-joice! Em-man-u-el
shall come to you, O Is-ra-el!

4. O come, O shoot of Jes-se, free
your own from Sa-tan's tyr-an-ny,
From depths of hell your peo-ple save,
and give them vic-tory o'er the grave.
Re-joice! Re-joice! Em-man-u-el
shall come to you, O Is-ra-el!
5. O come, O Key of Da-vid, come,
and o-pen wide your heav-en-ly home;
Make safe the path to end-less day,
to hell's de-struc-tion close the way.
Re-joice! Re-joice! Em-man-u-el
shall come to you, O Is-ra-el!
6. O come, O Day-spring, come and cheer
our spir-its by your ad-vent here;
Love stir with-in the womb of night,
and death's own shad-ows put to flight.
Re-joice! Re-joice! Em-man-u-el
shall come to you, O Is-ra-el!
7. O come, De-sire of Na-tions, bind
all peo-ples in one heart and mind;
Make en-vy, strife, and quar-rels cease;
fill the whole world with heav-en's peace.
Re-joice! Re-joice! Em-man-u-el
shall come to you, O Is-ra-el!

Isa. 11:1–12; Exod. 19–20:17

Profession of Faith

One: No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey you are welcome here! Today we celebrate the third Sunday of Advent and contemplate the joy found in Christ Jesus!

All: Fairest Lord Jesus, we revel in the joy of your birth! We are filled with delight because you saw fit to come to earth to share love, joy, and salvation! Help us to be representatives of love and joy throughout the earth. There are so many in need of hope, peace, and joy; grant us your strength to carry these things into our communities. Amen.

Profession Response Hymn #133, Verse 4

**O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us,
we pray;**

**Cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us
today.**

**We hear the Christmas angels the great
glad tidings tell;**

O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

Words of Reassurance

One: Beloved community, remember this truth. Joy appears over 200 times in our Bible; we are called to lead lives of joy, and to remember that even in the most challenging of times, joy will come with the morning.

All: “For though the sorrow may last for the night, joy comes with the morning.” (Psalm 30:5)

Response to Words of Assurance: 🎵 Hymn #125, Refrain

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath- Joy

The Edwards Family

Today we celebrate the third Sunday in Advent and light the candle of joy! We learned in the first week that hope was believing in the promises of what God says, today we see that

joy is the experience of the promise fulfilled! In the Psalms we see shouts of joy and singing for the amazing things the Lord has done! Today we celebrate the joy of the coming of the Lord!

One: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.

All: Serve the Lord with gladness; come into God's presence with singing.

One: Know that the Lord is God. It is God who made us, and we are the Lord's. We are God's people and the sheep of God's pasture.

All: Enter the Lord's gates with thanksgiving and the courts with praise.

One: Bless the Lord!

All: For the Lord is good; God's steadfast love endures forever and God's faithfulness to all generations.

**The candle of joy reminds us to sing,
For God is at work to do a new thing.
The proud will be humbled; the lowly will rise.**

God's kingdom is one of delight and surprise.

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Mission Moment

Bill Falla

Scriptures

Judi Guhl

Reading 1: James 5:7-10 (Page 985)

Reading 2: Luke 1:26-38 (826-827)

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 Message

Sermon: Joy

Rev. Becky Sausser

Hymn #122... "Come, O Long-Expected Jesus"

Come, O Long-Expected Jesus

Charles Wesley, 1744; alt.

1. Come, O long-ex-pect-ed Je-sus,
born to set all peo-ple free;
From our fears and sins re-lease us;
grant us your true lib-er-ty.
2. Is-rael's strength and con-so-la-tion,
hope to all the earth im-part;
Dear de-sire of ev-ery na-tion,
en-ter ev-ery long-ing heart.
3. Born all peo-ple to de-liv-er,
born a child, you came to reign!
Born to rule on earth for-ev-er,
come, be known to us a-gain.
4. By your own e-ter-nal Spir-it,
come to claim us as your own;
By your all-suf-fi-cient mer-it,
let us share your cross and crown.

(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 #124, Verse 3

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay

Close by me forever and love me, I pray.

Bless all the dear children in your tender care,

And fit us for heaven to live with you there.

Chancel Choir “Come to Us, Lord Jesus”

Hal H. Hopson

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Announcements

Jeff Rissell

Offering

Offertory “Magnificat”

Jean

Francois Dandrieu

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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 #117..... “Lift Up Your Heads, O
Mighty Gates”**

* Commission and Blessing

* **Refrain #161** *Amen, Amen*

Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates

Georg Weissel, 1641

Transl. Catherine Winkworth, 1865; alt.

1. Lift up your heads, O might-y gates;
be-hold the glo-rious Rul-er waits!
The Sov-ereign One is draw-ing near;
the Sav-ior of the world is here.
2. Fling wide the por-tals of your heart;
make it a tem-ple, set a-part
From earth-ly use for heaven's em-ploy,
a-dorned with prayer and love and joy.
3. Re-deem-er, come! I o-pen wide
my heart to you; here, Christ, a-bide!
Let me your in-ner pres-ence feel;
your grace and love in me re-veal.
4. So come, my Sov-ereign; en-ter in!
Let new and no-bler life be-gin;
Your Ho-ly Spir-it guide us on,
un-til the glo-rious crown be won.

Ps. 24:7-10

Music to Go Forth: "From Heaven Above, Ye Angels All"
Rudolf Moser

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***The Altar flowers* are in memory of our
parents, Isabella and Frederick Kramer and
Alice and Douglas Moyer, given by Nancy
and Allan Kramer-Moyer.**

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