

## St. John's at Worship Second Sunday of Advent

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

Introit "If with All Your Hearts" *Bartholdy*

Lighting of the Second Advent Candle *Mark, Elizabeth, and Andrew Ward*

\*Hymn 13 (INSERT) "Prepare the Way, O Zion"

\*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 wait for your peace to come,  
we recognize that we do not always do *our* part to *create* peace.  
We judge others, hold on to grudges, and place conditions on our love.  
We open our mouths when we should keep them shut,  
and we shut our mouths when we should speak up.  
We cannot be at peace with our neighbors, or with you,  
because we are not at peace with *ourselves*.  
This is not how you created us to be,  
and this is not how we *want* to be.  
We *want* to live in harmony  
with ourselves,  
with each other,  
and with you.  
May your peace come among us, so that we can *let go*,  
and may we let go, so that your peace can come among us.**

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 40:1 – 11 (pg. 667)

Cherub Choir "Away in a Manger" Debbie Ealer, Director  
"Joy to the World"

Children's Time Rev. Joyner  
*At this time Pre-K – 12<sup>th</sup> grade leave for Sunday School until 10:45.*

Anthem "A Savior from High" *Paulus*

Scripture Reading 2 Peter 3:8 – 15a (Pg. 237)

Sermon ACTIVE WAITING 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 (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.**

Recognition of Sandy Relief Team

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

Offertory "Adagio" *Albinoni*

\*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 431 "Let There Be Peace on Earth"

\*Benediction

\*Postlude "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen"

ENRICHING OUR WORSHIP OF GOD

**Director of Music** *Iris Blanco-Urgelles*

**Ushers** *Carla Chieffo, Herb Thal, Sharlene Cirillo, Mary K DaRin*

**Greeter** *Virginia Holt*

**Flowers** *Given by Sirelda Urgelles and Iris Blanco in the memory of Iluminada Aurora Castillo: We all miss you, Abu, more than words can express. You will always be in our hearts, and your music will live on through each of us.*

**Refreshments** *Tom and Michael Whalen*

**Guest Musicians** *Tom McCauley (viola), Patty Turse (harp),*

*Hayden Smith (tenor)*

**Cherub Choir** *Ryan Crill, Sarah Crill, Luke Ealer, Ellie Fisher, Brandon Marshall, Emily Marshall, Ryan Marshall*

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, Virginia Holt, 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

On behalf of everyone at T&E Care, thank you so much for once again allowing us to use the Carriage House for our annual Holiday Drive. Through your generosity and the support of our wonderful donors, we were able to provide gifts and much-needed household items to more than 100 local families. Truly Christmas spirit in action!

JOYS & CONCERNS

The rose on the communion table today is in celebration with Jim & Carol Netter on the birth of their fifth grandchild, James Laurence Bailey, on December 1!

Our hearts go out to our church sexton, Wes Thomas, on the death of his sister, Darlene, this past week.

Cindy Kerr is back at home, recovering from surgery.

ANGEL TREE

Please return your wrapped Angel Tree gifts to Fellowship Hall today, *with the name tag attached*. 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. Lunch will be provided after worship for those who are able to help make deliveries.

**Dec. 20:** Gift delivery and party at Sherwood. We will leave from St. John's between 12:30–1:00.

CARRIAGE CLUB – TOMORROW AT NOON

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

2018 OFFERING ENVELOPES

Offering envelopes for 2018 are located downstairs in the Fellowship Hall. Please pick them up at your convenience. If there is not one with your name on it, and you would like one, please call Ken Dilloway.

YEAR-END GIFTS

Year-end gifts will be credited in the 2017 tax year if they are received in the church office by Friday, Dec. 29, or postmarked by Dec. 31. Some members and friends of St. John's donate shares of stock or mutual funds at the end of the year. If you are interested in this option, we use Vanguard to process these transactions. Please ask your broker to use DTC number 0062; our account number is 6142 8971. If you have any questions, please contact Brian Bouvier.

CELEBRATING SANDY RELIEF

Please join us for cake to celebrate the 50th trip of the Sandy Relief Team in Fellowship Hall during coffee hour today. In addition to the 7,000 volunteer hours and the many prepared dinners, the church has also supported Sandy Relief through funds from Christian Outreach.

ST. JOHN'S CONCERT SERIES

Our next monthly concert, *Sounds of the Christmas Season*, will be **next 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!



Follow us on Instagram! @StJohnsDevonYouth

**Tonight, 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.

SAVE THE DATE! - YOUTH SKI TRIP WILL BE FEBRUARY 17TH!

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 – 5<sup>th</sup> 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

|                    |              |   |
|--------------------|--------------|---|
| <b>Sun, Dec 10</b> | 8:00 am      | Trustees Meeting  |
|                    | 9:30 am      | Worship & Sunday School                                   |
|                    | 4:00 pm      | Youth Christmas Party (at the Phillips')                  |
| <b>Mon, Dec 11</b> | 12:00 pm     | Carriage Club   |
|                    | 7:00 pm      | Session Meeting   |
| <b>Dec 12–14</b>   |              | Sandy Relief Trip   |
| <b>Fri, Dec 15</b> | 6:30 pm      | Youth Star Wars @ KOP                                     |
| <b>Sat, Dec 16</b> | 8:30 am      | Interfaith Group  |
| <b>Sun, Dec 17</b> | 9:30 am      | Worship & Sunday School                                   |
|                    | 11:00 am     | Youth mission trip meeting                                |
|                    | 5:00 pm      | Concert Series  |
|                    | 6:30 pm      | College Student Christmas Dinner at Patrick & Jen's house |
| <b>Wed, Dec 20</b> | 7:00 pm      | Blue Christmas service                                    |
| <b>Fri, Dec 22</b> | 10 am - 3 pm | Red Cross Blood Drive                                     |
| <b>Sun, Dec 24</b> | 9:30 am      | Worship & Christmas Cantata                               |
|                    | 4:00 pm      | Family Service  |
|                    | 8:00 pm      | Candlelight Service                                       |

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

“The God Who Waits”

by Tanya Marlow

Advent is a season of waiting, of longing: for life, and light, and hope beyond this world.

In Advent, we think we are the ones who are waiting.

But I think of the annunciation, in Leonardo Da Vinci's Italian colors:

Mary is surprised, her left hand curled into a question mark, but it is Gabriel's head that is bowed low, The Archangel holding his breath for her answer.

All heaven was waiting on a human word before the Word would be made human.

Before God became incarnate, God waited for human assent.

God was in the waiting, the liminal moment when heaven held its breath.

I wonder about the waiting; As my body groans and yearns for an eternal home, the pulling of my soul towards heaven; Could it be that God is waiting for my words— Could it be that God's soul is pulling too?

**December 10, 2017**  
**For the latest information and news about St. John's:**  
**www.stjohnsdevon.com**  
**facebook.com/stjohnspresbyteriandevonpa**