

St. John's United Church of Christ
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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**

October 18, 2026, 11:00am

Tower Chimes Janet Cook

Music to Gather: "Allegro Dramatico"

Dmitri Kabalevsky

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*** Welcome**

Call to Worship

**One: Let us gather together to worship in the
house of God!**

**All: We come with joy and gladness to
worship!**

One: Leave all your troubles and worries outside of the door.

All: But if I do not hold all these things something bad might happen.

One: But if you hand these worries and anxieties to God, something good might happen too.

All: We can try it. We will do our best to let go, and let God.

One: You do not have to do it alone! You are in this beloved community and we will help one another!

All: Let us help one another lay down our burdens before God. Amen!

Hymn #40 “You Are the Way”

Profession of Faith

One: No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here! Today we are doing something counter-cultural. We are professing that we are not perfect and that we have growing edges. We are acknowledging that we are still growing and learning.

All: Holy God, Creator, Son, and Spirit One, we gather together to praise your Holy name!

You Are the Way

George W. Doane, 1824; alt.

1. You are the way; through you a-lone
can we the true God find;
In you, O Christ, is now re-vealed
God's heart and will and mind.
2. You are the truth; your word a-lone
true wis-dom can im-part;
You on-ly can in-form the mind
and pur-i-fy the heart.
3. You are the life; the o-pen tomb
pro-claims God's love a-new;
And God will ne'er for-sake the one
who trusts, O Christ, in you.
4. You are the way, the truth, the life;
grant us that way to know,
That truth to keep, that life to win,
whose joys e-ter-nal flow.

John 14:6

We come with burdens and worries, we come with joys and wonder, we come as imperfect people in need of a relationship with you and with one another. We are not perfect, but we are trying every day. Bless us on our journey, and help us to give ourselves the grace to recognize that we are still learning and growing. Amen.

Response to prayer of confession 🎵 Hymn #455 V1

I am yours, O Lord, I have heard your voice,

And it told your love to me

**But I long to rise in the arms of faith,
drawn to you eternally.**

**Draw me nearer, nearer, nearer, blessed Lord,
To the cross where you have died.**

**Draw me nearer, nearer, nearer, blessed Lord,
to your precious, bleeding side.**

Words of Assurance

One: We are beloved children of God!

All: What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us?

-Romans 8:31

Response to Words of Assurance 🎵 Hymn #4, V3

**You are giving and forgiving,
ever blessing, ever blessed,
Wellspring of the joy of living,
Ocean depth of happy rest!
Loving Spirit, Father, Mother,
All who love belong to you;
Teach us how to love each other,
by that love our joy renew.**

Scriptures

Judie Guhl

Reading 1: Isaiah 45:1-7

(Page 583)

Reading 2: Matthew 22:15-22

(Page 798)

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: What is Ceasar's?

Rev. Becky Sausser

Hymn #457 “Jesus, I Live to 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.

Prayer Response 🎵 Hymn #520 Verse 3

**Come with the vision and the strength I need
To serve my God, and all humanity;
Fulfillment of my life in love outpoured –
My life in you, O Christ, your love in me.**

Chancel Choir “This Is My Word”

Pepper Choplin

Copyright 1999 Glory Sound

Henry Harbaugh, c. 1850; alt.

1. Je-sus, I live to you, the love-li-est and best;
My life will be your life in me, in your blessed love I rest.
2. Je-sus, I die to you, when-ev-er death shall come;
Un-ceas-ing-ly, you'll live in me in my e-ter-nal home.
3. Wheth-er to live or die, I know not which is best;
To live will be your bliss in me, to die is end-less rest.
4. Liv-ing or dy-ing, Lord, I ask to be your own;
My life will be your life in me, and heaven on earth be known.

Rom. 14:8; Phil. 1:21

Announcements

Jeff Rissell

Offering

Offertory "Andante" J. O. Armand

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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 #455 "I Am Yours, O Lord"**

* Commission and Blessing

* **Threefold Amen**

Amen, Amen, Amen

Music to Go Forth "Oh Praise the Lord"

W. Croft

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Fanny Crosby, 1874; alt.

1. I am yours, O Lord, I have heard your voice,
and it told your love to me;
But I long to rise in the arms of faith,
drawn to you e-ter-nal-ly.

Refrain:

Draw me near-er, near-er, bless-ed Lord,
to the cross where you have died;
Draw me near-er, near-er, near-er, bless-ed Lord,
to your pre-cious, bleed-ing side.

2. O the pure de-light of a sin-gle hour
that be-fore your throne I spend,
When I kneel in prayer, and with you, my God,
I com-mune as friend with friend!

Refrain:

3. Con-se-crate me now to your ho-ly work
by the power of grace di-vine;
Let my soul look up with a stead-fast hope;
let your will be done, not mine.

Refrain:

4. There are depths of love that I can-not know
till I cross the nar-row sea;
There are heights of joy that I may not reach
till I rest e-ter-nal-ly.

Refrain:

Ps. 119:94

The Altar Flowers are Given in Loving Memory of Dorris Anne Todd by Her 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