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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**

October 4, 2026, 11:00am

Tower Chimes Janet Cook

Music to Gather: "Trusting Jesus" Lani Smith

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***Welcome**

Call to Worship by Ellen Dawson

**One: "Come," says the Lord. "All you who are
thirsty, come to the waters."**

**All: "Come! Here there is bread and wine for
your soul."**

**One: "Come," says the Lord, "come be my
people, and I will be your God."**

All: We are your people. You are our God.

One: Come, let us walk in the way of the Lord!

All: Let us worship God! Amen!

Hymn #394

“In Christ There Is No East or West”

Profession of Faith

One: No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here! Today we gather with Christians throughout the world in celebration of the memorial meal of Holy Communion! On this World Communion Day, we offer our thanks and praise to Jesus Christ!

All: Holy Jesus, today we come before you seeking nourishment for our souls. When we hold these elements we remember the first communion meal that you shared with your disciples. You offered your body and broke the bread, and gave it to them, and did not withhold this gift from the one who would betray you. As we receive the blood representing your new covenant, help us to become people that reflect your heart to the world. Amen.

In Christ There Is No East or West

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John Oxenham, 1908; alt.

1. In Christ there is no East or West,
in Christ no South or North;
But one com-mu-ni-ty of love
through-out the whole wide earth.
2. In Christ shall true hearts ev-ery-where
their high com-mu-nion find;
God's ser-vice is the gold-en cord
close-bind-ing hu-man-kind.
3. In Christ is nei-ther Jew nor Greek,
and nei-ther slave nor free;
For men and wom-en live in God,
and all are kin to me.
4. In Christ now meet both East and West,
in Christ meet South and North;
One joy-ous, true com-mu-ni-ty
through-out the whole wide earth.

1 Cor. 12:13; Gal. 3:28; Eph. 2:14–22

Response to prayer of confession♪

Hymn #23, V1

**There's a wideness in God's mercy
like the wideness of the sea;
there's a kindness in God's justice,
which is more than liberty.**

**There's no place where earthly sorrows
are more felt than in God's heaven;
there's no place where earthly failings
have such kindly judgment given.**

Words of Assurance

One: Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day,

All: "For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another"

-Romans 12:4-5

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

Felicia Knerr

Reading 1: Isaiah 5:1-7

(Page 550)

Reading 2: Matthew 21:33-46

(Page 797)

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 Fruit we Bear

Rev. Becky Sausser

Hymn #340 "We Are People on a Journey"

(Note: Ushers will collect "Prayer Cards" during this time. Prayer cards are in the pews.)

HOLY COMMUNION

1. We are peo-ple on a jour-ney;
pain is with us all the way.
Joy-ful-ly we come to-geth-er
at the ho-ly feast of God.
2. God has sent the in-vi-ta-tion
to the hum-ble and the poor.
Joy-ful-ly we come to-geth-er
at the ho-ly feast of God.
3. This is bread that God pro-vides us,
nour-ish-ing our u-ni-ty.
Joy-ful-ly we come to-geth-er
at the ho-ly feast of God.
4. Christ is ev-er pres-ent with us
to u-nite us all in love.
Joy-ful-ly we come to-geth-er
at the ho-ly feast of God.
5. All who tru-ly thirst for jus-tice
seek their lib-er-a-tion here.
Joy-ful-ly we come to-geth-er
at the ho-ly feast of God.

John 6:32-35

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 1

**Eternal Spirit of the living Christ,
I know not how to ask or what to say;
I only know my need, as deep as life,
And only you can teach me how to pray.**

Chancel Choir "Panis Angelicus"

Cesar Franck Arr. Russell Robinson

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Panis Angelicus

Words by St. Thomas Aquinas

*Panis angelicus
fit panis hominum;*

The Angels' Bread becomes
the Bread of humans:

<i>Dat panis cœlicus</i>	The Living Bread
<i>figuris terminum:</i>	puts an end to symbols.
<i>O res mirabilis!</i>	O wondrous gift indeed!
<i>Manducat Dominum</i>	The Lord becomes food
<i>pauper, servus et humilis.</i>	for the poor, the slave and the humble.

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 "Be Thou My Vision" Paul Manz

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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 #400

"Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation"

* Commission and Blessing

* **Threefold Amen**

Amen, Amen, Amen

Music to Go Forth

"Praise the Lord, All Ye Nations" George Blake

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Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation

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Latin, 6th–8th century

Transl. John Mason Neale, 1851; alt.

St. 3 adapt. Thomas H. Troeger, 1992

1. Christ is made the sure foun-da-tion,
Christ the head and cor-ner-stone,
chos-en of our God and pre-cious,
bind-ing all the Church in one;
Ho-ly Zi-on's help for-ev-er,
and our con-fi-dence a-lone.
2. To this tem-ple, where we call you,
come, O God of Hosts, to-day!
With your con-stant, lov-ing kind-ness
hear your peo-ple as they pray.
Give your full-est ben-e-dic-tion:
grace to fol-low Christ the Way.
3. Here re-new your ser-vants' vis-ion,
that by faith they may at-tain
peace and hope, re-newed com-pas-sion,
strength to com-fort those in pain,
Tears and grief trans-formed to glad-ness
in your ev-er-last-ing reign.

Eph. 2:20–22; 1 Pet. 2:4–7

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