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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**

July 26, 2026, 10:00am
Tower Chimes Janet Cook

Music to Gather: "How Great Thou Art"

Robert A. Hobby

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Welcome

Call to Worship

One: Welcome everyone to this house of worship!

**Two: Welcome everyone to this place where God
is still speaking and the table is constantly growing
wider!**

All: We come with gladness! We come with rejoicing! We come into this place knowing that we belong and we are loved!

One: You are loved indeed! God loves you so incredibly much!

Two: Let us strive to share the love of Jesus with the world!

All: May the Spirit move through us and help us to become a beacon of welcoming love!

Hymn #609 “Now Is the Time Approaching”

Profession of Faith

One: No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here! Today we gather together remembering that sometimes, plans don't work out the way we think they should, but even in the moments of life where we are called to be flexible, God is there!

All: Holy God, help us to learn from you how to be more flexible! We see the beauty that you have designed into creation, giving us examples of how we can move in the world. We see birds in flight that seem to dance with one another, bobbing and weaving through

Now Is the Time Approaching

Jane Laurie Borthwick, 1859; alt.

1. Now is the time ap-proach-ing, by proph-ets long fore-told,
when all shall dwell to-geth-er, se-cure and man-i-fold.
Let war be learned no long-er, let strife and tu-mult cease,
all earth a bless-ed gar-den that God shall tend in peace.
2. Let all that now di-vides us re-move and pass a-way,
like mists of ear-ly morn-ing be-fore the blaze of day.
Let all that now u-nites us more sweet and last-ing prove,
a clos-er bond of un-ion, in bless-ed lands of love.
3. O long-ex-pect-ed dawn-ing, come with your cheer-ing ray!
Yet shall the prom-ise beck-on and lead us not a-stray.
O sweet an-tic-i-pa-tion! It cheers the watch-ers on
to pray, and hope, and la-bor till Christ's new realm is come.

Jer. 33:14–16; Isa. 11:6–9; 61:11

the air with grace. We see the gentle stream which overtime changes the landscape with its persistent march. Help us to be more flexible, so that when things don't work out the way that we think they should, we are more open to seeing how you are trying to move through us. Amen.

Response to prayer of confession 🎵 Hymn #448, V3

Take my will, your will be done!

Make your will and mine be one.

Take my heart, and by your grace

Make of it your swelling place.

Words of Assurance

One: Robert Burns once said, "The best laid plans of mice and men often go awry" ... the poem also says that still we are blessed. Let us remember that we are blessed and love by an incredible God!

All: "For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope."

-Jeremiah 29:11

Response to Words of Assurance 🎵 Hymn #493, V3

**O Jesus, you have promised to all who follow
you**

**That where you are in glory your servant shall
be, too;**

**And, Jesus, I have promised to serve you to
the end;**

**O give me grace to follow my Savior and my
Friend!**

Scriptures

Felicia Knerr

Reading 1: Acts 27:39-28:10

(Pages 908-909)

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: Flexibility & Blessing

Rev. Becky Sausser & Amanda Muschett

Hymn #448 "Take My Life, God, Let It Be"

Take My Life, God, Let It Be

Frances R. Havergal, 1874; alt.

1. Take my life, God, let it be
con-se-cratt-ed faith-ful-ly.
Take my mo-ments and my days,
let them flow in cease-less praise.
2. Take my spir-it, let it move
at the im-pulse of your love.
Take my in-tel-lect and use
all its pow-ers as you choose.
3. Take my will; your will be done!
Make your will and mine be one.
Take my heart, and by your grace
make of it your dwell-ing place.
4. Take my love and help it grow;
let my lov-ing ov-er-flow.
Take me now, and help me be
part of Christ's com-mu-ni-ty.

Rom. 12:1

(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.

Prayer Response 🎵 Hymn #502 Verse 5

**Breathe through the pulses of desire
Your coolness and your balm;
Let sense be numb, let flesh retire;
Speak through the earthquake, wind and fire,
O still, small voice of calm.**

Special Music "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

Lani Smith

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Danny Collier, Organ

Lois Mease, Piano

Announcements

Jeff Rissell

Offering

Offertory "My Faith Looks Up to Thee"

Lowell Mason

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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 #444 "We Are Often Tossed and Driven"**

* Commission and Blessing

* **Threefold Amen**

Amen, Amen, Amen

Music to Go Forth "Jesus Shall Reign" John Hatton

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We Are Often Tossed and Driven
(We'll Understand It Better By and By)

Charles Albert Tindley, c. 1906; alt.

1. We are of-ten tossed and driven on the rest-less sea of time,
Som-ber skies and howl-ing tem-pests oft suc-ceed a bright
sun-shine;
In that land of per-fect day, when the mists have rolled a-way,
We will un-der-stand it bet-ter by and by.

Refrain:

By and by, when the morn-ing comes,
when the saints of God are gath-ered home,
We'll tell the sto-ry how we've o-ver-come:
for we'll un-der-stand it bet-ter by and by.

2. We are of-ten des-ti-tute of the things that life de-mands,
Want of food and want of shel-ter, thirst-y hills and bar-ren lands;
In our God our trust's as-sured, and ac-cord-ing to the Word,
We will un-der-stand it bet-ter by and by.

Refrain:

3. Tri-als harsh on ev-ery hand, and we can-not un-der-stand
All the ways that God would lead us to that bless-ed prom-ised land;
We are guid-ed by God's eye, and we'll fol-low till we die,
For we'll un-der-stand it bet-ter by and by.

Refrain:

4. Temp-ta-tions, hid-den snares of-ten take us un-a-ware,
And our hearts are made to bleed for man-y a thought-less word
or deed,
And we won-der, why the test, when we try to do our best,
But we'll un-der-stand it bet-ter by and by.

Refrain:

***The Altar Flowers Are Placed by Jim and
Becky Bronfenbrenner in Honor of Their
Daughter Sarah and Granddaughter Klara.***

Special Announcements/Reminders:

You can give **Electronically** from your mobile device using the **VancoMobile app**. You can download it from the Apple and Google Play store. The church's name is - **stjohnsuccallentown** - exactly as shown.

You can also give on our homepage by clicking the **"Donate"** button **www.stjohnsuccallentown.org**

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