

**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**

January 11, 2026 11:00am

Tower Chimes Janet Cook

Music to Gather: “In Thee Is Gladness”

setting by J. William Greene

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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.

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.

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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

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.

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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

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Announcements

Jeff Rissell

Offering

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

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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.

59 Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling

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-en-ing, strength-en-ing, 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

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***The Altar flowers are in honor of St.
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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