

**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**

April 19, 2026

11:00am

Tower Chimes

Janet Cook

Music to Gather: "Festival" Benton Prince

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Welcome

Call to Worship

Leader: We come as travelers on the road,

People: carrying stories of hope and loss.

Leader: We come with hearts that long for understanding,

People: and eyes that do not always see clearly.

Leader: Yet Christ walks beside us, even now,

People: opening the story, stirring our hearts.

Leader: In the ordinary moments of life,

People: God is revealed.

Leader: Come, let us worship the God who meets us on the way.

People: Let us worship with open hearts and expectant spirits.

Hymn #230...“Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain”

Prayer of Confession

One: When we pause and reflect, we recognize that there are times we have missed God's presence, times we have overlooked grace, ignored nudges, or walked past opportunities for

Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain

Attrib. to John of Damascus (c. 696–c. 754 C.E.)

Transl. John Mason Neale, 1872; alt.

1. Come, you faith-ful, raise the strain of tri-um-phant glad-ness;
God has brought all Is-ra-el in-to joy from sad-ness;
Loosed from Pha-raoh's bit-ter yoke Ja-cob's sons and daugh-ters;
Led them with un-moist-ened foot through the Red Sea wa-ters.

2. Spring has dawned on earth to-day; Christ has burst from pris-on,
And from three days' sleep in death as the sun has ris-en;
All the win-ter of our sins, long and gray, is fly-ing
From the Light, to whom we give laud and praise un-dy-ing.

3. Now the joy-ous sea-son, bright with the day of splen-dor,
With the roy-al feast of feasts, comes its joys to ren-der;
Comes to glad Je-ru-sa-lem who with true af-fec-tion
Wel-comes in un-wear-ied strains Je-sus' res-ur-rec-tion.

4. Nei-ther might the gates of death, nor the tomb's dim por-tal,
Nor the watch-ers, nor the seal hold you as a mor-tal;
But to-day a-mid the twelve you still stand, be-stow-ing
Peace and joy which ev-er-more pass-es hu-man know-ing.

Exod. 15; Luke 24.

connection But God meets us there, too, because no matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here. So let us come honestly before God as we profess the places where we are still learning and growing

ALL: God of patience and presence, we confess that we do not always recognize you. We look for you in the extraordinary and miss you in the ordinary. We rush past moments that could be sacred, we overlook people who carry your image, and we close ourselves off when our hopes are disappointed. Forgive us. Slow us down. Open our eyes. Rekindle within us hearts that burn with your presence. Transform us into people who notice, who listen, who walk with others as you walk with us. Amen.

Response to prayer of confession 🎵

Hymn #490, Verse 1

**I want Jesus to walk with me;
I want Jesus to walk with me;
All along my pilgrim journey,**

O I want Jesus to walk with me.

Assurance of forgiveness

Leader: Let your spirit receive this assurance: in all these things, we are more than forgiven through the One who loved us.

All: We hear the good news. Even when we do not recognize Christ, Christ recognizes us. Even when our hope feels distant, God is still at work within us. We are forgiven. We are loved. We are being renewed. Thanks be to God.

Response to Words of Assurance 🎵

Hymn #230 V3

Now the joyous season, bright with the day of splendor,

With the royal feast of feasts, comes its joys to render;

Comes to glad Jerusalem who with true affection

Welcomes in unwearied strains Jesus' resurrection.

Scriptures

Henry Dopera

Reading 1:

Psalm 116: 1-3, 10-17; (pages 493-494)

Reading 2: Luke 24:13-35

(page 856)

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: "Hearts on Fire, Eyes Opened"

Amanda Muschett

Hymn #96.. "Son of My Soul, O Savior Dear"

(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

John Keble, 1820; alt.

1. Sun of my soul, O Sav-ior dear,
it is not night if you are near;
O may no earth-born cloud a-rise
to hide you from your ser-vant's eyes.

2. A-bide with me from morn till eve,
for with-out you I can-not live;
A-bide with me when night is nigh,
for with-out you I dare not die.

3. Watch by the sick; en-rich the poor
with bless-ings from your bound-less store;
Be ev-ery mourn-er's sleep to-night,
like in-fants' slum-bers, pure and light.

4. Come near and bless us when we wake,
as through the world our way we take,
Till through your love which knows no end
we gain at last the peace of heaven.

Luke 24:29; John 15:4–5

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.

Response to prayer♪ Hymn #241, Verse 3

**I come to the garden alone,
while the dew is still on the roses;
And the voice I hear, failing on my ear,
the Son of God discloses.
And he walks with me, and he talks with
me,
and he tells me I am his own,
And the joy we share as we tarry there,
None other has ever known.**

Chancel Choir “Just a Closer Walk”

Don Besig

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Announcements

Jeff Rissell

Offering

Offertory "Yes, I Know My Savior Lives"

Lani Smith

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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 #301 "Crown with Your Richest Crowns"**

* Commission and Blessing

* **Threefold Amen**

Amen, Amen, Amen

Music to Go Forth... "Canzona"

W. A. Mozart/Arr. Lani Smith

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Crown with Your Richest Crowns

Matthew Bridges, 1851, and Godfrey Thring, 1874
Adapt. Thomas H. Troeger, 1993

1. Crown with your rich-est crowns
the Lamb up-on the throne;
Hark! how the heaven-ly an-them drowns
all mu-sic but its own.
A-wake, my soul, and sing
of Christ who died for you,
And to your ris-en Sav-ior bring
your thanks for life made new.

2. Crown Christ whose love has flowed
down hands and feet and side.
Look past the peak of Cal-vary's road
to Christ the glo-ri-fied.
The sun that lights the sky
is pale be-fore that sight.
At prayer we glimpse then turn
the eye from mys-ter-ies so bright.

3. Crown Christ the truth, the life
who tri-umphed o'er the grave
And rose vic-to-rious in the strife,
this fal-len world to save.
Christ's glo-ries now we sing,
Christ's name we mag-ni-fy,

REIGN OF CHRIST

Who died e-ter-nal life to bring,
and lives that death may die.

4. Crown Christ who rules in peace,
whose power a scep-tre sways
From pole to pole, that wars may cease,
and all be prayer and praise:
Christ's reign shall have no end,
for 'round those wound-ed feet a
fra-grant gar-den shall ex-tend
for-ev-er green and sweet.

5. Crown Christ who holds the years,
em-brac-ing space and time,
Cre-a-tor of the roll-ing spheres,
in-ef-fa-bly sub-lime:
All hail, Re-deem-er, hail!
For you have died for me;
Your praise shall nev-er, nev-er fail
through-out e-ter-ni-ty.

John 19:16-18, 31-34; Rev. 7:9-10

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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. Rebecca Sausser.....Pastor
Lucia Guido.....Admin. Assistant
Lois Mease.....Music Director and Organist
Jim Saylor.....Sunday Sexton

And too many volunteers to list!

Office Hours

Sunday: 9am-2pm

Monday-Thursday: 9am-3pm

Closed on Fridays and Saturdays

