

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 17, 2026

11:00am

Tower Chimes

Janet Cook

Music to Gather: : “Canzona”

W. A. Mozart, Arr. Lani Smith

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Welcome

Call to Worship based on Psalm 47

One: Clap your hands, all you peoples; shout to God with loud songs of joy.

All: For the Lord, the Most High, is awesome, a great king over all the earth.

One: God has gone up with a shout, the Lord with the sound of a trumpet.

All: Sing praises to God, sing praises!

One: For God is the lord of all the earth!

All: Sing praises to God! Amen!

Hymn #257 “Alleluia! Gracious Jesus!”

Profession of Faith

One: No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey you are welcome here! Today we join with the disciples in our awe and amazement as we strive to become more like Jesus with every passing day. Let us profess our need for Jesus together.

All: Awesome God, we are delighted and bemused as we celebrate the ascension of Jesus! We find ourselves glancing up at the sky today in wonder. Help us to turn our eyes

Alleluia! Gracious Jesus!

William C. Dix, 1867; alt.

1. Al-le-lu-ia! Gra-cious Je-sus!
Yours the scep-ter, yours the throne!
Al-le-lu-ia! Yours the tri-umph,
yours the vic-to-ry a-lone!
Hark! the songs of peace-ful Zi-on
thun-der like a might-y flood;
Je-sus, out of ev-ery na-tion
you've re-deemed us by your blood.

2. Al-le-lu-ia! Not as or-phans
are we left in sor-row now.
Al-le-lu-ia! You are near us;
faith be-lieves, nor ques-tions how.
Though the cloud from sight re-ceived you
when the for-ty days were o'er,
shall our hearts for-get your prom-ise,
"I am with you ev-er-more."

3. Al-le-lu-ia! Bread of an-gels,
you on earth our food, our stay.
Al-le-lu-ia! Here the sin-ful
flee to you from day to day.
In-ter-ces-sor, friend of sin-ners,
earth's Re-deem-er, plead for me,
and the songs that sound in heav-en
will re-peat your gra-cious plea.

4. Al-le-lu-ia! Christ e-ter-nal,
noth-ing can dis-rupt your reign;
Al-le-lu-ia! Born of Mar-y,
heaven and earth are your do-main.
Hu-man life you ful-ly en-tered,
tend-ing those we count the least,
serv-ing both as Priest and Vic-tim
in the eu-cha-ris-tic feast.

Eph. 1:15–23; Heb. 9:11–14

toward our neighbors and our world. Give us your heart for mission and help us to be your hands and feet moving in the world to bring about mercy and justice. Bless us we pray.

Amen.

Response to prayer of confession♪ Hymn #547,

V4

**My God has promised good to me,
Whose word my hope secures;
God will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures.**

Words of Reassurance

One: In our walk with Jesus, we are helped to grow as we help others on their path. We are called to discipleship, and to share Christ's love with the world.

All: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teach them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Matthew 28:19-20

Response to Words of Assurance 🎵 Hymn #6

V4

**I cry to God, in pain and grief,
“Please, God of mercy, hear me!”
My certain help provides relief,
faith, hope and love to cheer me.
So let me sing, joyful and free:
Ah, thankful Christians, sing with me:
To God give praise and glory!**

Scriptures

Barney Cook

Reading 1: Luke 24:44-53

(Pages 856-857)

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: “Ascend!”

Rev. Becky Sausser

Hymn#468 “The Church’s One Foundation”

(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 2

**Prayer is the simplest form of speech
That infant lips can try;
Prayer, the sublimest strains that reach
The Majesty so high.**

Chancel Choir “Filled with the Glory”

Don Besig and Nancy Price

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The Church's One Foundation

Samuel J. Stone, 1866; alt.

1. The church's one foun-da-tion
is Je-sus Christ our Lord;
we are Christ's new cre-a-tion
by wa-ter and the word;
From heaven Christ came and sought us
in love to set us free;
with pre-cious blood Christ bought us
for all e-ter-ni-ty.

2. E-lect from ev-ery na-tion,
yet one o'er all the earth,
one char-ter of sal-va-tion,
one God, one faith, one birth,
One name to-geth-er bless-ing,
one ho-ly food we share,
to one hope we are press-ing,
at one in work and prayer.

3. 'Mid toil and trib-u-la-tion,
and tu-mult of our war,
we wait the con-sum-ma-tion
of peace for-ev-er-more;
Till with the vi-sion glo-rious,
our long-ing eyes are blessed,
and the great church vic-to-rious
shall be the church at rest.

4. Yet we on earth have un-ion
with God, the Three-in-One,
and mys-tic sweet com-mu-nion
with those whose rest is won.
O hap-py ones and ho-ly!
God, give us grace that we,
like them, the meek and low-ly,
may live e-ter-nal-ly.

Eph. 2:13–22; 4:4–6; 1 Cor. 3:11

Announcements

Jeff Rissell

Offering

Offertory "Nocturne"

Felix Mehdelssohn Arr. Denes Agay

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Inc.

* 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 #55 "Rejoice, You Pure in Heart"***

Commission and Blessing

*** Threefold Amen**

Amen, Amen, Amen

Music to Go Forth "Triumphant Fanfare"

Thomas Chesterton

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Rejoice, You Pure in Heart

Edward H. Plumptre, 1865; alt.

1. Re-joyce, you pure in heart; lift prais-es to the sky;
Your fes-tal ban-ner wave with joy, the cross of Christ raise high!
Re-joyce, re-joyce, re-joyce, give thanks and sing.

2. Bright youth and sea-soned age, strong souls and spir-its meek,
Raise high your free, ex-ult-ing song, God's won-drous prais-es
speak.
Re-joyce, re-joyce, re-joyce, give thanks and sing.

3. With voice as full and strong as o-cean's surg-ing praise,
Send forth the hymns the saints have loved, the psalms of an-cient
days.
Re-joyce, re-joyce, re-joyce, give thanks and sing.

4. Yes, on through life's long path, still chant-ing as you go,
From youth to age, by night and day, in glad-ness and in woe:
Re-joyce, re-joyce, re-joyce, give thanks and sing.

5. Praise God who rules all worlds, the ris-en Christ a-dore,
Praise God the Spir-it, Ho-ly Fire, one God for ev-er-more!
Re-joyce, re-joyce, re-joyce, give thanks and sing.

Ps. 20:5; Phil. 4:4

The Altar Flowers are in Honor of St. Johns 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