

**St. John's United Church of Christ
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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**

February 1, 2026 11:00am

Tower Chimes Janet Cook

Music to Gather:

“Worship” James Southbridge

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Welcome

Call to Worship by Katherine Hawker

One: Come with your questions, come with your awe!

All: For the God who broods over the chaos meets us in this place.

One: Come with your energy, come with your weariness!

All: For the God who breathes new life into the dust meets us in this place.

One: Come with your sadness, come with your joy!

All: For the God who dared to become human meets us in this place.

Hymn #292...“ Breathe on Me, Breath of God”

Profession of Faith

One: No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey you are welcome here!

Today we celebrate that the light of Christ

Breathe on Me, Breath of God

292

Edwin Hatch, 1886; alt.

1. Breathe on me, Breath of God, fill me with life a-new
That I may love the way you love and do what you would do.
2. Breathe on me, Breath of God, un-til my heart is pure,
Un-til with you I will one will, to do and to en-dure.
3. Breathe on me, Breath of God, stir in me one de-sire:
That ev-ery earth-ly part of me may glow with ho-ly fire.
4. Breathe on me, Breath of God, so shall I nev-er die,
But live with you the per-fect life of your e-ter-ni-ty.

shines through us and turns us into a beloved community!

All: Precious Lord Jesus, today we gather together remembering your holy words that we are *blessed*. You say *blessed* are the poor, and those who mourn, *blessed* are the hungry, the merciful, and the pure of heart. When we walk through difficult seasons in our lives it can be so easy to forget that we are yours. We feel the temptation to hide away until we are put back together. You tell us that we are *blessed*. You tell us we belong. You shine your light on us and we are transformed. Thank you, Jesus! Amen!

Confession Response Hymn #346, V 2

**Look on the heart by sorrow broken,
Look on the tears by sinners shed,**

**And be your food to us the token
That by your grace our lives are fed.**

Assurance of Grace

One: Beloved community, let us gather in this place filled with the light of Christ so that the world may see by this light!

All: Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.” -John 8:12

Gloria Patri ♫

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son
and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the
beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end, Amen, Amen.**

Scriptures

Barney Cook

Reading: Matthew 5:1-12 (page 779-780)

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: “A Light on the Beatitudes”

Rev. Becky Sausser

Hymn#349..... “ I Come with Joy”

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

Morning Prayer & 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.

I Come with Joy

349

Brian Wren, 1968; rev. 1982, 1994

1. I come with joy, a child of God,
for-giv-en, loved, and free,
The life of Je-sus to re-call,
in love laid down for me,
in love laid down for me.
2. I come with Chris-tians far and near
to find, as all are fed,
The new com-mu-ni-ty of love
in Christ's com-mu-nion bread,
in Christ's com-mu-nion bread.
3. As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share,
each proud di-vi-sion ends.
The love that made us, makes us one,
and strang-ers now are friends,
and strang-ers now are friends.
4. And thus we meet, and bet-ter know
the Pres-ence, ev-er near,
And join our hearts and sing with joy
that Christ is ris-en here,
that Christ is ris-en here.

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 #336 Verse 5

**We have no help but yours, nor do we
need**

Another strength than yours to lean upon.

**It is enough, O Lord, enough indeed;
Our faith is in your might, your might
alone.**

Chancel Choir “Tell Me the stories of Jesus” Barbara Baltzer Kinyon

Copyright1993 Choristers Guild

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 “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 #55 “Rejoice, You Pure in Heart”**

*** Commission and Blessing**

*** Threefold Amen**

Amen, Amen, Amen

Music to Go Forth

“Praise Be to God”

Matt Powers

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Rejoice, You Pure in Heart

Edward H. Plumtre, 1865; alt.

1. Re-joice, you pure in heart; lift prais-es to the sky;
Your fes-tal ban-ner wave with joy, the cross of Christ raise high!
Re-joice, re-joice, re-joice, give thanks and sing.

2. Bright youth and sea-soned age, strong souls and spir-its meek,
Raise high your free, ex-ult-ing song, God's won-drous prais-es speak.
Re-joice, re-joice, re-joice, give thanks and sing.

3. With voice as full and strong as o-cean's surg-ing praise,
Send forth the hymns the saints have loved, the psalms of an-cient days.
Re-joice, re-joice, re-joice, give thanks and sing.

4. Yes, on through life's long path, still chant-ing as you go,
From youth to age, by night and day, in glad-ness and in woe:
Re-joice, re-joice, re-joice, give thanks and sing.

5. Praise God who rules all worlds, the ris-en Christ a-dore,
Praise God the Spir-it, Ho-ly Fire, one God for ev-er-more!
Re-joice, re-joice, re-joice, give thanks and sing.

Ps. 20:5; Phil. 4:4

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

