

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**

March 22, 2026

11:00am

Tower Chimes

Janet Cook

**Music to Gather: "Es ist das Heil kommen
her"**

Unknown

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Welcome

Call to Worship

One: When Jesus found that his friend Lazarus had died, he wept!

All: Even though Jesus knew that he would raise Lazarus from the dead.

One: Jesus shows us how to be vulnerable and how to grieve.

All: We know that our sorrow may last for the night, and that joy will come with the morning.

One: Jesus is the resurrection and the life, all who believe in him will live and never die.

All: We gather together with a mix of emotions, knowing that Jesus understands what we are going through and what we are headed toward. Amen.

Hymn #42.....“O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”

O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

Charles Wesley, 1740; alt.

1. O for a thousand tongues to sing
my great Re-deem-er's praise,
The glo-ries ev-er ech-o-ing
the tri-umphs of God's grace!
2. My gra-cious Sav-ior and my God,
as-sist me to pro-claim,
To spread through all the earth a-broad
the hon-ors of your name.
3. Je-sus! the name that calms our fears,
that bids our sor-rows cease
Is mu-sic in the sin-ner's ears,
is life, and health, and peace!
4. Glo-ry to God, and love and praise
be ev-er, ev-er given
By all the saints in ev-ery age,
the church in earth and heaven.

Profession of Faith

One: No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey you are welcome here! This week we hold our grief and our joy in equal measure within our hearts as we profess our need for Christ's presence in our lives.

All: Holy Lord Jesus, as you stood before the grave of your friend Lazarus and wept, we see the heaviness of grief. Jesus, so many of us are wearing the heavy invisible quilt of grief around our shoulders; we ask for your peace that goes beyond all understanding. We rejoice in the fact that you have conquered death, and offer eternal life. Bless us in our journey, bless us in our grief, and bless us in the moments of joy. 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: Receive this assurance today. Jesus is our savior, and our friend who sticks closer than a brother. When we weep in the night, or carry burdens in our heart, we do so with Christ beside us and before us and within us.

All: “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.”

-Matthew 11: 28-29

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.**

Anointing the Consistory

Pastor: This is the Consistory of St. John's United Church of Christ in Allentown! They have agreed to serve God, church, and community with their time and talent! Led by the Holy Spirit, they will move with discernment, open hearts, and open minds as they dream about the future of what we can do together!

Congregation: We bless our siblings in Christ for the good works that they will do

to further the mission of our community of faith, called by God we serve to be a welcoming community of faith for all!

Pastor: At this time, I will anoint these members as a sign that they are called by Christ to serve as his hands and feet, moving and working in the world.

(Anointing)

Pastor: Members of the Consistory, remember that you are blessed by God, and that you are also a blessing! Let us pray together!

All: Bless these servants for the work that they will do, and grant them a double portion of your wisdom and insight, that they may lead us according to your love and mercy. Amen!

Scriptures

Barney Cook

Reading: John 11:1-44

(Page 869-870)

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: "Purple" Rev. Becky Sausser

Hymn#185....." Savior, When in Tears and Dust"

(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

Robert Grant, 1815; alt.

1. Sav-ior, when in tears and dust, low we bow to you in trust,
When re-pen-tant, to the skies scarce we lift our weep-ing eyes,
Mind-ful how you suf-fered pain that God's love in us might reign—
Help us claim what we would be, hear our sol-emn lit-a-ny.

2. By your help-less in-fant years, by your life of want and tears,
By your days of sore dis-tress in the sav-age wil-der-ness,
By the dread mys-te-rious hour of the in-sult-ing tempt-er's power:
Turn, O turn a fa-voring eye, hear our sol-emn lit-a-ny.

3. By your hour of dire de-spair, by your ag-o-ny of prayer,
By the cross, the nail, the thorn, pierc-ing spear, and tor-turing scorn,
By the gloom that veiled the skies o'er the dread-ful sac-ri-fice:
Lis-ten to our hum-ble cry, hear our sol-emn lit-a-ny.

4. By your deep ex-pir-ing groan, by the sad se-pul-chral stone,
By the vault whose cold a-bode held in vain the ris-ing God:
O from earth to realms of light, Christ re-stored in power and might,
Lis-ten, lis-ten to the cry of our sol-emn lit-a-ny.

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 "Lonesome Valley" Jack
North

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Announcements Jeff Rissell

Offering

Offertory "Where Cross the Crowded Ways of
Life" Robert J. Hughes

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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 #273.... "Praise with Joy the
World's Creator"**

* Commission and Blessing

* **Threefold Amen**

Amen, Amen, Amen

Music to Go Forth

"Sweet the Moments, Rich in Blessing" Rudolf
Moser

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The Iona Community, 1985; alt.

1. Praise with joy the world's Cre-a-tor,
God of jus-tice, love, and peace,
Source and end of hu-man knowl-edge,
grace be-stow-ing with-out cease.
Cel-e-brate the Ma-ker's glo-ry,
power to res-cue and re-lease.
2. Praise to Christ who feeds the hun-gry,
frees the cap-tive, finds the lost,
Heals the sick, up-sets re-li-gion,
fear-less both of fate and cost.
Cel-e-brate Christ's con-stant pres-ence—
Friend and Strang-er, Guest and Host.
3. Praise the Spir-it sent a-mong us,
lib-er-a-ting truth from pride,
Forg-ing bonds where race or gen-der,
age or na-tion dare di-vide.
Cel-e-brate the Spir-it's trea-sure—
fool-ish-ness none dare de-ride.
4. Praise the Mak-er, Christ, and Spir-it,
one God in Com-mu-ni-ty,
Call-ing Christ-ians to em-bod-y
one-ness and di-ver-si-ty.
Thus the world shall yet be-lieve when
shown Christ's vi-brant un-i-ty.

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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

Jim Saylor.....Sunday Sexton

And too many volunteers to list!