

St. John's at Worship Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

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

Introit "His Eye is on the Sparrow" *Arr. Hayes*

*Call to Worship From Psalm 86

Leader: Incline your ear, O Lord, and answer us,
for we are poor and needy.

**People: Preserve our lives, for we are devoted to you;
save your servants who trust in you.**

Leader: Gladden the souls of your servants,
for to you, O Lord, we lift up our souls.

**People: For you, O Lord, are good and forgiving,
abounding in steadfast love to all who call on you.**

Leader: Teach us your way, O Lord, that we may walk in your truth;
give us undivided hearts to revere your name.

**People: We give thanks to you, O Lord our God,
and will glorify your name forever.
For great is your steadfast love toward us.**

Leader: Let us worship God!

*Hymn 11 (GREEN) "Be Still, for the Presence"

*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

**As your child, I have sinned,
against you and against my neighbor,
thinking, speaking, and acting in ways
that do not honor your presence
in the world, in others, or even in myself.**

**As your people, we have sinned,
against you and against each other,
participating – consciously and unconsciously –
in systems of violence, injustice, and oppression.**

**Individually and collectively,
we have not been the people you created and call us to be.
Heal the wounds in our hearts, minds, and souls
that cause us to live in sin.
Heal the wounds that we inflict upon creation and one another
as a result of our sin.
Forgive us – again – and break the power of sin,
in this world and in our lives.**

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 Psalm 139:1 – 12, 23 – 24 (pg. 577) Yuyiza Irizarry

Children's Time Rev. Joyner
Pre-K through 12th grade may go to Sunday School after the children's time.

Anthem "We Are Climbing Jacob's Ladder" *Arr. Walters*

Scripture Reading Genesis 28:10 – 19a (pg. 25)

Sermon THE BOTTOM RUNG Rev. Marshall
At the end of the sermon, we will have a moment of silent reflection and prayer.

*Affirmation of Faith A Statement of Faith of the United Church of Canada

We are not alone, we live in God's world.

**We believe in God:
who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others by the Spirit.
We trust in God.**

**We are called to be the church:
to celebrate God's presence,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.**

**In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.**

**We are not alone.
Thanks be to God. Amen.**

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

Offertory "Unseen Blessings" *Arr. Hayes*

*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 263 (GREEN), vss. 1, 2, 4 "Open Our Eyes"

*Benediction

*Postlude

ENRICHING OUR WORSHIP OF GOD

Director of Music *Iris Blanco-Urgelles*
Greeter *Mary K. DaRin*
Ushers *Ellen Moeller and Susanne Engheta*
Flowers *Given by a grateful congregation, in loving memory of
Irene A. McElreavy and her parents, William & Irene
G. McElreavy*
Refreshments *Cindy Kerr*
Soloist *Lara Kennedy*

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 in the Carriage House immediately following worship. Our greeter, Mary K. DaRin, 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!

CONGREGATIONAL JOYS AND CONCERNS

Our former pastor Victor Wilson and his wife Jane want to express their heartfelt gratitude to everyone who sent cards following Victor's recent shoulder replacement surgery.

Elizabeth Ator and the family of Norma Dew wish to thank the St. John's family for all the love and care shown to Norma over the past years and especially in the last few months. They have been overwhelmed by your support, prayers, visits, cards, and flowers. Norma commented frequently that she had never seen such a friendly church. You are truly living out God's call to be the family of God.

LOWER LEVEL RENOVATION UPDATE

After an unexpected delay, construction will begin this week and is still scheduled to be completed by the end of September! **The entire lower level is a construction zone and thus not available for passage or use of any kind.** Restrooms are available in the Carriage House. Nursery care and coffee fellowship have also been moved to the Carriage House for the duration of the summer.

SUMMER COMMUNION

Due to renovations and the loss of kitchen/preparation space downstairs, the Session has voted to celebrate communion by Intinction (come forward, take a piece of bread, dip it in the cup of juice) for the remainder of the summer. We celebrate the Lord's Supper on the first Sunday of each month (August 6 and September 3). St. John's communion is not just for members or Presbyterians. Anyone who places their faith in Jesus Christ and seeks his nourishment is encouraged to share this meal with us!



**Vacation Bible School 2017:
Rome: Paul and the Underground Church!**

July 24 – 28, 9 AM to Noon

Children ages 4–10 are invited to discover God’s Word through drama, games, crafts, and songs! Explore a crowded Roman marketplace, tiptoe past watchful Roman guards, race chariots, encourage first-century Christians who meet in a dark cave, and visit Paul for daily discoveries about God’s love. If you can volunteer to help with crafts, games, or snacks, please contact Laurie Cato.

SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL

We are still looking for volunteers to help teach summer Sunday School. If you can give one or two Sunday mornings to help our children learn about God’s love, please email Ellen Moeller. This year Summer Sunday school will have 3 classes: Kindergarten–4th, 5th–7th, and 8th–12th. Each Sunday will begin with prayer, devotion, and a Bible story, followed by a craft or outside activity. If you would like to help, the CE committee has teaching material you may use, or you can bring your own ideas!

CHURCH-WIDE GLEANING TRIP (WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 2, 5–7:30 PM)

Gleaning is the biblical act of collecting leftover crops from farmers’ fields after they have been harvested and giving them to those in need. Please join us for our third annual trip to Pete’s Produce Farm (1225 East Street Road, West Chester) as we gather fruit and vegetables to benefit the Chester County Food Bank. Anyone age 12 and up is welcome to participate. Please RSVP to Susan Starke by Friday, July 28.

WELCOMING RIDGLEY AND WILL

Ridgley and Will are looking for your recommendations to help them get to know the area better. If you have any suggestions for restaurants, activities, doctors, etc, please write them down and drop them off in the bin in Lara’s office. In addition, we will be hosting a series of get-togethers over the next few months so that they can get to know their church family a little better. The first gathering will be a Summer Picnic at Kristen Loftus’ home in Berwyn on **Wednesday, August 3 from 5:30–7:30 PM**. The second get-together will be a Back-to-School Barbecue at Laurie Cato’s home in Malvern on **Sunday, August 27 from 5–7 PM**. We will be limiting these first two get-togethers to 14-15 people, so that Ridgley and Will get a chance to talk to everyone. If you are interested in attending, please RSVP to Barbara McConnell to sign-up. If these first two dates don’t work for you, there will be more events to come in the fall.

ST. JOHN’S CALENDAR

Sun, July 23 9:30 am Worship
July 24-28 9:00 am - Noon, Vacation Bible School
Sun, July 30 9:30 am Worship

Patrick and Ridgley are out of the office on Fridays and Saturdays. Lara is out on Saturdays and Sundays. If you email or call on those days, you may not get a response until they are back in the office. If you have a pastoral emergency on a Saturday, you may call (610) 608-2568.



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Rev. Patrick Marshall, Pastor (patrick.marshall@stjohnsdevon.com)
 Rev. Ridgley Beckett Joyner, Associate Pastor (rjoyner@stjohnsdevon.com)
 Iris Blanco-Urgelles, Director of Music (iris.blanco@stjohnsdevon.com)
 Lara Kennedy, Church Administrator (lara.kennedy@stjohnsdevon.com)



A CHURCH FAMILY, A FAMILY CHURCH

“Jacob’s Ladder” by Don McGonigal

The clouds are restless in the sky
 tear-filled, brooding
 they promise to unleash a torrent
 at any moment

The wind is wet with the threat of rain

My heart is crushed
 beneath this heavy sky of trials
 and I am forced to my knees
 by the weight of them

But you come
 like a shaft of pure light
 breaking through the clouds

Jacob’s ladder stretching upwards
 so bright, so pure
 you seem a solid thing
 drawing my eyes to heaven

Drenched and weary
 I will stand and bask in a hope
 no storm can wash from my heart

July 23, 2017
For the latest information and news about St. John’s:
www.stjohnsdevon.com
facebook.com/stjohnspresbyteriandevonpa