

**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 8, 2026 11:00am

Tower Chimes Janet Cook

Music to Gather: “Beautiful Savior”

Gregory Hamilton

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Welcome

Call to Worship by Rev. Mindi Welton-Mitchell

One: We are called to bring a new understanding of God: that God so loves the world.

All: We are the salt of the earth.

One: We are called to bring a new hope in God: that God gives us new life.

All: We are the light of the world.

One: We are called to follow the commandments and the law.

All: The Law of God is to love God and to love one another.

One: Come, let us be the salt of the earth, the light of the world.

All: Come, let us love one another with the love of God. Let us join together in our love of God to worship and follow Jesus.

Hymn #495.....“ Called as Partners in Christ’s Service”

Called as Partners in Christ's Service

495

Jane Parker Huber, 1981

1. Called as part-ners in Christ's ser-vice,
called to min-is-tries of grace,
We re-spond with deep com-mit-ment
fresh new lines of faith to trace.
May we learn the art of shar-ing,
side by side and friend with friend,
E-qual part-ners in our car-ing
to ful-fill God's cho-sen end.
2. Christ's ex-am-ple, Christ's in-spir-ing,
Christ's clear call to work and worth,
Let us fol-low, nev-er fal-tering,
rec-on-cil-ing folk on earth.
Men and wom-en, rich-er, poor-er,
all God's peo-ple, young and old,
Blend-ing hu-man skills to-gether
gra-cious gifts from God un-fold.
3. Thus new pat-tterns for Christ's mis-sion,
in a small or glob-al sense,
Help us bear each oth-er's bur-dens,
break-ing down each wall or fence.
Words of com-fort, words of vi-sion,
words of chal-lenge, said with care,
Bring new power and strength for ac-tion,
make us col-leagues, free and fair.

4. So God grant us for to-mor-row
ways to or-der hu-man life
That sur-round each per-son's sor-row
with a calm that con-quers strife.
Make us part-ners in our liv-ing,
our com-pas-sion to in-crease,
Mes-sen-gers of faith, thus giv-ing
hope and con-fi-dence and peace.

John 15:12–17; Gal. 6:2; Eph. 2:14–22

Profession of Faith

One: No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey you are welcome here! Today we hear a reminder that we are called to be salt and light! Let us remember the importance of this imagery.

All: Holy Jesus, today we remember that you have called us to be salt and light! You have come to complete the law with your boundless love! We as followers of your way are called to shine your light onto a world walking in darkness, and the be salt, flavoring and feeding your wider world. Bless us in this ministry, and help us to be fed so that we may feed others. Amen.

Confession Response ♫ Hymn #469, verse 2

**O grant us light, that we may find
Where error lurks in human lore,
And turn to you our seeking minds,**

And love your holy Word the more.

Assurance of Grace

One: Beloved community, we are Salt! We are light! Let us share these gifts with the world!

All: “For it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.”

-Philippians 2:13

Response to Words of Assurance ♫

Hymn #469, V 3

**O grant us light, that we may learn
how dead is life from you apart,
How sure is joy for all who turn
to you an undivided heart.**

Scriptures

Becky Bronfenbrenner

Reading: Matthew 5:13-20 (page 780)

You Are Salt for the Earth, O People

181

Paraphr. by Marty Haugen, 1986; alt.

1. You are salt for the earth, O peo-ple: salt for the reign of God!
Share the fla-vor of life, O peo-ple: life in the Cit-y of God!
Bring forth the reign of mer-cy, bring forth the reign of peace;
Bring forth the reign of jus-tice, bring forth the Cit-y of God!
2. You are a light on the hill, O peo-ple: light for the Cit-y of God!
Shine so ho-ly and bright, O peo-ple: shine for the Cit-y of God!
Bring forth the reign of mer-cy, bring forth the reign of peace;
Bring forth the reign of jus-tice, bring forth the Cit-y of God!
3. You are a seed of the Word, O peo-ple: bring forth the reign of God!
Seeds of mer-cy and seeds of jus-tice, grow in the Cit-y of God!
Bring forth the reign of mer-cy, bring forth the reign of peace;
Bring forth the reign of jus-tice, bring forth the Cit-y of God!
4. We are a blessed and a pil-grim peo-ple: bound for the reign of God!
Love our jour-ney and love our home-land: love is the Cit-y of God!
Bring forth the reign of mer-cy, bring forth the reign of peace;
Bring forth the reign of jus-tice, bring forth the Cit-y of God!

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Matt. 5:13-15

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: “Salt & Light” Rev. Becky Sausser

Hymn#181...“ You Are Salt for the Earth, O People”

(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 4

**No prayers do humans make alone;
The Holy Spirit pleads,
And Jesus on the eternal throne
For sinners intercedes.**

Chancel Choir “Prayer for Partnership”

Tom Mitchell

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Announcements

Jeff Rissell

Offering

Offertory “Just a Closer Walk With Thee”

Renew Your Church

311

Kenneth L. Cober, 1960; alt.

1. Re-new your church, its min-is-tries re-store:
both to serve and a-dore.
Make us a-gain as salt through-out the land,
and as light from a stand.
'Mid som-ber shad-ows of the night,
where greed and ha-tred spread their blight,
O send us forth with power en-dued.
Help us, God, be re-newed.
2. Teach us your word, re-veal its truth di-vine;
on our path let it shine.
Tell of your works, your might-y acts of grace;
from each page show your face.
As you have sent your Christ to save,
in love to tri-umph o'er the grave,
O let our hearts with love be stirred.
Help us, God, know your word.
3. Teach us to pray, for you are ev-er near;
your still voice let us hear.
Our souls are rest-less till they rest in you;
this is life, full and true.
Be-fore your pres-ence keep us still
that we may find for us your will

THE CHURCH

And seek your guid-ance ev-ery day.
Teach us, God, how to pray.

4. Teach us to love, with strength of heart and mind,
each and all—hu-man-kind!
Break down old walls of prej-u-dice and hate;
leave us not to our fate.
As you have loved and given your life
to end hos-til-i-ty and strife,
Your grace we must be mind-ful of:
Teach us, God, how to love.

Matt. 5:13–16; Luke 11:1–4; Mark 12:28–34

James Denton
Copyright 1981 Lorenz Publishing Co.,

* 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 #311..... “Renew Your Church”**

* Commission and Blessing

* Threefold Amen

Amen, Amen, Amen

Music to Go Forth

“O Lord Most Holy”

Franz Art

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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 - stjohnsucallentown - exactly as shown. You can also give on our homepage www.stjohnsucallentown.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