

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 18, 2026

11:00am

Tower Chimes

Janet Cook

Music to Gather: "Worship"

James Southbridge

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Welcome

*Call to Worship by Beth Merrill Neel

One: Welcome to this place of love and grace,

All: Welcome to this place of hope and perseverance.

One: God invites all of us to be a part of the beloved community,

All: God invites all of us to share in the good news:

One: We are welcome, just as we are. We are loved, just as we are.

All: In gratitude for all of this, let us worship God.

Hymn #290... “Spirit of God, Descend upon my Heart”

Profession of Faith

One: No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey you are welcome here! Today we remember that we are called to

Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart

290

George Croly, 1854; alt.

1. Spir-it of God, de-scend up-on my heart;
wean it from earth, through all its puls-es move;
Stoop to my weak-ness, might-y as you are,
and make me love you as I ought to love.
2. I ask no dream, no proph-et ec-sta-sies,
no sud-den rend-ing of the veil of clay,
No an-gel vis-i-tant, no o-pening skies;
but take the dim-ness of my soul a-way.
3. Have you not bid us love you ev-ery way?
All, all your own: soul, heart, and strength, and mind;
I see your cross—there teach my heart to stay:
O let me seek you, and O let me find.
4. Teach me to feel that you are al-ways nigh;
teach me the strug-gles of the soul to bear,
To check the ris-ing doubt, the reb-el sigh;
teach me the pa-tience of un-an-swered prayer.
5. Teach me to love you as your an-gels love,
one ho-ly pas-sion fill-ing all my frame;
The bap-tism of the heaven-de-scend-ed dove,
my heart an al-tar, and your love the flame.

Gal. 5:25; Matt. 22:37; John 1:32

discipleship. We are called to be followers of Jesus Christ.

All: Precious Lord Jesus, today we gather in this place of worship to celebrate and remember. We celebrate our connection with you! We celebrate that your love always surrounds us and heals us. We celebrate that we are fearfully and wonderfully made. And Lord, today we remember that you call us to follow you. You call us to lead lives that reflect your love and you call us to lead lives of discipleship. Bless us on our journey and guide us we pray. Amen.

Confession Response Hymn #172, V 4

**In our joys and in our sorrows,
Days of toil and hours of ease,
Jesus calls, in cares and pleasures,
“Christian, love me more than these.”**

Assurance of Grace

One: Beloved community, in Jesus Christ we find a friend who sticks closer than a brother, a teacher, and a savior!

All: “Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” -John 8:1

Response to Words of Assurance Hymn
#172, verse 5

**Jesus calls us! By your mercies,
Savior, may we hear your call.
Give our hearts to your obedience,
Serve and love you best of all.**

Scriptures

Felicia Knerr

Reading: John 1:29-42

(pages 858-859)

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: "Discipleship"

Rev. Becky Sausser

Hymn #403....."My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less"

(Note: Ushers will collect "Prayer Cards" during this time. Prayer cards are in the pews.)

Morning Prayer and Lord's Prayer

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

Edward Mote, c. 1834; alt.

1. My hope is built on noth-ing less
than Je-sus' love and righ-teous-ness;
I dare not trust this earth-ly frame,
but whol-ly lean on Je-sus' name.

Refrain:

On Christ, the sol-id Rock, I stand;
all oth-er ground is sink-ing sand,
all oth-er ground is sink-ing sand.

2. When shad-ows veil my Sav-ior's face,
I rest up-on un-chang-ing grace;
In ev-ery high and storm-y gale,
my an-chor holds with-in the veil.

Refrain:

3. Christ's oath and cov-e-nant and blood
sup-port me in the ris-ing flood;
When all a-round my soul gives way,
Christ then is all my hope and stay.

Refrain:

4. When Christ shall come with trum-pet sound,
oh, may I then in Love be found,
Dressed in God's righ-teous-ness a-lone,
fault-less to stand be-fore the throne.

Refrain:

Matt. 7:24-27; 1 Cor. 3:11; Heb. 6:19; Rev. 11:15

**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 #510 Verse 2

**Grant us faithfulness in praying,
Strength to keep our souls from
straying,
Sense to cease from disobeying,
God of mercy, hear us.**

Chancel Choir "We Will Keep Our Faith
Alive!" Don Besig

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Announcements

Jeff Rissell

Offering

“Christ the Cornerstone” Benton Price
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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 #400..** “Christ Is Made the Sure
Foundation”

* Commission and Blessing

* **Threefold Amen**

Amen, Amen, Amen

Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation

400

Latin, 6th–8th century

Transl. John Mason Neale, 1851; alt.

St. 3 adapt. Thomas H. Troeger, 1992

1. Christ is made the sure foun-da-tion,
Christ the head and cor-ner-stone,
chos-en of our God and pre-cious,
bind-ing all the Church in one;
Ho-ly Zi-on's help for-ev-er,
and our con-fi-dence a-lone.
2. To this tem-ple, where we call you,
come, O God of Hosts, to-day!
With your con-stant, lov-ing kind-ness
hear your peo-ple as they pray.
Give your full-est ben-e-dic-tion:
grace to fol-low Christ the Way.
3. Here re-new your ser-vants' vis-ion,
that by faith they may at-tain
peace and hope, re-newed com-pas-sion,
strength to com-fort those in pain,
Tears and grief trans-formed to glad-ness
in your ev-er-last-ing reign.

Eph. 2:20–22; 1 Pet. 2:4–7

Music to Go Forth

"Praise Be to God"

Matt Powers

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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

