

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**

May 3, 2026

11:00am

Tower Chimes

Janet Cook

**Music to Gather: Theme and Variations on “Now
the Green Blade Rises” Wayne L. Wold**

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Welcome

Call to Worship by Sarah E. Weaver

One: Jesus said 'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me.'

All: **We believe in Jesus Christ, whose resurrection gives us eternal life.**

One: Jesus said with blessed assurance: 'In my Father's house, there are many dwelling places.'

All: **Dwelling places prepared for us, children of God.**

One: Jesus said 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life.'

All: **We gather today to celebrate life and to bear witness to the resurrection. Thanks be to God!**

Hymn #305 "You Servants of God, Your Sovereign Proclaim"

Profession of Faith

One: No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey you are welcome here! The word *sin* literally means to miss the mark or to turn down the wrong road. Let us profess our need for Jesus to help us find our way.

You Servants of God, Your Sovereign Proclaim **305**

Charles Wesley, 1744; alt.

1. You ser-vants of God, your Sov-ereign pro-claim,
and pub-lish a-broad that won-der-ful name:
The name, all vic-to-rious, of Je-sus ex-tol,
who, sov-ereign and glo-rious, now rules o-ver all.

2. God rules from on high, al-might-y to save,
and still God is nigh, whose pres-ence we have.
The great con-gre-ga-tion God's tri-umphs shall praise,
as-crib-ing sal-va-tion to Je-sus al-ways.

3. Sal-va-tion to God who sits on the throne!
Let all cry a-loud for what God has done.
The prais-es of Je-sus the an-gels pro-claim,
still veil-ing their fac-es, they wor-ship the Lamb.

4. Then let us a-dore and ren-der God's right,
all glo-ry and power, all wis-dom and might,
All hon-or and bless-ing with an-gels a-bove,
and thanks nev-er ceas-ing and in-fin-ite love.

Rev. 4:9–11; 5:11–14

All: Holy God, we thank you for your grace and your presence! Sometimes it is so difficult to navigate this world, and we think we are heading down the path of grace and love, but we get distracted, or turned around, and we need to correct course. Thank you that you are there with us, like a shepherd leading their sheep back to safety. Bless us with your spirit of discernment and love so that we might be better equipped to walk these twisty roads as we strive to take just a closer walk with you. Amen.

Response to prayer of confession♪

Hymn #493, V1

O Jesus I have promised to serve you to the end;

Remain forever near me, my Savior and my Friend;

I shall not fear life's struggles if you are by my side,

Nor wander from the pathway if you will be my guide.

Words of Reassurance

One: How good it is to know that in Jesus Christ we have our savior, our friend that sticks closer than a brother, and we can look to Christ to find the way, the truth, and the life!

All: "Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long." -Psalm 25:5

Response to Words of Assurance 🎵

Gloria Patri 🎵

"Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.

Amen".

Scriptures

Rick Guhl

Reading: John 14:1-14

(page 873)

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 Way" Rev. Becky Sausser

Hymn#331

"Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life"

(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 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 #508, Verse 5

**O Christ, by whom we come to God,
The Life, the Truth, the Way,
The path of prayer you too have trod:
Christ, teach us how to pray.**

A CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

The Invitation

Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life

331

George Herbert, 1633; alt.

1. Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life:
such a way as gives us breath;
Such a truth as ends all strife;
such a life as con-quers death.

2. Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength:
such a light as shows a feast;
Such a feast as mends in length;
such a strength as makes a guest.

3. Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart:
such a joy as none can move;
Such a love as none can part;
such a heart as joys in love.

John 8:12; 14:1-7; 15:11

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 "Preludio" C. Adolfo Bossi

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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 #400

"Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation"

Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation

Latin, 6th–8th century

Transl. John Mason Neale, 1851; alt.

St. 3 adapt. Thomas H. Troeger, 1992

1. Christ is made the sure foun-da-tion,
Christ the head and cor-ner-stone,
chos-en of our God and pre-cious,
bind-ing all the Church in one;
Ho-ly Zi-on's help for-ev-er,
and our con-fi-dence a-lone.

2. To this tem-ple, where we call you,
come, O God of Hosts, to-day!
With your con-stant, lov-ing kind-ness
hear your peo-ple as they pray.
Give your full-est ben-e-dic-tion:
grace to fol-low Christ the Way.

3. Here re-new your ser-vants' vis-ion,
that by faith they may at-tain
peace and hope, re-newed com-pas-sion,
strength to com-fort those in pain,
Tears and grief trans-formed to glad-ness
in your ev-er-last-ing reign.

Eph. 2:20–22; 1 Pet. 2:4–7

* Commission and Blessing

* **Threefold Amen**

Amen, Amen, Amen

Music to Go Forth "Concerto" Paul Fey

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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
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