

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**
Septemner 6, 2026, 10:00am
Tower Chimes Janet Cook

Music to Gather: "Voluntary V" John Stanley
Copyright 1985 W. W. Norton & Company, Inc.
Danny Collier, Organ

Welcome

Call to Worship based on Psalm 84

One: How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts!

All: My soul longs, indeed it faints, for the courts of the LORD; my heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God.

One: Even the sparrow finds a home and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, at your altars, O LORD my God.

All: Happy are those who live in your house, ever singing your praise. Amen!

Hymn #349 “I Come With Joy”

Profession of Faith

One: No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here! Today we remember that in our journeying, there is nothing on earth that can separate us from God!

All: Holy God, we gathered together with joy in our hearts as we sing your praises in this beloved community. Even when we travel far from the path, you are already there to bless us and guide us! Grant us your peace, so that we might carry it out into the world so that all of creation can feel your peace, your shalom, wholeness and love. Amen.

Response to prayer of confession 🎵 Hymn #573, V2
Lead on eternal Sovereign, we follow not with fear,

I Come with Joy

349

Brian Wren, 1968; rev. 1982, 1994

1. I come with joy, a child of God,
for-giv-en, loved, and free,
The life of Je-sus to re-call,
in love laid down for me,
in love laid down for me.
2. I come with Chris-tians far and near
to find, as all are fed,
The new com-mu-ni-ty of love
in Christ's com-mu-nion bread,
in Christ's com-mu-nion bread.
3. As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share,
each proud di-vi-sion ends.
The love that made us, makes us one,
and strang-ers now are friends,
and strang-ers now are friends.
4. And thus we meet, and bet-ter know
the Pres-ence, ev-er near,
And join our hearts and sing with joy
that Christ is ris-en here,
that Christ is ris-en here.

HOLY COMMUNION

5. To-geth-er met, to-geth-er bound,
in friend-ship we will stay,
And go with joy to love the world
and live the way we pray,
and live the way we pray.

Words Copyright © 1971; music Copyright © 1977 by Hope Publishing Company

For in each human conflict your words of strength we hear:

That when we serve with gladness, you will not let us fall,

Our trust is in your promise that love will conquer all.

Words of Assurance

One: God is with us in the highs and the lows, *and* God is greater than the highs and lows!

All: "For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

-Romans 8:38-39

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

Reading: Numbers 6:22-27

Barney Cook

(Pages 111-112)

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: The Lord Bless you and Keep You

Rev. Becky Sausser

Hymn # 845

"The Lord Bless You and Keep You"

(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.

845 The Lord Bless You and Keep You

"The Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace." Num. 6:26

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord lift his coun-tenance up.

on you, and give you peace,
on you, and give you peace, and give you

The Lord make his face to shine up -
and give you peace. The Lord make his face to shine up -
peace.

on you and be gra - cious un-to you, be gra - cious;
on you and be gra-cious, and be gra - cious;

WORDS: Numbers 6:24-26, KJV
MUSIC: Peter C. Lukin, 1900

BENEDICTION
Irregular

Prayer Response 🎵 Hymn #288 Verse 1

**Let it breathe on me, let it breathe on me,
Let the breath of the Spirit breathe on me.
Let it breathe on me, let it breathe on me,
Let the breath of God now breathe on me**

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 "Praeludium" Simon Sechter

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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 #487 "Surely No One Can Be Safer"**

* Commission and Blessing

* **Threefold Amen**

Amen, Amen, Amen

Music to Go Forth "Fugue" Josef Seeger

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Surely No One Can Be Safer

487

Lina Sandell, 1855

Transl. *The New Century Hymnal*, 1994

1. Sure-ly no one can be saf-er than God's chil-dren, held in fa-vor,
Not the stars so bright-ly burn-ing, not the birds to nests re-turn-ing.
2. With the flock God is a-bid-ing, heav-en's plen-ty all pro-vid-ing,
Rich in mer-cy, nev-er spar-ing, like a fa-ther, gent-ly car-ing.
3. None shall ev-er meet re-jec-tion, be de-nied God's own pro-tec-tion;
Has there been a friend who bet-ter knows our hopes, our fears that
fet-ter?
4. Wheth-er tak-ing, wheth-er giv-ing, God a-lone re-mains for-giv-ing,
And with one true pur-pose ho-ly to pre-serve our wel-fare sole-ly.

Rom. 8:38–39

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