

St. John's United Church of Christ
36 S. Sixth Street, Allentown, PA 18101
Phone 610-433-0146

Email: stjohnsucc2@verizon.net

Website: www.stjohnsuccallentown.org

Pastor Rebecca Sausser

Phone: 570 – 581 - 0594

Email: revsausser@gmail.com

Like us on Facebook at
St Johns UCC Allentown

**Personal hearing devices are available
from an usher.**

***Indicates that people may stand as they are able**

January 11, 2026

11:00am

Tower Chimes

Janet Cook

**Music to Gather: “In Thee Is Gladness”
setting by J. William Greene**

Copyright 2013 Augsburg Fortress

Welcome

*Call to Worship by Nancy Townley

One: We are marked as God's beloved ones.

All: What have we done to deserve God's love.

One: God's love is God's free gift to us, always and forever.

All: Even when we are difficult and turn away from God,

One: God's love never vanishes from us.

All: Thanks be to God who is ever faithful to us, AMEN.

Hymn #164.... “Arise, Your Light Is Come”

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 baptism of our Lord Jesus Christ! Let us celebrate and remember our own baptism.

Arise, Your Light Is Come

Ruth Duck, 1973

1. A-rise, your light is come! The Spir-it's call o-bey;
Show forth the glo-ry of your God which shines on you to-day!
2. A-rise, your light is come! Fling wide the pris-on door;
Pro-claim the cap-tive's lib-er-ty, good tid-ings to the poor.
3. A-rise, your light is come! All you in sor-row born,
Bind up the bro-ken-heart-ed ones and com-fort those who mourn.
4. A-rise, your light is come! The moun-tains burst in song!
Rise up like ea-gles on the wing; God's power will make us strong.

Words Copyright © 1992 by G.I.A. Publications, Inc.
Isa. 60:1; 61:1-2; Luke 4:14-21

All: Holy Jesus, today as we remember your baptism we are reminded of our own. We understand that our baptism is an outward symbol of the transformation that is happening within our souls as we continue in our constant journey to become more like you. Bless us in our journey, help us in our becoming, and fill us with your Holy Spirit! Amen.

Confession Response Hymn #177, V 1

**God of change and glory,
God of time and space,
When we fear the future,
give to us your grace.
In the midst of changing ways
give us still the grace to praise.**

Assurance of Grace

One: Beloved community, the Holy Spirit is within you! As we strive to live lives that reflect Christ's love, we are transformed everyday by that love!

All: “Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect” -Romans 12:2

Response to Words of Assurance Hymn
177, refrain

Many gifts, one Spirit,

One love known in many ways,

**In our difference is blessing, from
diversity we praise**

**One Giver, one Word, one Spirit, one
God**

Known in many ways, Hallowing our days.

For the Giver, for the gifts, praise, praise, praise!

Scriptures

Janet Cook

Reading 1: Isaiah 42:1-9 (page 580)

Reading 2: Matthew 3:13-17 (778-779)

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: "Baptism" Rev. Becky Sausser

What Ruler Wades through Murky Streams

169

Thomas H. Troeger, 1984; rev. 1993

1. What rul-er wades through murk-y streams and bows be-neath the
wave,
Ig-nor-ing how the world es-teems the pow-er-ful and brave?
Wa-ter, Riv-er, Spir-it, Grace, sweep o-ver me, sweep o-ver me!
Re-carve the depths your fing-ers traced in sculpt-ing me.
2. Christ gleams with wa-ter brown with clay from land the
proph-ets trod.
A-bove while heav-en's clouds give way de-scends the dove of God.
Wa-ter, Riv-er, Spir-it, Grace, sweep o-ver me, sweep o-ver me!
Re-carve the depths your fing-ers traced in sculpt-ing me.
3. Come bow be-neath the flow-ing wave. Christ stands here at
your side
and rais-es you as from the grave God raised the cru-ci-fied.
Wa-ter, Riv-er, Spir-it, Grace, sweep o-ver me, sweep o-ver me!
Re-carve the depths your fing-ers traced in sculpt-ing me.

Words Copyright © 1984; rev. 1993, Oxford University Press, Inc.
Matt. 3:13–17; Mark 1:9–11; Luke 3:21–22; Col. 2:9–12

Hymn #169...“What Ruler Wades through Murky Streams”

(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 #508 Verse 5

**O Christ, by whom we come to God,
The Life, the Truth, the Way,**

**The path of prayer you too have trod:
Christ, teach us how to pray.**

Chancel Choir “Holy Spirit, Speak to
Me” Douglas Nolan

Copyright 1998 Harold Flammer Music

Announcements

Jeff Rissell

Offering

Offertory “On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s
Cry” Bruce Neswick

Copyright 2001 Augsburg Fortress

* 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.

Timothy Rees, 1922; alt.

1. Ho-ly Spir-it, ev-er dwell-ing
in the ho-liest realms of light;
Ho-ly Spir-it, ev-er brood-ing
o'er a world of gloom and blight;
Ho-ly Spir-it, ev-er rais-ing
earth-bound souls to glo-ry high;
Liv-ing, life-im-part-ing Spir-it;
you we praise and mag-ni-fy.
2. Ho-ly Spir-it, ev-er breath-ing
on the church the breath of life;
Ho-ly Spir-it, ev-er striv-ing
through your peo-ple's cease-less strife;
Ho-ly Spir-it, ev-er form-ing
in the church the mind of Christ:
In our wor-ship we will praise you
for your fruit and gifts un-priced.
3. Ho-ly Spir-it, ev-er work-ing
through the church-'s min-is-try—
Quick-ening, strength-ening, and ab-solv-ing,
set-ting cap-tive sin-ners free;
Ho-ly Spir-it, ev-er bind-ing
age to age and soul to soul,
In com-mu-ni-ty un-end-ing
you we wor-ship and ex-tol.

*** Hymn #59..“Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling”**

*** Commission and Blessing**

*** Threefold Amen**

Amen, Amen, Amen

Music to Go Forth

“Songs of Thankfulness and Praise”

setting by Franklin D. Ashdown

Copyright 2013 Augsburg Fortress

Permission to stream copyrighted material
granted by Christian Copyright Licensing
International

Streaming Licensing #20215522

***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