

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**

April 5, 2026

11:00am

Tower Chimes

Janet Cook

**Music to Gather: "Praise My Soul, the King of
Heaven"**

John Goss arr. Philip Sparke

Copyright 2004 Anglo Music Press

Danny Collier, Trumpet

Welcome

Call to Worship by Worship online

One: The tomb is empty and darkness has lost!

All: We dance in the light of His resurrection!

One: No more do we have to fear!

All: No more does worry reign!

One: He is victorious and so are we!

All: Because of His victory, we are free!

One: Praise the Lord! Hallelujah!

All: Praise the Risen Lord! Hallelujah!

Hymn #233.....“Christ the Lord Is Risen Today”

Profession of Faith

One: No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey you are welcome here!

Through Jesus Christ's life, death, and resurrection, he has made a place for all people in the holy family of God! Let us profess our joy!

All: Holy Jesus, we join with the voices throughout the earth that sing your praises! You have conquered death and made a way for all people to have eternal life and

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

Charles Wesley, 1739; alt.

1. Christ the Lord is risen to-day, Al-le-lu-ia!
Mor-tal tongues and an-gels say: Al-le-lu-ia!
Raise your joys and tri-umphs high, Al-le-lu-ia!
Sing, glad heavens, and earth re-ply: Al-le-lu-ia!

2. Let the Vic-tor's peo-ple sing, Al-le-lu-ia!
Where, O death, is now your sting? Al-le-lu-ia!
Dy-ing once, Christ lives to save, Al-le-lu-ia!
Where your vic-to-ry, O grave? Al-le-lu-ia!

3. Love's re-deem-ing work is done, Al-le-lu-ia!
Fought the fight, the bat-tle won, Al-le-lu-ia!
Death in vain for-bids Christ rise, Al-le-lu-ia!
God has o-pened par-a-dise, Al-le-lu-ia!

4. Soar we now where Christ has led, Al-le-lu-ia!
Fol-lowing our ex-alt-ed Head, Al-le-lu-ia!
Made like Christ, like Christ we rise, Al-le-lu-ia!
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Al-le-lu-ia!

Matt. 28:5–8; 1 Cor. 15:20–22; 54–57

salvation with you in heaven. The ways of the world want to divide and weaken us, but you remind us that we are stronger together! We gather as one people to profess you are Lord! Hallelujah! Amen!

Response to prayer of confession 🎵

Hymn #245, Verse 2

Our hearts be pure from evil, that we may see aright

The Christ who reigns eternal in resurrection light;

We listen for the teachings once heard so calm and plain,

For we, too, want to follow and raise the victor strain.

Words of Reassurance

One: Christ is risen!

All: He is risen indeed!

Response to Words of Assurance 🎵 Hymn

#253 V1

**Yours is the glory, Resurrected One!
Endless is the victory you o'er death have won.
Angels clothed in radiance rolled the stone away;
Conquered is the grave in which your body lay.
Yours is the glory, Resurrected one!
Endless is the victory you o'er death have won.**

Scriptures

Judith Guhl

Reading 1: Matthew 28:1-10

(page 806)

Reading 2: Acts 10: 34-43

(page 891)

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: "Colors of Grace" Rev. Becky
Sausser

Hymn#238..... "Now the Green Blade
Rises"

*(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 #251, Verse 1

**I greet you, sure Redeemer, with my heart,
Glad for the saving love that you impart,
Who pain did undergo for my poor sake;
I pray you from our hearts all cares to take.**

Now the Green Blade Rises

John M. C. Crum, 1928; alt.

1. Now the green blade ris-es from the bur-ied grain;
Wheat that in dark earth for man-y days has lain;
Love lives a-gain, that with the dead has been:
Love is come a-gain like wheat that ris-es green.

2. In the grave they laid their Love whom hate had slain,
Think-ing that their Love would nev-er wake a-gain,
Laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un-seen:
Love is come a-gain like wheat that ris-es green.

3. Christ came forth at Eas-ter, like the ris-en grain,
Je-sus, who for three days in the grave had lain,
Quick from the dead the ris-en One is seen:
Love is come a-gain like wheat that ris-es green.

4. When our hearts are win-try, griev-ing, or in pain,
Christ's warm touch can call us back to life a-gain,
Fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:
Love is come a-gain like wheat that ris-es green.

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Matt. 27:57–28:7; Luke 23:50–24:12

Chancel Choir "Sing the Resurrection Song"
Allen Pote
Copyright 1990 Hope Publishing Company

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 "Alleluia"

George Blake

Copyright 1983 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 #242.....“The Strife Is O'er”**

* Commission and Blessing

* **Threefold Amen**

Amen, Amen, Amen

Music to Go Forth

“The Strife Is O'er, the Battle Done” arr. J.

Wayne Kerr

Copyright 1998 Augsburg Fortress

The Strife Is O'er

Latin, c. 1695

Transl. Francis Pott, 1861; alt.

Refrain: (sung before stanza 1 and after stanza 4)

Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia!

1. The strife is o'er, the bat-tle done,
the vic-to-ry of life is won;
The song of tri-umph has be-gun. Al-le-lu-ia!
2. The powers of death have done their worst,
but Christ their le-gions has dis-persed:
Let shouts of ho-ly joy out-burst. Al-le-lu-ia!
3. The three sad days are quick-ly sped,
Christ ris-es glo-rious from the dead:
All glo-ry to our ris-en Head! Al-le-lu-ia!
4. Christ, by your wounds on Cal-va-ry
from death's dread sting your ser-vants free,
That we may live e-ter-nal-ly. Al-le-lu-ia!

Refrain:

Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia!

1 Cor. 15:53–57

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***The Altar flowers were made by Sue
Fegley, thank you Sue!***

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





The flowers gracing our altar this Easter morning are given....



In memory of Walter Yenolevich, father, by Cindy Dannenhower.

In memory of Micheal Yenolevich, brother, by Cindy Dannenhower.

In memory of Karen Herring, niece, by Cindy Dannenhower.

In honor of Esther Heinze by daughter Nancy Rissell.

In memory of the Heinze family: Nana & Da; Chet & Jean; Tom and David by Nancy Rissell.

In memory of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Saylor Sr. by Brenda & James W. Saylor Sr.

In memory of Bernice M. Bramich by Brenda & James W. Saylor Sr.

In memory of Bernard Lackner by Brenda and James W. Saylor Sr.

In memory of Loved Ones by Brenda and James W. Saylor Sr.

In memory of Loved Ones by Bonnie & Bill Falla.

In memory of Loved Ones by Jim & Becky Bronfenbrenner.

In honor of our Children by Jim & Becky Bronfenbrenner.

In honor of our Grandchildren by Jim & Becky Bronfenbrenner.

In honor of Bruce and Dolly DeLong by Jim & Becky Bronfenbrenner.

In memory of Loved Ones by Tom Raub.

In honor of Bill and Bonnie Falla by Dick and Jeanette Schmoyer.

In memory of Valerie Ford, daughter, by Dick and Jeanette Schmoyer.

In memory of Elaine Young, Jeanette's sister, by Dick and Jeanette Schmoyer.

In memory of Loved Ones by Bruce DeLong.

In memory of Stephen and Lillian Schaffer by Carol Wikerd and Richard Schaffer.

In memory of Paul and Loretta Wikerd by Carol Wikerd and Richard Schaffer.

In honor of Tanner and Connor by Trudi Egan.

In honor of my God Children by Trudi Egan.

In memory of Wouter de Nie by Trudi Egan.

In memory of Mom and Gram by Trudi Egan.

In memory of my husband by Sterna Klingborg.

In honor of Loved Ones by Sterna Klingborg.

In memory of my parents Helen and Charles Rissell, by Jeff Rissell.

In honor of my parents Sally and Bruce Rodenberger, by Judy Garrigan.

In memory of Doris Ann Todd by Ralph Todd.

In memory of Carla Anne Anthony by Ralph Todd.

In memory of Abbey Wrabel by Ralph Todd.

In memory of Margaret and Earl Miller by Ralph Todd.

In memory of Elizabeth and Ralph Todd by Ralph Todd.

In honor of my Kids and my Loving Husband by Shinea Pyle.

In honor of Shinea Pyle: an amazing mother and wife. (anonymous)

In honor of Shinea Pyle's entire family. (anonymous)

In memory of David Deily by Alan & Lynn Cloak.

In memory of May and Lloyd Deily by Alan & Lynn Cloak.

In memory of Maude Anker by Alan & Lynn Cloak.

In memory of Karline Mosebach by Jay Mosebach.

In memory of Bud Knerr by Felicia Knerr.

In memory of Dorothy and Fred Kunkel by Ann and Mayva Kunkel.

In memory of Homer and Ida Smith by Ann and Mayva Kunkel.

In memory of our parents, Evelyn and Art Mensinger and

Marie and Curtis Fegley, by Sue and Bob Fegley.

In honor of our grandchildren, Logan and Lyla, and their parents,

Megan and Ben Edwards, by Sue and Bob Fegley.