

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 26, 2026

11:00am

Tower Chimes

Janet Cook

Music to Gather: "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring"

J. S. Bach/Arr. Denes Agay

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Welcome

Call to Worship based on Psalm 100

One: We gather together to worship God,

All: God is the Shepherd of our souls.

One: Holy God, you are the one who has created us,

All: You are the one who sustains us and redeems us,

One: You are the one who walks beside us in good times and bad,

All: You are the one who calls us to follow.

One: This is our God, the good shepherd!

All: Let's worship God together!

Hymn#247 "My Shepherd Is the Living God"

Profession of Faith

One: No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey you are welcome here! Today we take comfort in Jesus as we bring our awareness to his presence in our lives always.

All: Holy Jesus, today as we gather in this place of worship, we are filled with joy and comfort as we remember the many ways you watch over us and guide us. Like a

Composite from Thomas Sternhold, 1549, and Isaac Watts, 1719; alt.

1. My shep-herd is the liv-ing God,
I there-fore noth-ing need;
In pas-tures fair, near pleas-ant streams
you set-tle me to feed.
You bring my wan-dering spir-it back
when I for-sake your ways,
And lead me for your mer-cy's sake
in paths of truth and grace.

2. When I walk through the shades of death,
your pres-ence is my stay;
A word of your sup-port-ing breath
drives all my fears a-way.
Your hand, in sight of all my foes,
does still my ta-ble spread;
My cup with bless-ings o-ver-flows,
your oil a-noints my head.

3. The sure pro-vi-sions of my God
at-tend me all my days;
O may your house be my a-bode,
and all my work be praise.
There would I find a set-tled rest,
while oth-ers come and go—
No more a strang-er or a guest,
but like a child at home.

Ps. 23; John 10:11, 27–30

shepherd who protects their flock, you protect us and find us when we have lost our way. Turn our ears to hear your voice that we may better listen for your gentle guidance. Bless us in the place that you find us today and grant us your peace and your rest. Amen.

Response to prayer of confession 🎵

Hymn #551 V2

Let me at your throne of mercy find a sweet relief;

Kneeling there in deep contrition, help my unbelief.

Savior, Savior, hear my humble cry;

While on others you are calling, do not pass me by.

Words of Reassurance

One: It feels so good to know that Jesus watches over us! That Jesus is ever vigilant, which means that we don't have to be. We can come to Jesus and lay down the heavy burdens we are carrying and rest in his arms.

All: “Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. 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 #233 V3

**Love’s redeeming work is done, Alleluia!
Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!
Death in vain forbids Christ rise, Alleluia!
God has opened paradise, Alleluia!**

Scriptures

Janet Cook

Reading 1: John 10:1-10; (page 868)

Reading 2: Matthew 18:10-14 (pages 793-794)

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: "The Good Shepherd"

Rev. Becky Sausser

Hymn #252 "Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us"

(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.

Response to prayer 🎵 Hymn #520, Verse 2

Come, pray in me the prayer I need this day;

**Help me to see your purpose and your will,
Where I have failed, what I have done**

amiss;

Held in forgiving love, let me be still.

Attrib. to Dorothy A. Thrupp (1779–1847)

From *Hymns for the Young*, 1836; alt.

St. 1 transl. to Hawaiian by Laiana (1807–1886)

1. Ie-su no ke Ka-hu-hi-pa, Ka-hu-hi-pa ma'i-ka'i e,
Ei-a ma-kou ka 'o-ha-na ke ho'o-lo-he a ha-hai:
E a-lo-ha, e a-lo-ha, a-la-ka'i a ha-nai mai,
E a-lo-ha, e a-lo-ha, a-la-ka'i a ha-nai mai.

1. Sav-ior, like a shep-herd lead us, much we need your ten-der care;
in your pleas-ant pas-tures feed us, for our use your folds pre-pare.
Bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je-sus, you have bought us, yours we are;
Bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je-sus, you have bought us, yours we are.

2. We are yours, in love be-friend us, be the guard-ian of our way;
keep your flock, from sin de-fend us, seek us when we go a-stray.
Bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je-sus, hear your chil-dren when we pray;
Bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je-sus, hear your chil-dren when we pray.

3. Let us al-ways seek your fa-vor; let us al-ways do your will;
Je-sus Christ our on-ly Sav-ior, with your love our spir-its fill.
Bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je-sus, you have loved us, love us still;
Bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je-sus, you have loved us, love us still.

John 10:1–29

Chancel Choir

“Come, Lord and Shepherd of the Flock”

Handel/arr. Ehret

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Announcements

Jeff Rissell

Offering

Offertory “Sheep May Safely Graze”

J. S. Bach/Arr. Denes Agay

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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 #459 “Come, O Fount of Every Blessing”

* Commission and Blessing

* **Threefold Amen**

Amen, Amen, Amen

Music to Go Forth “Ye Are the Light of the World”

Edward Broughton

Copyright 1986 Lorenz Publishing Co.

Come, O Fount of Every Blessing

Robert Robinson, 1758; alt.

1. Come, O Fount of ev-ery bless-ing,
tune my heart to sing your grace;
streams of mer-cy, nev-er ceas-ing,
call for songs of end-less praise.
Teach me some me-lo-dious son-net,
sung by flam-ing tongues a-bove.
Praise the mount; I'm fixed up-on it,
mount of God's un-fail-ing love.
2. Here I pause in my so-journ-ing,
giv-ing thanks for hav-ing come,
come to trust, at ev-ery turn-ing,
God will guide me safe-ly home.
Je-sus sought me when a strang-er,
wan-dering from the fold of God,
Came to res-cue me from dan-ger,
bless-ed bod-y, pre-cious blood.
3. O to grace how great a debt-or
dai-ly I am drawn a-new!
Let that grace now, like a fet-ter,
bind my wan-dering heart to you.
Prone to wan-der, I can feel it,
wan-der from the love I've known:
Here's my heart, O take and seal it,
seal it for your ver-y own.

Ps. 36:7-9

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***The Altar flowers are in honor of
Jim Saylor's Birthday by Brenda Saylor***

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

