

**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**

**February 22, 2026 11:00am**

**Tower Chimes Janet Cook**

**Music to Gather “When I Survey the  
Wondrous Cross” Rosalie Bonighton**

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**Welcome**

## Call to Worship by Rev. Nancy Townley

One: Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say Rejoice!

**All: Our joy is in the Lord who blesses us.**

One: Shout for joy, for the Lord is near!

**All: Our praises ascend to God for the mighty things God has done.**

One: Let your praise dance and swirl in tribute to God!

**All: Surely God blesses and saves us.**

**Hallelujah! Praise be to God. AMEN**

## **Hymn #433.....“ In the Bulb There Is a Flower”**

### Profession of Faith

One: No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey you are welcome here! Last week we were on the mountain top, and this week we feel like we are in the valley, yet we rejoice in the sure and certain truth that God is with us no matter where we are.

**All: Holy God, you are greater than the highs and the lows of this world. You are**

Natalie Sleeth, 1985

1. In the bulb there is a flow-er; in the seed, an ap-ple tree;  
in co-coons, a hid-den prom-ise: but-ter-flies will soon be free!  
In the cold and snow of win-ter there's a spring that waits to be,  
un-re-vealed un-til its sea-son, some-thing God a-lone can see.
2. There's a song in ev-ery si-lence, seek-ing word and mel-o-dy;  
there's a dawn for ev-ery dark-ness, bring-ing hope to you and me.  
From the past will come the fu-ture; what it holds, a mys-ter-y,  
un-re-vealed un-til its sea-son, some-thing God a-lone can see.
3. In our end is our be-gin-ning; in our time, in-fin-i-ty;  
in our doubt there is be-liev-ing; in our life, e-ter-ni-ty.  
In our death, a res-ur-rec-tion; at the last, a vic-to-ry,  
un-re-vealed un-til its sea-son, some-thing God a-lone can see.

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**our sure and certain hope! You are our  
refuge in times of trial and tribulation, and  
you share in our joy when things are going  
well. Help us to remember that we need  
you no matter how good or bad things feel.  
Lord, we need you always. Be with us we  
pray in the name of your beloved son  
Jesus. Amen.**

**Confession Response ♫ Hymn #202, Verse 3**

**O God of all the living, both banished and  
restored,**

**Compassionate, forgiving, our peace and  
hope assured.**

**Grant now that our transgressing, our  
faithlessness may cease.**

**Stretch out your hand in blessing, in  
pardon, and in peace.**

**Assurance of Grace**

**One: Jesus is with us! And Jesus understands  
us! Let us take great comfort and joy in our**

savior who knows our struggles and walks beside us.

**All: "So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you."** -Isaiah 41:10

## Response to Words of Assurance ♫ Hymn #208 V 4

Be of good cheer, for God in Christ  
Forgives the flock, by sin enticed,  
And justified by Jesus' blood,  
Your baptism grants the highest good.

Scriptures Danny Collier

Reading 1: Matthew 4:1-11 (Page 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: "Pink" Rev. Becky Sausser

**Hymn#502....“ Dear God, Embracing  
Humankind”**

*(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.**

## Dear God, Embracing Humankind

502

John Greenleaf Whittier, 1872; alt.

1. Dear God, em-brac-ing hu-man-kind,  
for-give our fool-ish ways;  
Re-clothe us in our right-ful mind,  
in pur-er lives your ser-vice find,  
in deep-er rev-erence, praise.
2. In sim-ple trust like theirs who heard,  
be-side the Syr-ian sea,  
The gra-cious call-ing of your word,  
let us, like them, by spir-it stirred,  
rise up and fol-lowers be.
3. O sab-bath rest by Gal-i-lee!  
O calm of hills a-bove!  
There Je-sus met you prayer-ful-ly:  
the si-lence of e-ter-ni-ty,  
in-ter-pret-ed by love.
4. Drop your still dews of qui-et-ness,  
till all our striv-ings cease;  
Take from our souls the strain and stress,  
and let our or-dered lives con-fess  
the beau-ty of your peace.

## DISCIPLESHIP

5. Breathe through the puls-es of de-sire  
your cool-ness and your balm;  
Let sense be numb, let flesh re-tire;  
speak through the earth-quake, wind, and fire,  
O still, small voice of calm.

Mark 1:16-20; Matt. 14:22-23; 1 Kings 19:11-12

## Prayer Response ♫ Hymn #204, verse 2

**Take up your cross, let not its weight  
fill your weak spirit with alarm;  
Christ's strength will bear your spirit up  
and brace your heart, support your arm.**

# Chancel Choir Everlasting”      “From Everlasting to Mark Hayes

## Offering

## Offertory “Passion Chorale”

# William Lloyd Webber

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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.**

**212**      O Jesus Christ, May Grateful Hymns

Bradford Gray Webster, 1954; alt.

1. O Je-sus Christ, may grate-ful hymns be ris-ing,  
in ev-ery cit-y for your love and care;  
In-spire our wor-ship, grant the glad sur-pris-ing  
that your blessed Spir-it rous-es ev-ery-where.
2. Grant us new cour-age, nev-er proud, but hum-ble,  
strong in your strength to ven-ture and to dare;  
To lift the fall-en, guide the ones who stum-ble,  
seek out the lone-ly and God's mer-cy share.
3. Show us your Spir-it, brood-ing o'er each cit-y,  
as you once wept a-bove Je-ru-sa-lem,  
Seek-ing to gath-er all in love and pit-y,  
and heal-ing those who touch your gar-ment's hem.

Words Copyright © 1954, renewal 1982 by The Hymn Society  
Matt. 23:37-39; Luke 13:34-35

**\* Hymn #212.... “O Jesus Christ, May  
Grateful Hymns”**

**\* Commission and Blessing**

**\* Threefold Amen**

*Amen, Amen, Amen*

**Music to Go Forth**

“Ricercare” Giovanni Battista Pierluigi da  
Palestrina

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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](http://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