

St. John's United Church of Christ
36 S. Sixth Street, Allentown, PA 18101
Phone 610-433-0146

Email: stjohnsucc2@verizon.net

Website: www.stjohnsuccallentown.org

Pastor Rebecca Sausser

Phone: 570 – 581 - 0594

Email: revsausser@gmail.com

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**

August 2, 2026, 10:00am

Tower Chimes Janet Cook

Music to Gather: "Jesus Makes My Heart Rejoice"

Robert Elmore

Copyright 1958, Harold Flammer, Inc.

Martha Schrempel, Organ

Welcome

Call to Worship by Austin D. Hill

One: When Jesus speaks, our hearts burn within us;

**All: Our eyes are opened when he breaks the
bread.**

One: Beloved, we are God's children now;

All: When Christ is revealed, we will be like him.

One: Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain.

All: Blessing and honor and glory to God!

Amen!

Hymn #332 "As We Gather At Your Table"

Profession of Faith

One: No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here! Today we gather around the table that Christ has prepared for us, remembering that as we were once invited to this table for the first time, we are called to invite everyone!

All: Holy God, Creator, Son, and Spirit One, we praise your holy name! Today we will receive communion together in this beloved community. Open our eyes Lord, so that we might better understand what this holy communion really means for us and to us. Open our hearts so that we might love one another without judgement or bias. Open our minds, Lord, so that we might grow deeper in our relationship with you during this month, and forever more. Amen.

Carl P. Daw, Jr., 1989

1. As we gath-er at your ta-ble,
as we lis-ten to your word,
help us know, O God, your pres-ence;
let our hearts and minds be stirred.
Nour-ish us with sa-cred sto-ry
till we claim it as our own;
teach us through this ho-ly ban-quet
how to make Love's vic-tory known.
2. Turn our wor-ship in-to wit-ness
in the sac-ra-ment of life;
send us forth to love and serve you,
bring-ing peace where there is strife.
Give us, Christ, your great com-pas-sion
to for-give as you for-gave;
may we still be-hold your im-age
in the world you died to save.
3. Gra-cious Spir-it, help us sum-mon
oth-er guests to share that feast
where tri-um-phant Love will wel-come
those who had been last and least.
There no more will en-vy bind us
nor will pride our peace de-stroy,
as we join with saints and an-gels
to re-peat the sound-ing joy.

Words Copyright © 1989 by Hope Publishing Company
Matt. 22:1-10; Luke 14:16-24

Response to prayer of confession 🎵 Hymn #346 V2

Look on the heart by sorrow broken,

Look on the tears by sinners shed.

And be your feast to us the token

That by your grace our lives are fed.

Words of Assurance

One: When we come before the Lord and ask for guidance and wisdom we will find it in abundance.

All: And Jesus said, “Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you.” -Matthew 7:7

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

Nancy Kramer-Moyer

Reading 1: Matthew 26:26-30 (Pages 802-803)

Reading 2: 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 (Page 930)

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: Come to the Table!

Rev. Becky Sausser

Hymn #336

"Here, O My Lord, I See You Face to Face"

(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 ##329 Verse 4

**For you our restless spirits yearn,
Wher-e're our changing lot is cast;
Glad, when your smile on us you turn,
Blessed, when by faith we hold you fast.**

336

Here, O My Lord, I See You Face to Face

Horatius Bonar, 1855; alt.

1. Here, O my Lord, I see you face to face;
here would I touch and han-dle things un-seen;
Here grasp with firm-er hand the e-ter-nal grace,
And all my wea-ri-ness up-on you lean.
2. Here would I feed up-on the bread of God,
here share the cup, the gra-cious gift of heaven;
Here would I lay a-side each earth-ly load,
here taste a-fresh the calm of sin for-given.
3. This is the hour of ban-quet and of song;
this is the heaven-ly ta-ble spread a-new;
Here let me feast, and, feast-ing, still pro-long
the brief, bright hour to-geth-er here with you.
4. Too soon we rise; the sym-bols dis-ap-pear;
the meal, but not your love, is past and gone.
This joy-ful feast con-firms that you are here,
now and for-ev-er, as our shield and sun.
5. We have no help but yours, nor do we need
an-oth-er strength than yours to lean up-on.
It is e-nough, O Lord, e-nough in-deed;
our faith is in your might, your might a-lone.

Special Music “Dreamscapes” Brian Childers
Copyright 2019 Bellissimo Publications.
Mandy Muschett, Handbells

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 at 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

Sonatina, from the cantata "God's time is best"

J.S.Bach, arr. Guilmant

Copyright 1948, The Boston Music Company.

* 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 #561

“When in Our Music God is Glorified”

* Commission and Blessing

* **Threefold Amen**

Amen, Amen, Amen

Music to Go Forth “Postlude” Isadore Freed
Copyright 1952, Transcontinental Music Corp.

Permission to stream copyrighted material granted
by Christian Copyright Licensing
International Streaming Licensing #20215522

When in Our Music God Is Glorified

561

Fred Pratt Green, 1972

1. When in our mu-sic God is glo-ri-fied,
and ad-o-ra-tion leaves no room for pride,
It is as though the whole cre-a-tion cried:
Al-le-lu-ia!
2. How of-ten, mak-ing mu-sic, we have found
a new di-men-sion in the world of sound,
As wor-ship moved us to a more pro-found
Al-le-lu-ia!
3. So has the church, in lit-ur-gy and song,
in faith and love, through cen-tu-ries of wrong,
Borne wit-ness to the truth in ev-ery tongue:
Al-le-lu-ia!
4. Let ev-ery in-stru-ment be tuned for praise!
Let all re-joice who have a voice to raise!
And may God give us faith to sing al-ways:
Al-le-lu-ia!

Words Copyright © 1972 by Hope Publishing Company
2 Chron. 5:11-14

The Altar Flowers are in Memory of Bud Knerr by the Knerr Family.

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