

**St. John's United Church of Christ**  
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**Pastor Rebecca Sausser**

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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**

**July 5, 2026,**

**10:00am**

**Tower Chimes**

**Janet Cook**

**Music to Gather: "Lean On, O King Eternal"**

**Gregg Sewel**

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**Welcome**

**Call to Worship based on Acts 2 By Rev. Becky**

**Sausser**

**One: Let us be filled with all because of the many  
wonders and signs that are still being done today!**

**All: Let us gather together in this holy space,  
with this beloved community, day by day!**

One: whenever we are together let us be filled with gladness and express this gladness with generous hearts.

**All: Whenever we break bread together, let us praise God and celebrate our salvation in Jesus Christ.**

One: Holy Spirit, bless us know we pray!

**All: Holy Spirit, bless us day by day.**

**Hymn #594 “How Beautiful, Our Spacious Skies”**

### Profession of Faith

One: No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here! Today we gather to profess our need for Jesus Christ, following the model of joyful worship established for us in the early church.

**All: Holy God, Creator, Son, and Spirit One, we praise you! We can become so discouraged by the things that are going on in the world around us, but you oh Lord, call us to community. Where our world seeks to divide, you call us to make our table ever wider! Bless us in the ministry that you have called us to at St. John's United Church of Christ. Bless us as we strive to do this ministry in the heart of the city. Amen.**

## How Beautiful, Our Spacious Skies

St. 1, Katharine Lee Bates, 1893; alt.

St. 2, 3, 4, Miriam Therese Winter, 1993

1. How beau-ti-ful, our spa-cious skies, our am-ber waves of grain;  
our pur-ple moun-tains as they rise a-bove the fruit-ful plain.  
A-mer-i-ca! A-mer-i-ca! God's gra-cious gifts a-bound,  
and more and more we're grate-ful for life's boun-ty all a-round.
2. In-dig-e-nous and im-mi-grant, our daugh-ters and our sons:  
O may we nev-er rest con-tent till all are tru-ly one.  
A-mer-i-ca! A-mer-i-ca! God grant that we may be  
a sis-ter-hood and broth-er-hood from sea to shin-ing sea.
3. How beau-ti-ful, sin-cere la-ment, the wis-dom born of tears,  
the cour-age called for to re-pent the blood-shed through the years.  
A-mer-i-ca! A-mer-i-ca! God grant that we may be  
a na-tion blessed with none op-pressed, true land of lib-er-ty.
4. How beau-ti-ful, two con-ti-nents, and is-lands in the sea  
that dream of peace, non-vi-o-lence, all peo-ple liv-ing free.  
A-mer-i-cas! A-mer-i-cas! God grant that we may be  
a hem-i-sphere where peo-ple here all live in har-mo-ny.

Response to prayer of confession 🎵 Hymn #433,  
V1

**In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed an apple tree;**

**In cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!**

**In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be,**

**Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.**

Words of Assurance

One: Everything that we do can be an act of worship when it is done with love in our hearts! From volunteering at the soup kitchen, to gardening and crocheting, to sitting in the stillness, all of this is worship!

**All: "Let everything that has breath praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!"** -Psalm 150:6

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

Judie Guhl

Reading 1: Acts 2:43-47

(Page 883)

Reading 2: Acts 4:32-37

(Page 884)

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: Discernment

Rev. Becky Sausser

**Hymn #357 "You Are Called to Tell the Story"**

*(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.**

## You Are Called to Tell the Story

357

Ruth Duck, 1991

1. You are called to tell the sto-ry,  
pass-ing words of life a-long,  
Then to blend your voice with oth-ers  
as you sing the sa-cred song.  
Christ be known in all our sing-ing,  
fill-ing all with songs of love.
2. You are called to teach the rhy-thm  
of the dance that nev-er ends,  
Then to move with-in the cir-cle,  
hand in hand with strang-ers, friends.  
Christ be known in all our danc-ing,  
touch-ing all with hands of love.
3. You are called to set the ta-ble,  
bless-ing bread as Je-sus blessed,  
Then to come with thirst and hun-ger,  
need-ing care like all the rest.  
Christ be known in all our shar-ing,  
feed-ing all with signs of love.
4. May the One whose love is broad-er  
than the mea-sure of all space  
Give us words to sing the sto-ry,  
move a-mong us in this place.

COMMISSIONING, ORDINATION, AND INSTALLATION

Christ be known in all our liv-ing,  
fill-ing all with gifts of love.

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Eph. 3:14-21

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Prayer Response 🎵 Hymn #520 Verse 1

**Eternal Spirit of the living Christ,  
I know not how to ask or what to say;  
I only know my need, as deep as life,  
And only you can teach me how to pray.**

**Special Music** “God Bless America” Irving Berlin

Copyright 1939 Irving Berlin

Jeff Rissell, soloist

## **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 "Praeludium" Jacques Boyvin

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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 # 592 "God of the Ages"**

\* Commission and Blessing

\* **Threefold Amen**

*Amen, Amen, Amen*

**Music to Go Forth** "Festal Postlude" Stephen Otis

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**592** God of the Ages, Who with Sure Command

Daniel Crane Roberts, 1876; alt.

1. God of the a-ges, who with sure com-mand  
brought forth in beau-ty all the star-ry band  
of shin-ing worlds in splen-dor through the skies,  
our grate-ful songs be-fore your throne a-rise.
2. Your pur-pose, just, en-vi-sions mor-tals free;  
God, set our path toward hu-man lib-er-ty.  
Still be our rul-er, guard-ian, guide, and stay—  
your Word our law, your paths our cho-sen way.
3. From war's a-larms, from dead-ly pes-ti-lence,  
with stead-fast care be ev-er our de-fense;  
Your love and faith with-in our hearts in-crease;  
with boun-teous good-ness nour-ish us in peace.
4. Re-fresh your peo-ple on life's toil-some way;  
lead us from night to nev-er-end-ing day;  
With truth and love guide us through er-ror's maze,  
and we shall give you glo-ry, laud, and praise.

# ***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 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](http://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