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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**
September 27, 2026, 11:00am
Tower Chimes Janet Cook
Music to Gather:

“Variations on I Need Thee Every Hour”
Jon Spong

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***Welcome**

Call to Worship by Rev. Nancy Townley

**One: Just when we are feeling most discouraged,
God bursts into our lives with healing mercy.**

All: Lord, listen to our hearts, our cries, our

prayers.

One: Give us peace and hope in our spirits.

All: Direct us in ways of service in your name!

One: Praise be to God!

All: AMEN!

Hymn #393 “Blessed Be the Tie That Binds”

Profession of Faith

One: No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here! Today we gather as one body, though we are made up of many people with many different stories. We lift up our voices in prayer and praise as we hold each other's stories close to our hearts.

All: Holy God, as we gather together today, we lift up each of the stories that have brought us here, to this time and place. We recognize that some of these stories are marked with pain and grief, while other stories are filled with joy and content. We ask that you would bless us with your wisdom so that we may be equipped to look back and in remembering, may we see all the places that your presence has guided us. Amen.

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Blessed Be the Tie That Binds

John Fawcett, 1782; alt.

1. Blessed be the tie that binds
our hearts in Chris-tian love;
The shar-ing of a com-mon life
is like to that a-bove.
2. Be-fore our God we come
and pour our ar-dent prayers;
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,
our com-forts and our cares.
3. We share each oth-er's woes,
each oth-er's bur-dens bear,
And of-ten for each oth-er flows
a sym-pa-thiz-ing tear.
4. When we are called to part
it gives us in-ward pain,
But we shall still be joined in heart,
and hope to meet a-gain.

Gal. 3:28; 6:2; Col. 3:13--15

Response to prayer of confession 🎵

Hymn #250, V4

**O my Savior, hear my need:
Though my love is faint indeed,
Still I love you and adore –
Oh, for grace to love you more!**

Words of Assurance

One: God is with us in all things and at all times.
God is our parent, who looks at us with pride and love as we journey through this life.

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 #479, V5

**Goodness and mercy all my days
will surely follow me;
And where God reigns in heaven and earth,
my dwelling place will be.
My shepherd blesses, cares, and leads
through all eternity.**

Scriptures

Reading: Romans 8:31-39

Danny Collier

(Page 916)

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: Blessed Assurance

Rev. Becky Sausser

Hymn # 473 "Blessed Assurance"

(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

Fanny Crosby, 1873; alt.

1. Bless-ed as-sur-ance, Je-sus is mine!
O what a fore-taste of glo-ry di-vine!
Heir of sal-va-tion, pur-chase of God,
born of the Spir-it, washed in Christ's blood.

Refrain:

This is my sto-ry, this is my song,
prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long;
This is my sto-ry, this is my song,
prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long.

2. Per-fect sub-mis-sion, per-fect de-light!
Vi-sions of rap-ture now burst on my sight;
An-gels de-scend-ing, bring from a-bove
ech-oes of mer-cy, whis-pers of love.

Refrain:

3. Per-fect sub-mis-sion, all is at rest,
I in my Sav-ior am hap-py and blessed;
Watch-ing and wait-ing, look-ing a-bove,
filled with God's good-ness, lost in Christ's love.

Refrain:

Acts 17:30–31; Rev. 7:9–14

**into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For
thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the
glory, forever. Amen.**

Prayer Response 🎵 Hymn #472 Verse 1

**Precious Lord, take my hand,
lead me on, let me stand,
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;
Through the storm, through the night,
lead me on to the light:
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.**

Chancel Choir

“I Am Thine, O Lord”

Fanny Crosby, Arr. A. L. “Pete” Butler

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Announcements

Jeff Rissell

Offering

Offertory

“Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now”

Johann G. Walther

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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 #403

“My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less”

* Commission and Blessing

* **Threefold Amen**

Amen, Amen, Amen

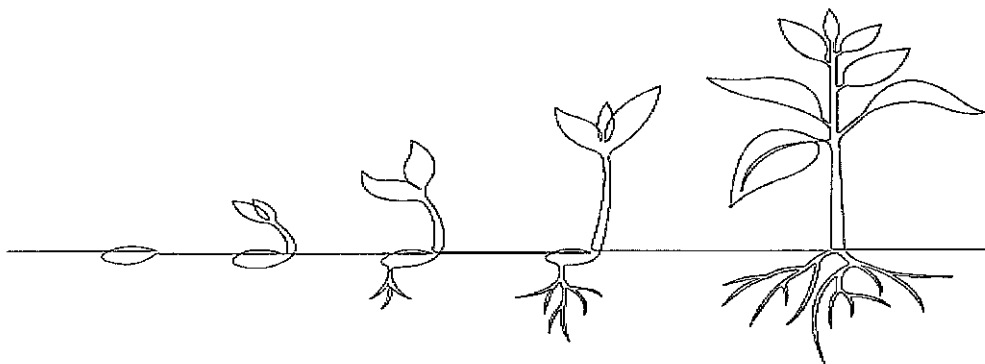
Music to Go Forth

“Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling”

Will Thompson

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My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

Edward Mote, c. 1834; alt.

1. My hope is built on noth-ing less
than Je-sus' love and righ-teous-ness;
I dare not trust this earth-ly frame,
but whol-ly lean on Je-sus' name.

Refrain:

On Christ, the sol-id Rock, I stand;
all oth-er ground is sink-ing sand,
all oth-er ground is sink-ing sand.

2. When shad-ows veil my Sav-ior's face,
I rest up-on un-chang-ing grace;
In ev-ery high and storm-y gale,
my an-chor holds with-in the veil.

Refrain:

3. Christ's oath and cov-e-nant and blood
sup-port me in the ris-ing flood;
When all a-round my soul gives way,
Christ then is all my hope and stay.

Refrain:

4. When Christ shall come with trum-pet sound,
oh, may I then in Love be found,
Dressed in God's righ-teous-ness a-lone,
fault-less to stand be-fore the throne.

Refrain:

Matt. 7:24–27; 1 Cor. 3:11; Heb. 6:19; Rev. 11:15

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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 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