

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**

December 21, 2025

11:00am

Tower Chimes

Janet Cook

Music to Gather

“Christmas Meditation”

Murray C. Bradshaw

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Welcome

Call to worship based on Philippians 2

One: Gather around you many nations! Come to celebrate Jesus Christ, the son of God!

All: At the name of Jesus, every knee shall bend in heaven and on earth.

One: Every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is the Lord!

All: Praise our triune God, Creator, Son and Spirit One!

One: We are all gathered together as one humanity and one family.

All: May hope, joy, love, and peace be forever more!

Hymn #140..... “Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light”

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 fourth Sunday of Advent and remember God's love for us!

Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light

140

St. 1, Johann Rist, 1641

Transl. John Troutbeck, c. 1885; alt.

St. 2, Fred Pratt Green, 1986

1. Break forth, O beau-teous heaven-ly light,
and ush-er in the morn-ing;
O shep-herds, shud-der not in fright,
but hear the an-gel's warn-ing.
“This child, now weak in in-fan-cy,
our con-fi-dence and joy shall be,
the power of Sa-tan break-ing,
our peace e-ter-nal mak-ing.”
2. Come, dear-est child, in-to our hearts,
and leave your crib be-hind you!
Let this be where the new life starts
for all who seek and find you.
To you the hon-or, thanks, and praise,
for all your gifts this time of grace;
come, con-quer and de-liv-er
this world, and us, for-ev-er.

Words St. 2 Copyright © 1989 by Hope Publishing Company

Luke 2:8–14

All: Holy Jesus, we are so close to Christmas morning! We are filled with joy, but some of us are also filled with anxiety as we think of everything that we need to get done. Help us, oh Lord, for just a few minutes, to put aside the to-do list and be present in this space as we remember your love. Bless us, we pray, 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, today we celebrate Christ's love! We remember that Jesus came to earth for our salvation!

All: “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.” (John 3:16)

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

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath- Love

Danny Collier, Juel Pyle, Noah Dopera

Today we celebrate the fourth Sunday in Advent and light the candle of love. As we prepare our hearts and minds to receive the Christ child, it is important to remember that our hope, peace, and joy is found in the fact that love came down to be with us. There is a profound connection between Advent and Lent as we remember why Christ came down in the first place, to display his love for us. Though he was fully God, he came to earth to demonstrate what love looks like, so that we might live a life

free of sin and gain eternal life. During Jesus' time on earth, he called us to follow his commandments, to abide in his love, and to love one another as he loved us.

One: As God has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love.

Many: If you keep my commandments you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love.

One: I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

Many: This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

All: No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends.

♪ **The candle of love tells what we are worth:**

God loves us so much, God came to the earth!

An angel brought news of a child who

would be

The one who would save us and set us all free.

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Scriptures

Rev. Becky Sausser

Reading Psalm 24 (Page 443)

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.

Youth Christmas Pageant: “Christmas Around the World”!



Christmas Around the World

by Rev. Becky Sausser

This year our incredible youth teach us about
Christmas traditions from around the world!

**When the slides are projected on the right
front wall of the sanctuary with the words of
the carols, please sing along with us!**

Participants

| | |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| Erin Dopera | Henry Dopera |
| Hawthorne Rissell | Danny Collier |
| Jacob Pyle | Noah Dopera |
| Maverick Rissell | Juel Pyle |
| Shekira Pyle | Joshua Pyle |
| Abel Sanchez | Elleigh Sanchez |
| Jiavanna Thompson | Jakobi McGhee |
| James Weller | Yuri Bryant |

Royanna Hermanstyne
Ben, Megan, Logan, and Lyla Edwards

The Entire Congregation

A special thanks to all the parents, Sunday
School Teachers, and volunteers who helped
to make this pageant possible!

Special thanks to directors Nancy Rissell,
Judy Garrigan, Janet Cook,
and Rev. Becky Sausser

Go Tell It on the Mountain

African-American spiritual
Arr. John W. Work II, 1907

Refrain:

Go tell it on the moun-tain, o-ver the hill and ev-ery-where.

Go tell it on the moun-tain, that Je-sus Christ is born!

1. While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si-lent flocks by night,
Be-hold through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho-ly light.

Refrain:

2. The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when lo! a-bove the earth
Rang out the an-gel cho-rus that hailed our Sav-ior's birth.

Refrain:

3. Down in a low-ly man-ger the hum-ble Christ was born,
And God sent us sal-va-tion that bless-ed Christ-mas morn.

Refrain:

Luke 2:8–20; Isa. 18:3; 52:7

Hymn #154... “Go Tell It on the Mountain”

Announcements

Jeff Rissell

Offering

Offertory “Offertory “Oh, Come, Oh, Come,
Emmanuel” Bernard Reichel

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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 139..... “The First Noel”**

* Commission and Blessing

* **Refrain #161**

Amen, Amen

The First Nowell

Traditional English carol; alt.

1. The first Now-ell, the an-gel did say,
was to cer-tain poor shep-herds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay keep-ing their sheep,
on a cold win-ter's night that was so deep.
Now-ell, now-ell, now-ell, now-ell,
born in a man-ger, Em-man-u-el.
2. They looked a-bove and saw a star
shin-ing in the east, be-yond them far,
And to the earth it gave great light,
and so it con-tin-ued both day and night.
Now-ell, now-ell, now-ell, now-ell,
born in a man-ger, Em-man-u-el.
3. And by the light of that same star
three sag-es came from coun-try far;
To seek for a king was their in-tent,
and to fol-low the star wher-ev-er it went.
Now-ell, now-ell, now-ell, now-ell,
born in a man-ger, Em-man-u-el.
4. This star shone bright in the north-west,
o'er Beth-le-hem it seemed to rest,
And there it did both stop and stay,
right o-ver the place where Je-sus lay.

**Music to Go Forth: “Now Sing We, Now
Rejoice” Johann Sebastian Bach**

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***The Altar flowers are in honor of St. John's
UCC.***

Special Announcements/Reminders:

You can give ELECTRONICALLY from
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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