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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 7, 2025

11:00 am

Tower Chimes

Janet Cook

**Music to Gather: "Word of God, Come
Down on Earth"**

Wayne L. Wold

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Welcome

Call to Worship

One: Peace is that which we need most in the world.

All: A harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace. (James 3:18)

One: What would peace look like throughout the earth?

All: For you shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall break forth into singing and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. (Isaiah 55:12)

One: Peace is not just the absence of war, but it is something that we feel in every molecule of our body.

All: In peace I will both lie down and sleep; for you alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety. (Psalm 4:8).

One: Jesus is the great bringing of peace. He beckons us to come to him when we are

weary and heavy laden that we might find rest.

All: Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light. (Matthew 11:28-30)

Hymn #101... “Comfort, Comfort O My People”

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 second Sunday of Advent and remember shalom, a peace that makes us feel whole and loved.

All: Creator, Son, and Spirit One, we praise you! Today we come before you to lay down our burdens and to bask in your peace. We recognize that the work we are doing in the world is important, but so is resting in your love and peace.

Comfort, Comfort O My People

Johannes Olearius, 1671

Transl. Catherine Winkworth, 1863; alt.

1. "Com-fort, com-fort O my peo-ple,
tell of peace," thus says our God;
Com-fort those whose hearts are shroud-ed,
mourn-ing un-der sor-row's load.
Speak un-to Je-ru-sa-lem
of the peace that waits for them;
Tell them that their sins I cov-er,
and their war-fare now is o-ver.
2. For the her-ald's voice is call-ing
in the des-ert far and near,
Bid-ding us to make re-pen-tance
since the realm of God is here.
Oh, that warn-ing cry o-bey!
Now pre-pare for God a way;
Let the val-leys rise in meet-ing
and the hills bow down in greet-ing.
3. Straight shall be what long was crook-ed,
and the rough-er pla-ces plain!
Let your hearts be true and hum-ble,
for Mes-si-ah's ho-ly reign.
For God's glo-ry ev-er-more
shall be known o'er all the world;
And all flesh shall see the to-ken
that God's word is nev-er bro-ken.

Isa. 40:1-8

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Help us to set aside the worries of tomorrow and let us focus only on today's troubles. Bless us with a peace that exceeds all understanding and permeates through our whole being with a sigh too deep for words. Amen.

Confession Response 🎵 Hymn #133, V 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. When Christ first appeared to his disciples in the upper room after they thought all hope was lost, the first thing Christ offered them is peace.

All: “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid” (John 14:27)

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

**Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

Lighting of the Advent Wreath- Peace by The Elders

Today we celebrate the second Sunday in Advent and light the candle of Peace! In Hebrew peace is Shalom, completeness, soundness, and making things whole. Peace is mentioned over 300 times in our bible, appearing most frequently in Isaiah, who prophesied, “For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his

shoulders, and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” Peace comes to the world not through displays of power, but through a vulnerable child, the Christ child, who would save the world!

One: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;

All: For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders,

One: and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

All: Great will be his authority, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom.

One: He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore.

All: The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

**The candle of peace shines bright with
God's plan;
The wolf will lie down and dwell with the
lamb.**

**Our guns and our weapons, our hatred
and war,
Will give way to gardens that heal and
restore.**

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Scriptures

Rick Guhl

Reading 1: Isaiah 11:1-10 (Page 555-556)

Reading 2: Matthew 1:18-25 (Page 777)

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: Peace

Rev. Becky Sausser

Hymn #109..... "With Joy Draw Water"

(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

Anne McKinstry, 1986, 1993

1. With joy draw wa-ter from the spring;
sal-va-tion's liv-ing well.
The Ho-ly One is in your midst;
glad prais-es sing and tell!
2. A shoot has sprung from Jes-se's tree;
of God the cho-sen One.
A branch of knowl-edge and of truth;
a gift of love has come!
3. With love the poor will be re-ceived;
the proud will turn a-side;
And faith-ful-ness will be a path,
and righ-teous-ness the guide!
4. The wolf shall lie down with the lamb;
the calf and li-on play.
God's peace shall dwell with-in the land;
a child shall show the way!
5. With joy draw wa-ter from the spring;
sal-va-tion's liv-ing well.
The Ho-ly One is in your midst;
glad prais-es sing and tell!

Isa. 11:1-10; 12:2-6

**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

“Advent Carol”

Robert J. Powell

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**A CELEBRATION OF HOLY
COMMUNION**

The Invitation

Communion Prayer

Pastor: God be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to God.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to God Almighty.

People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Pastor: Eternal God, you created the heavens and earth, giving breath to every living thing. We thank you for the gift of creation and for the gift of life itself. We thank you for making us in your own image, for forgiving us when we act as though You have no claim on us, and for keeping us in your steadfast care.

We rejoice in Jesus Christ, the only one eternally begotten by you, who was born of your servant Mary and shared the joys and sorrows of life as we know it. We remember Christ's death, we celebrate Christ's resurrection, and in the beloved community of your church, we await Christ's return at the end of history.

We take courage from the abiding praise of men, women, and persons of faith in every age who stand as witnesses to your love and justice. With all the prophets, martyrs, and saints and with all the company of heaven, we glorify you singing...

People (Singing the Sanctus Hymn #795)

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Sabaoth;

Heaven and earth are full, are full, of the majesty of Thy Glory.

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.

Hosannah, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

Pastor: We remember that on the night He was betrayed and deserted, Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to the disciples, saying: "This is my

body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

In the same way, Jesus also took the cup after supper, and gave thanks for it, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

People: By eating this bread and drinking this cup, we proclaim Christ’s death, we celebrate Christ’s resurrection, and we await Christ’s coming again.

Pastor: Let us pray. Gracious God, we ask you to meet us where we are today in your mercy; we ask you to bless this bread and this cup and all of us with the outpouring of your Holy Spirit. Through this meal, make us the body of Christ, your church, your servant people, that we may be salt, light, and leaven in this world that you so deeply love.

Receiving the Elements

Pastor: Through the broken bread, we participate in the body of Christ. Through the cup of blessing, we participate in the new life that Christ gives. The gifts of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

(At this time our ushers will bring the bread representing the body of Christ into the congregation. If you prefer to receive individually wrapped elements, there will be wrapped communion cups on this tray that have both the bread and juice.)

Pastor: The body of Christ. (At this time, partake of the bread.)

Pastor: The blood of Christ. (At this time partake of the juice.)

Pastor: Let us join together in prayer.

People: As one body, we lament with those who lament. We hope with those who hope. We live with suffering. We live with beauty. Let us go from this table as a renewed community, doing

the radical work of Jesus that calls us to live justice-making lives of faith. We are followers of God's way. We give thanks and praise! Amen!

Announcements

Jeff Rissell

Offering

Offertory "Lo, How a Rose"

Johannes Brahms

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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.

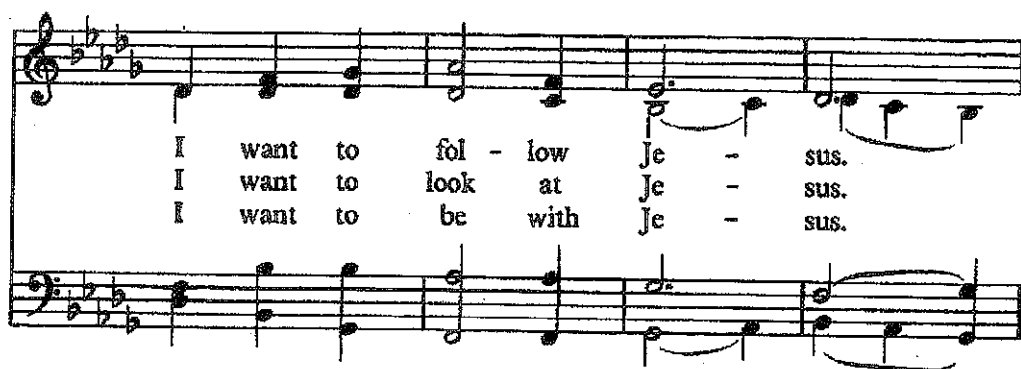
Amen.

* **Hymn-** "I Want to Walk as a Child of the
Light" *insert*

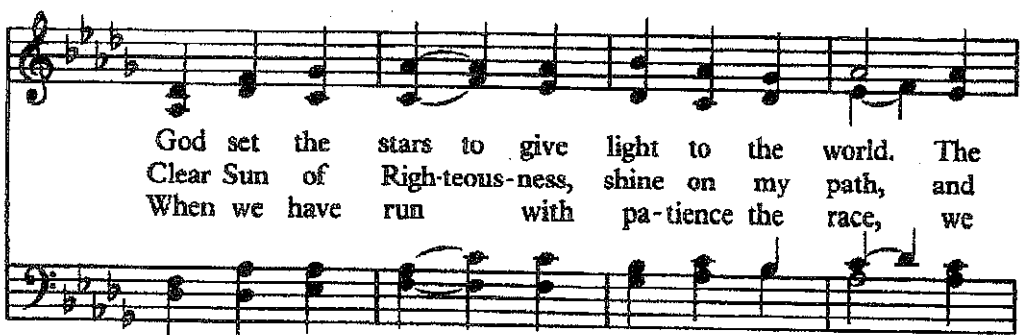
206 I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light



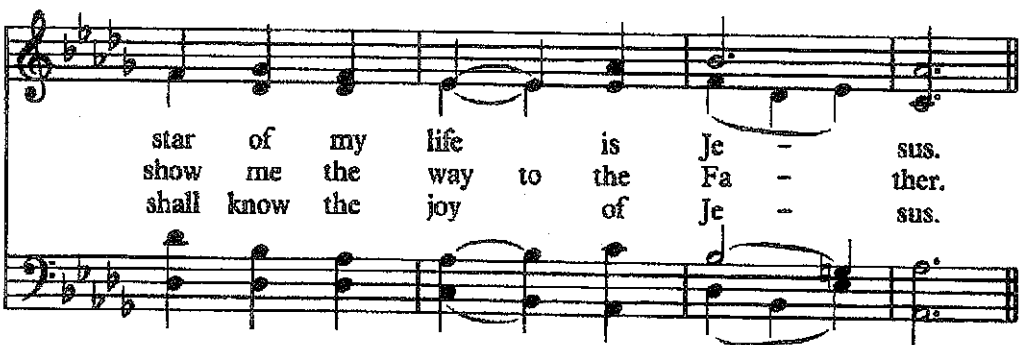
1. I want to walk as a child of the light.
 2. I want to see the bright-ness of God.
 3. I'm look-ing for the com-ing of Christ.



I want to fol - low Je - sus.
 I want to look at Je - sus.
 I want to be with Je - sus.



God set the stars to give light to the world. The
 Clear Sun of Right-eous-ness, shine on my path, and
 When we have run with pa-tience the race, we



star of my life is Je - sus.
 show me the way to the Fa - ther.
 shall know the joy of Je - sus.

* Commission and Blessing

* **Refrain #161**

Amen, Amen

Music to Go Forth: “Lift Up Your Heads”

Lani Smith

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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