

**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**

March 1, 2026

11:00am

Tower Chimes

Janet Cook

**Music to Gather: "By the Waters of Babylon"
Johann Pachelbel**

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Welcome

Call to Worship based on Psalm 92

One: It is good to give thanks to the LORD, to sing praises to your name, O Most High; to declare your steadfast love in the morning, and your faithfulness by night,

All: It is good to declare your steadfast love to the music of the lute and the harp, to the melody of the lyre.

One: For you, O LORD, have made me glad by your work; at the works of your hands, I sing for joy.

All: Your righteous flourish like the palm tree and grow like a cedar in Lebanon.

One: Let us be planted in the house of the LORD; to flourish in the courts of our God.

All: May I grow ever closer to the Lord, my rock! Amen!

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! This week we focus on spiritual growth, so let us be firmly rooted in Christ's love now and forever.

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.

All: Precious Lord Jesus, help us to be brave enough to admit that we do not have all the answers. There are many things that we ponder secretly in our hearts, but nothing is hidden from you. You are our teacher and our friend and our savior. Bless us with your presence in our lives. Help us to ask good questions and be with us on the journey to find incredible answers. 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: We rejoice that when we are seeking answers in the dead of night, that we worship a God who answers.

All: “Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.”

-Matthew 7:7-8

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

Rick Guhl

Reading 1: Psalm 121

(page 499)

Reading: John 3:1-17

(page 860)

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: "Green Growing Things"

Rev. Becky Sausser

Hymn#605..... As Moses Raised the Serpent Up"

(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. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And

As Moses Raised the Serpent Up

605

Versification *The New Century Hymnal*, 1993

1. As Moses raised the serpent up, God's child is lifted high;
And all who in that Child believe shall never, never die.
2. For God so loved the world that God, all human life to free,
Gave to the world God's child that all might live eternally.
3. That God was sent into the world not to condemn but save;
Now through Christ's name all are redeemed— what wondrous love
God gave.

John 3:14–17

Nearer, My God, to You

606

Sarah Flower Adams, 1841
Adapt. Thomas H. Troeger

1. Near-er, my God, to you, near-er to you.
I'll bear the cross as Christ calls me to do
and pray each day a-new:
Near-er my God, to you, near-er my God, to you, near-er to you.
2. When I am wan-der-ing as Ja-cob did,
and in the deep-est night the path is hid,
my dreams will bring me, too,
Near-er my God, to you, near-er my God, to you, near-er to you.

**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 #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 "A Communion Invitation"

Joseph M. Martin

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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 "Open My Eyes, That I May See"

David Hegarty

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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 #24 "The God of Abraham Praise"

Yigdal Elohim Chai

(The God of Abraham Praise)

Moses Maimonides, 12th century

Versification attrib. to Daniel ben Judah, c. 1400

Transl. Max Landsberg and Newton Mann, 1884; alt.

1 Yig-dal e-lo-him chai
 v'-yish-ta-bach,
 nim-tza v'-ein eit el
 m'-tzi-u-to
 E-chad v'-ein ya-chid
 k'-yi-chu-do,
 ne-lam v'-gam ein
 sof l'-ach-du-to.

1 The God of A-braham praise,
 all prais-es to God's name,
 who was and is and is to be,
 for-e'er the same!
 The one e-ter-nal God,
 be-fore what now ap-pears;
 the First, the Last: be-yond all thought
 through time-less years!

2 God's spir-it free-ly flows,
 high surg-ing where it will;
 God spoke of old in proph-et's word;
 that word speaks still.
 Es-tab-lished is God's law,
 and change-less it shall stand,

GOD

deep writ-ten on the hu-man heart,
in ev-ery land.

3 God has e-ter-nal life
im-plant-ed in the soul;
God's love shall be our strength and stay,
while a-ges roll.
All praise the liv-ing God!
Ex-tol that hal-lowed name,
who was, and is, and ev-er shall
be still the same!

4 The God of Sar-ah praise,
all prais-es to God's name,
who was and is and is to be, for-e'er the same!
The one e-ter-nal God,
be-fore what now ap-pears;
the First, the Last: be-yond all thought
through time-less years!

Gen. 12:1; 17:15–16; Exod. 3:14; Isa. 44:6; Rev. 4:8

* Commission and Blessing

* **Threefold Amen**

Amen, Amen, Amen

Music to Go Forth

“O Perfect Life of Love” George Theophilus
Miles

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***The Altar flowers are in memory of Mary
Jane Sausser from the Sausser Family.***

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