

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**

August 23, 2026, 10:00am

Tower Chimes Janet Cook

Music to Gather "Holy Spirit, Truth Divine"

Franklin D. Ashdown

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Welcome

Call to Worship

One: God calls us, not into sameness, but into unity.

All: We come as we are, different and beloved.

One: Christ prays for us, that we may all be one.

All: Not one voice, but one Spirit moving among us.

One: The Spirit gathers us in covenant and hope.

All: We come to worship, to listen, and to be transformed.

Hymn #70 “God Is Here! As We Your People Meet”

Profession of Faith

One: In the United Church of Christ, we are joined not by sameness, but through covenant, shared faith, and Christ’s prayer that we may all be one. Trusting that God welcomes each of us into this community of love and service, we proclaim: no matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here. Let us profess our faith together in prayer.

All: Covenanting God, we believe that Jesus Christ is the Head of the Church and that you call us to be one, not in sameness, but in faithful relationship with one another. When our differences divide us, draw us back into covenant. Teach us to listen with love, serve with humility, and walk together in the Spirit.

God Is Here! As We Your People Meet

70

Fred Pratt Green, 1978; alt.

1. God is here! As we your people
meet to offer praise and prayer,
May we find in fuller measure
what it is in Christ we share.
Here, as in the world around us,
all our varied skills and arts
wait the coming of the Spirit
into open minds and hearts.
2. Here are symbols to remind us
of our life-long need of grace;
Here are table, font, and pulpit,
here the cross has central place.
Here in honesty of preaching,
here in silence, as in speech,
here, in newness and renewal,
God the Spirit comes to each.
3. Here our children find a welcome
in the Shepherd's flock and fold;
Here as bread and wine are taken,
Christ sustains us as of old.
Here the servants of the Servant
seek in worship to explore
what it means in daily living
to believe and to adore.

OPENING OF WORSHIP

4. Sov-ereign God, of earth and heav-en,
in an age of change and doubt
Keep us faith-ful to the gos-pel,
help us work your pur-pose out.
Here, in this day's ded-i-ca-tion,
all we have to give, re-ceive;
we, who can-not live with-out you,
we a-dore you! We be-lieve!

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May our shared life reveal Christ's love, so that the world may believe and all people may know they belong. Amen.

Response to prayer of confession 🎵 Hymn #450, V1

**O for a closer bond with God,
A calm and heavenly frame,
A light to shine upon the road
That leads us to the Lamb!**

Words of Assurance

One: Hear the good news: God's grace gathers us, Christ's love unites us, and the Holy Spirit renews us. We are forgiven, welcomed, and called into covenant with one another.

All: May we live as one, so that the world may know the love of Christ. Thanks be to God.

Amen. - 2 Timothy 1:9

Response to Words of Assurance 🎵 Hymn #403, v1

**My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' love and righteousness;
I dare not trust this earthly frame,**

**But wholly lean on Jesus' name.
On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand,
All other ground is sinking sand.**

Scriptures	Becky Bronfenbrenner
Reading 1: John 17:1-21	(Pages 875-876)

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: "One... But Not the Same"

Amanda Muschett

Hymn #267 "Come, O Spirit, Swell among Us"
(Note: Ushers will collect "Prayer Cards" during this time. Prayer cards are in the pews.)

Come, O Spirit, Dwell among Us

Janie Alford, 1979; alt.

1. Come, O Spir-it, dwell a-mong us,
come with Pen-te-cos-tal power;
give the church a strong-er vi-sion,
help us face each cru-cial hour.
Built up-on a firm foun-da-tion,
Je-sus Christ, the Cor-ner-stone,
still the church is called to mis-sion
that God's love shall be made known.
2. We would raise our al-le-lu-ias
for the grace of for-mer years;
for to-mor-row's un-known path-way,
hear, O God, our hum-ble prayers.
In the church's pil-grim jour-ney
you have led us all the way,
still in pres-ence move be-fore us,
fire by night and cloud by day.
3. Come, O Spir-it, dwell a-mong us;
give us words of fire and flame.
Help our strug-gling voic-es praise you,
glo-ri-fy your ho-ly name.
Good Cre-a-tor, Sav-ior, Spir-it,
Three in One: what mys-ter-y!
We would sing our loud ho-san-nas
now and through e-ter-ni-ty.

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Acts 2:1-36; Exod. 13:18-22; Ps. 118:19-29

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 #68 Verse 3

Source of every blessing, bless the ones who name you,

Let our words and deeds proclaim you.

Like the saints and angels praising you in glory,

May your servants sing your story.

And in all, great and small, may we do most nearly

What you love most dearly.

Special Music "Amazing Grace"

Arr. Anthony Evert

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Announcements
Offering

Jeff Rissell

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

Thomas O. Chisholm and William M. Runyan
Copyright Miratio Music

* 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#495** “Called as Partners in Christ’s
Service”

* Commission and Blessing

* **Threefold Amen**

Amen, Amen, Amen

Music to Go Forth “In Thee is Gladness”

J. William Greene

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Called as Partners in Christ's Service

Jane Parker Huber, 1981

1. Called as part-ners in Christ's ser-vice,
 called to min-is-tries of grace,
 We re-pond with deep com-mit-ment
 fresh new lines of faith to trace.
 May we learn the art of shar-ing,
 side by side and friend with friend,
 E-qual part-ners in our car-ing
 to ful-fill God's cho-sen end.

2. Christ's ex-am-ple, Christ's in-spir-ing,
 Christ's clear call to work and worth,
 Let us fol-low, nev-er fal-tering,
 rec-on-cil-ing folk on earth.
 Men and wom-en, rich-er, poor-er,
 all God's peo-ple, young and old,
 Blend-ing hu-man skills to-geth-er
 gra-cious gifts from God un-fold.

3. Thus new pat-terns for Christ's mis-sion,
 in a small or glob-al sense,
 Help us bear each oth-er's bur-dens,
 break-ing down each wall or fence.
 Words of com-fort, words of vi-sion,
 words of chal-lenge, said with care,
 Bring new power and strength for ac-tion,
 make us col-leagues, free and fair.

4. So God grant us for to-mor-row
ways to or-der hu-man life
That sur-round each per-son's sor-row
with a calm that con-quers strife.
Make us part-ners in our liv-ing,
our com-pas-sion to in-crease,
Mes-sen-gers of faith, thus giv-ing
hope and con-fi-dence and peace.

John 15:12–17; Gal. 6:2; Eph. 2:14–22

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***The Altar Flowers are in Honor of
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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

Pride Offering

Next week our church will be represented with other Open and Affirming Congregations in the Lehigh Valley at the Pride event to be held at the Steele Stacks. There will be a traveling banner at our church next week! Please consider adding your signature to the mural, and please also consider making a donation to our special collection next week. Thank you!

-Rev. Becky Sausser