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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**

November 15, 2026, 11:00am

Tower Chimes Janet Cook

Music to Gather: "Now Thank We All Our God"
J. S. Bach

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*** Welcome**

Call to Worship Psalm 136

One: O give thanks to the LORD, for God is good, for God's steadfast love endures forever.

All: O give thanks to the God of gods, for God's steadfast love endures forever.

One: O give thanks to the Lord of lords, for God's steadfast love endures forever;
All: who alone does great wonders, who by understanding made the heavens,
One: Who spread out the earth on the waters, who made the great lights,
All: God's steadfast love endures forever; the sun rules over the day; the moon and stars rule over the night, God's steadfast love endures forever!

Hymn #422 "Come, O Thankful People, Come"

Profession of Faith

One: No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here! Today as we celebrate covenant, we also lift up gratitude!
All: Creator, Son, and Spirit One, we praise your holy name! Today we are filled with gratitude as we look around at the many blessings you have poured out over our lives. The greatest of these joys is the relationships that we have with one another and with you. Thank you for blessing this community, help us to be a blessing to others. In Jesus holy name we pray, amen!

Come, O Thankful People, Come 422

St. 1, Henry Alford, 1844; alt.
St. 2, Anna Laetitia Aiken Barbauld, 1772; alt.
St. 3, composite of Alford and Barbauld; alt.

1. Come, O thank-ful peo-ple, come,
raise the song of har-vest home;
all is safe-ly gath-ered in
as the win-ter storms be-gin;
God our Mak-er does pro-vide
for our wants to be sup-plied;
come to God's own tem-ple, come,
raise the song of har-vest home.

2. All the bless-ings of the field,
all the stores the gar-dens yield,
all the fruits in full sup-ply,
rip-ened 'neath the sum-mer sky,
All that spring with boun-teous hand
scat-ters o'er the smil-ing land,
all that lib-eral au-tumn pours
from its rich o'er-flow-ing stores,

3. These to you, our God, we owe,
source from whom all bless-ings flow;
and for these our songs we raise,
grate-ful vows and sol-emn praise.

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Come, then, thank-ful peo-ple, come,
raise the song of har-vest home;
come to God's own tem-ple, come,
raise the song of har-vest home.

Exod. 23:16

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Response to prayer of confession♫ Hymn #379,V3

God's grace on earth is found,
the seeds of glory sown;
Celestial fruits on earthly ground
from faith and hope have grown.

Words of Assurance

One: In the immortal words of the Rev. Allan Kramer-Moyer, "gratitude is an attitude, not a platitude." Let us strive to live lives of grateful praise!

All: Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.

-Colossians 3:15

Response to Words of Assurance ♫

Hymn #425, V3

For the harvests of the Spirit, thanks be to God.
For the good we all inherit, thanks be to God'
For the wonders that astound us,
For the truths that still confound us,
Most of all that love has found us,
Thanks be to God.

Liturgy to Celebrate A Four Way Covenant of Rev. Gina Harvey

Rev. Becky Sausser: Today as we celebrate the ideals of church and covenant!

All: We celebrate the Body of Christ, in which we are each part of the other, and part of
ministry in this world that God loves. We give thanks for the legacy of Jesus. From
that legacy the church extends outward in ministries of care and courage, healing,
blessing, touching, feeding, teaching, growing, and leading. Through sacrament and
mission, the Spirit of God creates and renews the church across time and place.
Leaders are called to serve such a church in many specialized ways.

Rev. Becky Sausser: Ordained ministers in the United Church of Christ our members of a local church and hold ministerial standing in the association to which their local church belongs Reverend Gina Harvey is a member of St. John's United Church of Christ in Allentown through our standing in the Mountain Valley Association of the Keystone conference of the United Church of Christ. As a local church we create and uphold covenant

with each other and with our members. Today we bless this covenant!

Rev. Gina Harvey: As a member of St. John's United Church of Christ in Allentown, I covenant with this local church that I will participate in the worship life of the congregation whenever possible, financially support the ministries of the church, preach at the request of the pastor, publicly recognize my membership in this local church, pray for the well-being of the congregation and its ministry, and strive to support one another in mutual ministry.

Rev. Allan Kramer-Moyer: The Mountain Valley Association covenants with you to offer support and accountability for this ordained minister in your mist, to celebrate and make visible the importance of specialized ministry in the community that we share, and to promote ongoing covenantal life among all the congregations and ministry settings in the United Church of Christ.

Phoebe President/CEO Scott Stevenson: We in Phoebe Ministries join with you in the United Church of Christ to understand the values of Christian religious ministry and to uphold the expectation of professional ethics as your ordained minister in our specialized context.

Rev. Becky Sausser: Rev. Gina Harvey, today I ask you, do you affirm this covenant and its commitments to st. John's United Church of Christ, the Mountain Valley Association, and the United Church of Christ? If so, please say I do.

Rev. Gina Harvey: I do!

Rev. Becky Sausser: Members of St. John's UCC, do you affirm this covenant and it's commitments to Gina Harvey to Phoebe ministries and to the Mountain Valley Association of the Keystone conference? If so, please say we do!

All: We do!

Scriptures — Trudi Egan
Reading 1: Psalm 107: 1-9 (Page 489)
Reading 2: Colossians 2:6-10 (Page 956)

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: Gratitude — Rev. Becky Sausser

Hymn #32 "God of the Sparrow, God of the Whale"
(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 #14

How can I say thanks for the things you have done for me?
Things so undeserved, yet you gave to prove your love for me;
The voices of a million angels could not express my gratitude.
All that I am, and ever hope to be; I owe it all to you.
To God be the glory, to God be the glory,
To God be the glory for the things you have done.

God of the Sparrow God of the Whale

Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1983

1. God of the spar-row
   God of the whale
   God of the swirl-ing stars
   How does the crea-ture say Awe
   How does the crea-ture say Praise

2. God of the earth-quake
   God of the storm
   God of the trum-pet blast
   How does the crea-ture cry Woe
   How does the crea-ture cry Save

3. God of the rain-bow
   God of the cross
   God of the emp-ty grave
   How does the crea-ture say Grace
   How does the crea-ture say Thanks

4. God of the hun-gry
   God of the sick
   God of the prod-i-gal
   How does the crea-ture say Care
   How does the crea-ture say Life

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5. God of the neigh-bor
God of the foe
God of the prun-ing hook
How does the crea-ture say Love
How does the crea-ture say Peace

6. God of the a-ges
God near at hand
God of the lov-ing heart
How do your chil-dren say Joy
How do your chil-dren say Home.

1 Thess. 5: 18; Ps. 136

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Announcements Jeff Rissell
Offering
Offertory "For the Fruit of All Creation" Frank Stoldt
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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 #476**
"My Life Flows on in Endless Song"

* Commission and Blessing
* **Threefold Amen**
Amen, Amen, Amen

Music to Go Forth
"All Things Bright and Beautiful" Keith Kolander
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My Life Flows on in Endless Song 476

(How Can I Keep from Singing)

Anon. in *Bright Jewels for the Sunday School,*
ed. Robert Lowry, 1869; alt.
St. 3, Doris Plenn, c. 1957

1. My life flows on in end-less song; a-bove earth's lam-en-ta-tion,
I hear the sweet, though far-off hymn that hails a new cre-a-tion.
Through all the tu-mult and the strife, I hear the mu-sic ring-ing;
It finds an ech-o in my soul—how can I keep from sing-ing?

2. What though my joys and com-forts die? My Sav-ior still is liv-ing.
What though the shad-ows gath-er 'round? A new song Christ is giv-ing.
No storm can shake my in-most calm, while to that Rock I'm cling-ing;
Since Love com-mands both heaven and earth, how can I keep from sing-ing?

3. When ty-rants trem-ble, sick with fear, and hear their death knells ring-ing;
When friends re-joice both far and near, how can I keep from sing-ing?
In pris-on cell and dun-geon vile our thoughts to them are wing-ing;
When friends by shame are un-de-filed, how can I keep from sing-ing?

4. I lift my eyes; the cloud grows thin; I see the blue a-bove it;
And day by day this path-way smooths, since first I learned to love it.

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The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a foun-tain ev-er
spring-ing;
All things are mine since I am Christ's—how can I keep from
sing-ing?

Ps. 46:1–7; 1 Cor. 3:21–23; 2 Cor. 5:17

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The Altar Flowers are in Honor of St. John's 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