

St. John's at Worship Third Sunday of Easter

Welcome and Announcements *(please pass the fellowship roll)*

Introit "Glorious Things" *Haydn*

*Call to Worship

Leader: Jesus said, "Permit the children to come to me . . . for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.

People: Forgive us for not seeing and hearing the kingdom-messages of the children in our midst.

Leader: Jesus said, "Truly I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it at all."

People: Teach us the secret of becoming like a child and so receive your kingdom

Leader: Jesus said, "Whoever then humbles himself as this child, he is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven."

People: Teach us learn from the children the secret of humility.

Leader: Jesus said, "Whoever receives one child like this in my name receives me; and whoever receives me receives the One who sent me."

People: Teach us to welcome the divine presence the children bring.

Leader: Jesus said, "See that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that their angels in heaven continually see the face of my Father who is in heaven.

People: Teach us to hear the cry of the planet's too many poor and hungry, displaced and homeless children

Leader: Jesus said, "So it is not the will of your Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones perish.

People: Teach us awareness and compassion for the 23,000 children on earth who die each day of preventable, treatable diseases.

*Hymn 191 "Jesus Loves Me"

*Prayer of Invocation and The 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.

Unison Prayer of Confession

**Disturb us, Lord,
when we are too well pleased with ourselves,
when our dreams come true because we have dreamed too little,
when we arrive safely because we have sailed too close to the shore.**

**Disturb us, Lord,
when, with the abundance of things we possess
we have lost our hunger for the Bread of Life.**

**Having fallen in love with life, we have ceased to dream of eternity,
and in our efforts to build a new earth
we have allowed our vision of the new Kingdom on earth to dim.**

**Disturb us, Lord,
to dare more boldly, to venture wider seas
where storms will show your mastery,
where losing sight of land we shall find the stars.**

**We ask you to push back the horizons of our hopes;
and to push us into the future in strength, courage, hope and love**

Silent Confession
Assurance of Pardon

*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. Amen.**

Scripture Reading Isaiah 43 (pg. 672)

Children's Time

*Pre-K through 12th grade may go to Sunday School after the children's time.
Sunday School ends at 10:45.*

Anthem "Holy is the Lord" *McDonald*

Scripture Reading

Sermon **DUAL CITIZENSHIP** Rev. Friend

*Affirmation of Faith

**Gracious God, bless us with *discomfort*
at easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships,
so that we may live from deep within our hearts**

**Powerful God, bless us with *outrage*
at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people
so that we may work for justice, freedom, and peace.**

**Tender God, bless us with *tears*
to shed for those who suffer from pain, rejection, starvation,
and war,
so that we may reach out our hands to comfort them and turn
their pain into joy.**

**Unpredictable God, bless us with enough *foolishness*
to believe that we can make a difference in the world,
so that we can do what others claim cannot be done
to bring justice and kindness to all our children and the poor. Amen.**

Offering (Ushers will also collect blue prayer request cards at the time of the offering.)

Offertory "Offertory" *Beck*

*Doxology and Presentation of the Offering

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*Prayer of Dedication (If you need to sit for the prayer, please feel free.)

*Hymn 405 "Seek Ye First"

*Benediction

*Postlude "Praise to the Lord" *Hart*

ENRICHING OUR WORSHIP OF GOD

Director of Music *Iris Blanco*

Greeter *Andrea Zomber*

Ushers *Skip and Marianne McClennen, Nancy Davis*

Flowers *Given by The Griffins with gratitude for our St. John's family*

Coffee Service *Chris and Judy Mileto*

Guest Musicians *Crystal Charles, Luciana Piovan, Paul Steege,
Jeff Estabrook, Miyuki Hashimoto*

WELCOME TO ST. JOHN'S!

We are so happy that you have joined us for worship this morning, and we hope that you experience the love of Jesus Christ here with us! If there is anything we can do to help you feel more at home, please feel free to ask one of the ushers located at each of the sanctuary doors. We would love for you to join us for refreshments downstairs immediately following worship. Our greeter, Andrea Zomber, will be available in the back of the sanctuary after worship to answer any questions you might have about St. John's. We are glad that you are here, and hope you will worship with us again soon!

PASTORAL VACATION AND COVERAGE

Patrick is on vacation and unavailable by email or phone, but he will be back in the office tomorrow. If you are in need of a pastor today, please contact Steve Barnes.

"LIVING OUR DUAL CITIZENSHIP" DISCUSSION SERIES

Join us today from 11–12:30 in the Carriage House for the first of three conversations guided by Betsy and Howard Friend (the next two dates to be chosen by those gathered). This will be a time of biblical reflection, exploring together the personal and collective implications of our faith, and celebrating the guidance, support, and encouragement of Christian community. We will be asking tough questions and accepting differing answers. This will be more exploration than teaching, more vigorous exchange than presentation, as we discern together pathways of both faithfulness and action. Coffee, tea, muffins, and fruit will be provided.

ST. JOHN'S MONTHLY CONCERT SERIES: TONIGHT!

Our next monthly concert will be **tonight from 5–6 PM**, featuring "Dances Through the Centuries." These concerts are free and open to the whole community, so please bring a friend and join us for an evening of amazing music!

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S RETREATS

On Saturday, May 6, we will be holding two separate retreats for men and women. The men's retreat is titled, "Building Your Legacy in God's Grace," and will be led by Gavin Kerr here at St. John's. Contact Jim Little to sign up. The women's retreat is titled, "Bread for the Journey," and will be led by Nicole Duran at Daylesford Abbey. Contact Carla Chieffo to sign up. Both Jim and Carla will be available to answer questions or sign you up at coffee hour in the Fellowship Hall following worship. This will be a great opportunity to deepen your faith, as well as your relationships with others in the church!

SANDY RELIEF TRIPS

Having been snowed out in March, the Sandy Relief team has planned back to back trips this week (Tuesday to Thursday, May 2-4) and next week (Monday to Wednesday), May 8-10. We could use some extra hands these trips, as we seek to complete a home ready for its owners to return ... finally! Contact Dan Sutton Howard Friend or Joe Birmingham to sign up or with questions.

THANK YOU!

The trustees wish to express their heartfelt gratitude to everyone who pitched in to help with last week's clean-up day! Working together, we were able to accomplish much! **Thank you!**

WELCOMING OUR ASSOCIATE PASTOR CANDIDATE

St. John's is excited to welcome the Rev. Ridgley Beckett Joyner, our candidate for Associate Pastor for Youth and Family Ministries, and her husband Will as they come to visit on May 6 and 7! We will be hosting a dinner for children, youth, and their parents on Saturday, May 6 at 5:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. This will be a chance for you to get to know Ridgley and Will before she preaches on Sunday. If you have received an invitation, please RSVP with Lara Kennedy (610-688-5222 or Lara.kennedy@stjohnsdevon.com) by Wednesday, May 3. On Sunday, May 7, Ridgley will be preaching, and there will be a congregational meeting to vote on her candidacy immediately following worship. This is an important and exciting time in the life of our church, so please come and help us welcome Ridgley and Will to the St. John's family!

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING – SECOND NOTICE

A special congregational meeting has been called for **Sunday, May 7**, immediately following morning worship, for the purpose of voting on the nomination of the Rev. Ridgley Beckett Joyner as the called Associate Pastor of Youth and Family Ministries.

CARRIAGE CLUB

On Monday, May 8 at noon Carriage Club will meet. Following a light lunch of salads and sandwiches, we will be treated to a presentation by Walter E. Hunter. Many of you will remember Walt as an Emmy award winning journalist. Considered one of the market's most outstanding investigative reporters, he retired from journalism in 2016. The title of Mr. Hunter's presentation is "That's News to Me! 45 Years of Print, Radio, and TV in Philadelphia". Babysitting will be available with seven days notice and all who have time for lunch are invited to join us, (If your schedule does not allow you to be present for the entire program, feel free to come and go as you must.) Reservations, which are GREATLY appreciated, may be made by contacting Virginia Holt.

HORSE SHOW PARKING SIGNUPS

It's time to gear up for our biggest annual youth fundraiser of the year. **May 25 through June 3**, we will be parking cars from 9 AM to 9 PM at St. John's. Like last year, we will have individual day leaders responsible for each day of parking. Please contact Lara in the church office if you are interested in serving as a day leader. You do not have to *be here* all day, simply oversee the volunteers for each shift. Any youth who are participating in the mission trip this year are required to sign up for 3 shifts. We ask that any youth who are not attending the trip sign up for 2 shifts. We are also seeking the help of any adults and parents to help out with shifts as well. Each shift is 3 hours. You can sign up for shifts online at www.stjohnsdevon.com (under "Quick Links").

ST. JOHN'S MEMORIAL GARDEN

The Memorial Garden Committee (Charlie Scott, Chrissy Bouvier, Christine Markle, Earline Eck, and Judy Mileto) will be setting up an information table during coffee hour, so please stop by! St. John's memorial garden is a special place for our church family to inter loved ones, or to purchase a plaque in loving memory. For those who would like more information, there are information pamphlets on the table in the back of the sanctuary. We also welcome anyone who would enjoy helping with weeding this spring and summer. You can weed as your time permits and it is greatly appreciated! Please feel free to contact any committee member if you have questions.



Save the date for Vacation Bible School 2017!

July 24 – 28, 9 AM to Noon

Children ages 4 – 10 are invited to come and discover God's Word through drama, games, crafts, and songs!

More details will be coming soon!

ST. JOHN'S CALENDAR

Sun, April 30	9:30 am	Worship & Sunday School Rev. Howard Friend preaching
Sat, May 6	8:00 am	Women's Retreat at Daylesford Abbey
	8:30 am	Men's Retreat in Carriage House
	5:00 pm	Associate Pastor Dinner for children, youth, and parents
Sun, May 7	9:30 am	Worship, Sunday School, and Communion (Intinction) Rev. Ridgley Beckett Joyner preaching
	10:30 am	Congregational Meeting



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Lara Kennedy, Church Administrator (lara.kennedy@stjohnsdevon.com)



A CHURCH FAMILY, A FAMILY CHURCH

O cosmic Birther of all radiance and vibration.
Soften the ground of our being and carve out a space within us where your Presence can abide.
Fill us with your creativity so that we may be empowered to bear fruit in accordance with your desire.
Endow us with the wisdom to produce and share what each being needs to grow and flourish.
Untie the tangled threads of destiny that bind us, as we release others from the entanglement of past mistakes.
Do not let us be seduced by that which would divert us from our true purpose, but illuminate the opportunities of the present moment.
For you are the ground and the fruitful vision, the birth, power and fulfillment as all is gathered and made whole once again.

April 30, 2017

For the latest information and news about St. John's:

www.stjohnsdevon.com

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