

St. John's at Worship First Sunday of Advent

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

Introit

Lighting of the First Advent Candle

Steve & Kelly Barnes

*Hymn **196** "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

*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

**In this season when we celebrate your coming,
we confess that there are parts of this world and our lives
that we try to keep you from coming *into*.**

**There are things that we do not *want* to have changed;
grudges and anger and obsessions and pain
that we do not know how to let go of.**

There is control over our lives

that we are not ready to put into your hands.

**There are things about us that we try to keep hidden and secret,
even from you.**

**Free us, O Lord,
from the ways that we try to keep you from being born
in us and among us.**

**Come among us again, especially when we resist,
and help us to trust more in *your* life that we do in *our own*.**

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 64:1 – 9 (pg.)

*At this time Pre-K – 4th grade leave for Sunday School until 10:45.
Grades 5 – 12 stay for communion.*

Anthem "God with Us to Dwell"

McDonald

Scripture Reading Mark 13:24 – 37 (Pg.)

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

*Hymn **626, vss. 1, 2** "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper (Traditional)

Invitation to the Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Communion of the People

Prayer after Communion

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

Offertory

*Doxology

**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 (**INSERT**) "The Days Are Surely Coming"

*Benediction

*Postlude

ENRICHING OUR WORSHIP OF GOD

Director of Music *Iris Blanco-Urgelles*

Ushers *Carla Chieffo, Carolyn Repke,*

Andrew Ealer, Andrew Ward

Greeter *Jim Netter*

Flowers *Given by Nancy Davis to the glory of God*

and in thanksgiving for many blessings.

Refreshments *Susanne & Nader Engheta*

Guest Musicians *Crystal Charles, Heather McConnell*

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, Jim Netter, 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!

THANK YOU

Ginny Louis would like to express her gratitude to everyone who has reached out with cards, calls, and visits over the past few weeks following the death of her husband. Your love and support has meant so much to her.

The Deacons would like to thank everyone who gave so generously in support of the Great Valley Food Cupboard food drive. These gifts will touch so many people on our community!

UPDATED CHURCH DIRECTORIES

If you need an updated copy of the phone/address directory, the most recent version is available in hard copy in the file marked "directories" on top of the mailboxes in the volunteer room. If you would like an electronic copy instead, please email Lara at lara.kennedy@stjohnsdevon.com

HANGING OF THE GREENS – TODAY!

Help us "deck the halls" **today at 4 PM** (at the same time as the Advent Craft Night). All are welcome to come and help prepare the church for the Advent season. There will be food and activities for children.

CARRIAGE CLUB – MONDAY, DECEMBER 11 (NOON)

Following a light lunch, our director of music, Iris Blanco-Urgelles, will present a concert of traditional Christmas carols. If your schedule does not allow you to be present for the entire program, feel free to come and go as you must. Reservations are greatly appreciated and may still be made by contacting Virginia Holt.

ST. JOHN'S CONCERT SERIES

Our next monthly concert, *Sounds of the Christmas Season*, will be on **Sunday, December 17 from 5–6 PM!** These concerts are free of charge and open to the community. Each month's concert will focus on a different theme, style of music, or composer, along with different instruments and vocalists. Please bring a friend and join us for an evening of amazing music!

DEACON'S COAT DRIVE

Our annual coat drive ends today! We are accepting gently used adult and children's coats (all sizes) to donate to Chester County Family Academy and Wise Choice Ministries. You can drop them off in the coat closet of the Carriage House. If you have questions or need assistance, please contact Andrea Zomber.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS ARE COMING!

Today is the last day that the Deacons are accepting sponsorships for beautiful red poinsettias to decorate our sanctuary from December 17 through 24. The cost is \$10 per plant, and the poinsettia is yours to take after the 8 PM Christmas Eve service. If you would like to sponsor a poinsettia, please see Pat Marshall.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE – ELDERS, DEACONS, AND TRUSTEES

If you feel called to serve as an Elder, Deacon, or Trustee, or if you know of someone else who would be a good fit, there are boxes in the back of the sanctuary or downstairs in Fellowship Hall where you may submit a form. You can also submit a form on our website. If you have questions, please speak to Patrick or a member of the Nominating Committee: John Adams (Chair), Sue Chudy (Deacons), Liz Ward (Trustees), Don Black, Libby Dalrymple, or Janette Scott.

ANGEL TREE

All of our Angels have been sponsored, and wrapped gifts are to be returned to Fellowship Hall no later than **next Sunday. Please attach the gift name tag to your gift.** We are in need of several more volunteers to make this a success. Please contact either Mimi Wright (mewgew@comcast.net) or Kim Collett (kimcollett@gmail.com) if you are able to help. Important dates:

Dec. 10: All gifts must be returned to Fellowship Hall

Dec. 15: Gifts delivered to Chester County Family Academy

Dec. 17: Gifts delivered to Prison Ministry Families in Chester (Still need volunteers.) Lunch will be provided after worship for those who are able to help make deliveries.

Dec. 20: Gift delivery and party at Sherwood. (Still need Volunteers.)

We will leave from St. John's between 12:30–1:00.

CHILDREN'S MOVIE NIGHT – FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8 (6–8 PM)

Children in grades K–5 are invited to bring a friend and a pillow/blanket to the Fellowship Hall for pizza, snacks, and a viewing of *Arthur Christmas!* The cost is \$5 per child, not to exceed \$10 per family.



Follow us on Instagram! @StJohnsDevonYouth

Tonight – Advent Craft Night (4 – 6 PM)

Come celebrate the beginning of the Advent season with our annual Advent Craft Night on December 3 from 4–6 PM in Fellowship Hall. It will be a fun evening of food, crafts, and fellowship, open to everyone (kids and adults), and you are encouraged to bring a friend! We will also be decorating the sanctuary at the same time, so parents can help with that!

Sunday, December 10 – Youth Fellowship Christmas Party (4–6 PM)

Join us at the home of Bruce and Nancy Phillips (933 Saratoga Road, Berwyn) for our annual Christmas party! Bring your favorite peanut-free dessert or appetizer.

Star Wars: The Last Jedi – Friday, December 15 (6:30–9:30 PM)

We will be joining some other youth groups who have rented out two theaters at UA King of Prussia for the premiere of the new Star Wars movie, *The Last Jedi!* We will meet at the theater at 6:30 PM, with the movie starting at 7 (ending around 9:30). Tickets are \$17. We have a limited number tickets available, so please let Ridgley know as soon as possible if you want to go.

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICES

We offer several different ways for you to celebrate the birth of Christ:

Wednesday, December 20 (7 PM) – Blue Christmas

For many people Christmas can be a difficult time of year. Those who are struggling, have lost loved ones, or have bad associations with Christmas can often feel lonely or depressed while everyone else seems to be celebrating. If you find yourself struggling this Christmas season, join us for this service as we come to God seeking light in the midst of darkness.

Sunday, December 24 – Christmas Eve

9:30 AM – Morning Worship & Christmas Cantata

Join us for a morning of music, as the choir shares an arrangement of songs, interspersed with readings, to help us prepare for the coming of Christ.

4:00 PM – Family Service

Children in Pre-K – 5th grade are invited to take part in the nativity story. No rehearsals are needed, just follow the signs to the Kean Room for a costume!

8:00 PM – Candlelight Service

Candles will light our darkened sanctuary as a reminder that the Light of the World, Jesus Christ, has come.

ST. JOHN'S CALENDAR

Sun, Dec 3	8:00 am	Deacons Meeting (Carriage House)
	9:30 am	Worship & Sunday School Communion (Traditional)
	4:00 pm	Advent Craft Night & Hanging of the Greens

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 after hours or on a Saturday, you can call 610-764-6436.**



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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

“Going to Bethlehem”

By J. Barrie Shepherd

Four weeks to cross the continents and oceans to a town that is transformed by twenty centuries of troubled times.

Four weeks in which to travel down the weary corridors, two thousand years of looking back and looking forward.

Four weeks for tramping the harsh pathways of the chopping malls trying to buy the one gift that has never been for sale.

Four weeks to light four candles in the sanctuary of the heart, and then a fifth one to illuminate the heart of God.

Four weeks for learning mystery, for turning darkness toward light, for yearning, day by day, toward that burning flame of welcome that kindles there within the waiting manger.

December 3, 2017
For the latest information and news about St. John's:
www.stjohnsdevon.com
facebook.com/stjohnspresbyteriandevonpa