



***St. John's United Church of Christ
Chambersburg, PA
November 2, 2025***

GOD SPEAKS TO ELIJAH & ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

*Please stand in body or in spirit

GATHERING SONG

"This is the Day"

UNISON WELCOME

"No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here"

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

"The peace of Christ be with you"

"And also with you"

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY & PRELUDE

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

written by Thom Shuman (adapted)

When we long for the special effects we think life should offer:

it is enough, for us, that God comes in a soft, summer shower.

When our hearts are cracked by the drought of doubt:

it is enough, for us, that God opens up the fountain of faith.

When our senses are deadened by the sales pitches of our culture:

it is enough, for us, that God wraps us in the silence of grace.

May our worship this day be enough for us, O God,

as we sing, and pray, and praise.

***HYMN #341**

"For the Beauty of the Earth"

CALL TO CONFESSION

Gracious God, let us meet you honestly and openly, not hiding from you, but confessing from a place of trust what we have done and what we have left undone.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

written by Katherine Hawker

We come seeking God in mighty earthquakes. We come listening for God in resounding thunder. We come expecting God in sweeping victories. Yet God is found in a baby's touch. Yet God speaks in silence. Yet God is found in the least of these. Save us, O God, from our aimless wandering. Save us, O God, from our idols. Save us, O God, from our self-induced chaos. God in your mercy, Hear our prayer. Amen.

KYRIE

Hymnal Companion C-4

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

written by Katherine Hawker

Hear the good news of God's love for us: not in the earthquake, not in the storms, not in the mighty deeds but in the silence, in the gentle touch, in the quiet rain, God says, again, *"You are my Beloved. I love you."*

***GLORY BE TO THE FATHER #704**

SCRIPTURE READING

John 12:27-32

RESPONSIVE READING

"The Beatitudes: An Intergenerational Version"

Blessed are the saints who trust God's power and loving care, for they are part of the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are the saints when they are sad because the world is so unfair, they have God's promise that justice will come.

Blessed are the nobodies who know they are nobodies and still do God's work. In God's world they are the leaders.

Blessed are the saints whose greatest wish is to do what God desires.

Blessed are the saints who treat other people gently, God will treat them gently.

Blessed are the saints who get in trouble when they do what God requires, for they are surely among God's saints.

ANTHEM

"I Sing a Song of the Saints of God"

arr. Wayne L. Wold

Please join the choir in singing the 3rd verse

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Roxanne Davenport

Children's Corner will be offered following the Children's Message

SCRIPTURE READING

1 Kings 19:1-18

SERMON

Rev. Caroline E. Saxton

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (DEBTS)

INVITATION TO GIVING

OFFERTORY

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE #706**

"Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

from Feasting on the Word Worship Companion

Generous God, we thank you for your call and claim upon our lives. Because there is so much more we can become, and so much more we can do, we pray that our faith will increase; that our practice of generosity will be enlarged; and that our joy in believing will encourage others as we share with them the good news of Jesus Christ; in whose name we pray. Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION

(please follow along on the screen)

We celebrate communion this day by intinction, coming forward to the altar to receive the bread and cup. Pre-packaged elements are also available.

***HYMN #448 (insert)**

"Take My Life, God, Let It Be"

*COMMISSION & BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE (seated)

Join us a time of fellowship after worship!

All are welcome at Christ's table. To let the church office know that you communed today, please sign the black attendance pad found in each row. If you are communing from home, please contact the church office to let us know.

Birthdays this week: 11/3 Shirley Fenstermacher, Bonnie Hoffman and Pastor Caroline; 11/7 Karie Leister, John McCright and Bob Strunk; 11/9 Sarah Herbert.

Worship Participants:	
Pastor	Rev. Caroline E. Saxton
Organist	Barbara Motichka
Deacon in Charge	Peg Bryner
Lector	Mary Lee Yaukey
Children's Corner	Roxanne Davenport
Media Coordinators	Calvin Frantz, Neath Ham, Heidi Ramos
Bulletin cover	"Elijah" from the Basilian Aleppian Order collection of the Melkite Greek Catholic Church in Lebanon, via Art in the Christian Tradition , a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library

The Flowers at the Foot of the Cross are given In memory of Margaret Rockwell and other friends and family by Carol Rockwell.



St. John's Vision

We are called to love, to learn, to worship and to witness in Christ
as a congregation that welcomes everyone,
and seeks service that will advance God's realm on earth.

St. John's Mission

To grow in love of God and neighbor

Worship Resources: *Call to Worship* by Thom Shuman, posted on *Lectionary Liturgies*
Prayer of Confession & Assurance of Grace by Katherine Hawker, posted on *Liturgies Outside*
"The Beatitudes: An Intergenerational Version" written by Carolyn Brown, posted on *Worshiping with Children*
Prayer of Dedication from *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion*
Communion Liturgy from *"Do This: Communion for Just and Courageous Living"*

For the Beauty of the Earth

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1. For the beau - ty of the earth, for the glo - ry of the skies,
 2. For the won - der of each hour of the day and of the night,
 3. For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,
 4. For the church that ev - er - more lift - eth ho - ly hands a - bove,
 5. For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de - light,
 6. For Thy - self, best Gift Di - vine! to our world so free - ly given;

for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies:
 hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light:
 friends on earth, and friends a - bove, for all gen - tle thoughts and mild:
 of - fering up on ev - ery shore her pure sac - ri - fice of love:
 for the mys - tic har - mo - ny link - ing sense to sound and sight:
 for that great, great love of Thine, peace on earth, and joy in heaven:

Lord of all, to Thee we raise this our hymn of grate - ful praise.

WORDS: Folliott S. Pierpoint, 1864, alt.

MUSIC: Conrad Kocher, 1838; adapt. William Henry Monk, 1861

DIX

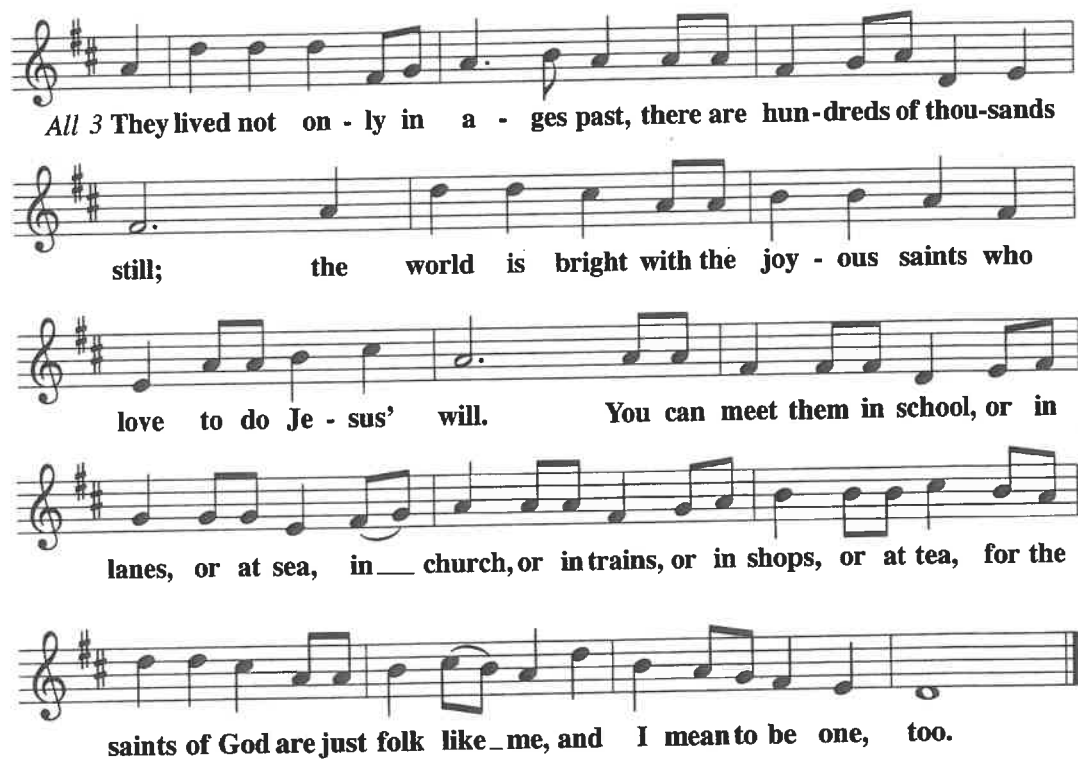
7.7.7.7 with refrain

I Sing a Song of the Saints of God

Choir only

1 I sing a song of the saints of God, patient and brave and true,
who toiled and fought and lived and died for the Lord they loved and knew.
And one was a doctor, and one was a queen, and one was a shepherdess on the green;
they were all of them saints of God, and I mean, God helping, to be one, too.

2 They loved their Lord so dear, so dear and God's love made them strong;
and they followed the right, for Jesus' sake, the whole of their good lives long.
And one was a soldier, and one was a priest, and one was slain by a fierce wild beast;
and there's not any reason, no, not the least, why I shouldn't be one, too.



The musical notation is written on five staves in a treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with 'All 3' and continues with 'They lived not on - ly in a - ges past, there are hun-dreds of thou-sands'. The second staff continues with 'still; the world is bright with the joy - ous saints who'. The third staff continues with 'love to do Je - sus' will. You can meet them in school, or in'. The fourth staff continues with 'lanes, or at sea, in — church, or in trains, or in shops, or at tea, for the'. The fifth staff concludes with 'saints of God are just folk like _ me, and I mean to be one, too.'

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Take My Life, God, Let It Be

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Frances R. Havergal, 1874; alt.

Rom. 12:1

1 Take my life, God, let it be con - se - crat - ed faith - ful - ly.
 2 Take my spir - it, let it move at the im - pulse of your love.
 3 Take my will; your will be done! Make your will and mine be one.
 4 Take my love and help it grow; let my lov - ing ov - er - flow.

Take my mo - ments and my days, let them flow in cease - less praise.
 Take my in - tel - lect and use all its pow - ers as you choose.
 Take my heart, and by your grace make of it your dwell - ing place.
 Take me now, and help me be part of Christ's com - mu - ni - ty.

Frances R. Havergal wrote her hymn following a visit to Areley House in Worcestershire, England. Among the ten persons at the house were "some unconverted . . . some converted but not rejoicing." Before she left, "everyone had got a blessing."

Tune: VIENNA 7.7.7.7.

Justin H. Knecht, 1797

Alternate tune: HENDON

NEWS IN THE PEWS November 2, 2025

The Rev. Caroline E. Saxton, pastor@sjucc1811.org (641) 260-1868 (cell)
Tonya Schwartz, Office Administrator, manager@sjucc1811.org (717) 263-8593 (office)
Gary Crum, Music Director | Barbara Motichka, Organist
Roxanne Davenport, Director of Children & Youth
The Rev. Stephen W. Hoffman, Pastor Emeritus

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

TODAY:

Mercersburg Association Fall Meeting, 3 pm, First UCC in Carlisle
Bible Study on the Book of Acts, 8 pm, Zoom (link in Friday e-blast)

Monday, November 3

10:00 am Chi Gong/Zazen silent body energy and soulful meditation – Parlor Room 104
1:30 pm Monday Afternoon Book Study – Conference Room 111
7:00 pm Boy Scouts – Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, November 4

5:30 pm Yoga – Room 202
6:00 pm Ladies' Bible - Zoom
6:30 pm Cub Scouts – Fellowship Hall/then break into smaller groups

Thursday, November 6

7:00 am Men's Breakfast – Texas Lunch
6:00 pm Dance Class – Fellowship Hall
6:15 pm Girl Scouts – Room 116
7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room 103

Sunday, November 9

8:45 am Godly Play Class – Room 119
8:45 am SPARK! Elementary Church School Class – Room 115
8:45 am Teen Discussion Class – Room 206
8:45 am Wired Word Church School Class – Room 116
10:00 am Sunday Worship and Deacon/Elder Installation Ceremony – Sanctuary
11:00 am Fall Congregational Meeting – Sanctuary

Fall Congregational Meeting will be held directly after worship on Sunday, November 9.
Meeting packets are available at the Welcome Center and by request from the church office.

Talk on Penn Mar Park Join Mike Marotte on Thursday, November 13, 6 pm in Fellowship Hall for a presentation on the historic Penn Mar Park.

Monday Afternoon Book Study meets at 1:30 pm in the Conference Room. We are reading "A People's History of Christianity" by Diana Butler Bass. Read Ch. 7 for the session on 11/3.

Totenfest will be Sunday, November 23, the last Sunday of the church year. We will remember with love and thanksgiving those members of our faith community who have died during the past year. We also wish to include the people in your lives who have transitioned to be with God since our last observance of Totenfest on November 24, 2024. Please contact Pastor Caroline by Monday, November 17, with the name of the person you wish to be remembered, along with their date of death, so that we can honor them during the service and in the bulletin.

THANK YOU to EVERYONE who helped make our 2025 Habitat for Humanity Book Sale a resounding success! We could not have done this without you. The official check presentation to Habitat will take place during worship on Sunday, November 9.

Church Directory Update As we work to finalize our new photo directory, we need your updated contact information. If your address, phone number or email address has changed, please share this with the church office. Thank you!

November First Fruits will go toward supporting Heifer International. Heifer's model includes working in economic development, environmental sustainability, food security and nutrition, risk mitigation and women's empowerment and social capital. Partnering with Children and Youth Ministry, our First Fruits will go toward strengthening communities across the globe, helping to aid Heifer International's efforts to change the fact that 783 million people go to bed hungry every night. Speak with Roxanne Davenport to learn more about Heifer and how you can make a difference.

November/December Upper Room devotionals are currently available at the Welcome Center. We suggest a donation of \$1 for small print/\$2 for large print copies. If you would like to have a copy mailed to you, please contact the church office.

Holy Manners Copies of our draft Behavioral Covenant or "Holy Manners for St. John's United Church of Christ" are available in the Narthex or by request from the Church Office.

Bible and a Beer is an opportunity to talk about our faith in public. Join us on the 3rd Monday of the month at the Trojan Diner at 6:30 pm. Our next gathering will be November 17.

Birthday Balloons All are invited to share in a special coffee hour the last Sunday of the month to honor all who celebrated a birthday that month. November birthdays will be honored on **Sunday, November 30**. We hope you'll join us!

Sunday Night Bible Study Join Pastor Caroline on Sunday evenings at **8 pm via Zoom** for a Bible study on the book of Acts. Our session on **November 2** will focus on Acts Chapter 19. Zoom Meeting ID: 836 0593 5961 and Passcode 277938.

Join us for Life Talk What's on your mind? Something that concerns or worries you? Do you need to vent? Just want to talk with other adults for a bit? Grab your snack and coffee, and meet in the parlor after services on Sunday mornings. Everyone is welcome.

Want to Stay in Touch? Contact the Church Office to be added to our email list! You can sign up to receive our regular weekly emails, Diana's Devotionals, and/or be part of the Prayer Chain.