

St. John's at Worship First Sunday of Advent

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

Lighting the First Advent Candle Jeff & Lisa Estabrook

*Call to Worship

Leader: We light these candles to remind us of how God comes into this world and our lives.

People: Lord, let the light of your hope shine among us.

Leader: Let us worship God!

*Hymn 211, vv. 1, 6, 7 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

*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 Luke 1:26 – 38 (pg. 56)

Children's Time Rev. Joyner

As Pre-K-4th grade leaves for Sunday School, we send them with this liturgy:

Pastor: Now we go our separate ways to worship and learn about God.

Cong: **May God be with you there!**

Children: **May God be with you here!**

Anthem

"Teach Me Your Way"

Larson

Scripture Reading Luke 1:46 – 55 (pg. 57)

Sermon GIVING BIRTH TO HOPE Rev. Marshall
Advent Series: Slouching Towards Bethlehem

*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 "Veni, Veni Emmanuel" *Traditional*

*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 178, vv. 1, 2, 4 "Hope of the World"

*Benediction

*Choral Benediction

*Postlude "Angelus Virginem"

ENRICHING OUR WORSHIP OF GOD

Director of Music Iris Blanco-Urgelles

Greeter Amy Lord

Ushers Carla Chieffo, Alice Bell, Carolyn & Scott Repke

Flowers Given by the Chudy family in loving memory of mother, grandmother and great grandmother, Lorraine Jean Kaechele, who will be in our hearts forever.

Also given by Nancy Davis to the glory of God and the memory of Tom Davis.

Refreshments Sharon & John Griffin

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 in the Fellowship Hall following worship. Our greeter, Amy Lord, 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!

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

If you would like to sign up to sponsor flowers in 2019, please contact Jeanne Lynam. Cowan's Flowers creates the bouquets and bills the sponsor directly at a cost of \$48. You may take the flowers home after worship or donate them to one of our homebound or hospitalized members.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS ARE COMING!

The Deacons are accepting sponsorships for beautiful red poinsettias to decorate our sanctuary from December 16 through 24. The cost will be \$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 Jeanne Lynam after worship or contact her at cwlynam@msn.com

ANGEL TREE

All of the angels on the Angel Tree have been sponsored! Wrapped gifts are to be returned to Fellowship Hall by December 9. ***Please attach the gift name tag to your gift.*** We are in need of several more volunteers to help deliver the gifts. Please contact Kim Collett (kimdcollett@gmail.com) or Marianne McClennen if you are able to help.

ADVENT BOOK STUDY

Join us after worship (**11 AM**) in the Carriage House as we begin a 4-week study of the book *Advent Conspiracy: Can Christmas Still Change the World?* by Rick McKinley, Chris Seay, and Greg Holder. This book seeks to enrich our understanding of Advent and prepare us to celebrate Christmas, not as a season of retail consumption, but as a season of compassion; not of presents, but of *presence*. Today we will discuss chapters 1 and 3; next week, chapters 2 and 4.

ST. JOHN'S CONCERT SERIES

Our next monthly concert, *Sounds of the Christmas Season*, will be on **Sunday, December 9 from 5-6 PM!** Concerts are free of charge and open to the community. Bring a friend and join us for an evening of amazing music!

CARRIAGE CLUB

On **Monday, December 10, at Noon**, Carriage Club will meet in Fellowship Hall. Following a light lunch of salads and sandwiches, we will move to the sanctuary where our Director of Music, Iris Blanco-Urgelles, along with Cassia and Myanna Harvey, will treat us to a Christmas Concert. Reservations may be made by contacting Virginia Holt (610-688-1048 or swleeholt@verizon.net). If you are able to provide a desert or a salad, please note that in your response.

COLLEGE CHRISTMAS PARTY – DECEMBER 23 (6 PM)

All college-aged young adults are invited to join Ridgley and Patrick at the Manse on Sunday, December 23 at 6 PM for pizza and fellowship!

YEAR-END GIFTS

Year-end gifts will be credited in the 2018 tax year if they are received in the church office by Friday, December 29, or postmarked by the 31st. 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.

ADVENT CRAFT NIGHT – TODAY (4–6 PM)

Join us for our annual Advent Craft Night for ages 4th grade and under. We will have a story time, dinner, and crafts! The kids will also receive their family devotional for the advent season. The MS and HS Youth are invited to help the kids, and even do some crafts! Dinner will be served at no cost, but donations are accepted.

HANGING OF THE GREENS

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.



December 2 – Advent Craft Night (4–6 PM, 12th grade and under)

December 9 – All-Youth Christmas Party (4–6 PM)

Join us at the Home of Betsy and Howard Friend. MS Youth bring a snack to share, and HS Youth bring a dessert to share! BONUS: Betsy’s making us Mexican Hot Chocolate!

December 16 – Youth Movie Night! Stay tuned for details!

High School Sabbath Retreat – Lake Naomi, Pocono Mountains

Join us for a weekend of relaxation, faith formation, and fellowship Friday, January 25 through Sunday, January 27. Sign-ups start Jan 1!

Mission Trip Informational Meeting

There will be an informational meeting on Sunday, December 16 (NOTE DATE CHANGE) in the Carriage House for parents and youth to learn more about the mission trip to Puerto Rico June 22–29, 2019. This trip is for rising 9th graders through graduated seniors.

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICES

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

Sunday, December 23 – Choir Cantata

Join us at 9:30 AM 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.

Monday, December 24 – Christmas Eve

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. There will be a special musical prelude beginning at 7:30, so come early and prepare your heart and mind for worship.

ST. JOHN’S CALENDAR

Sun, Dec 2	9:30 am	Worship & Sunday School Communion (Traditional)
	11:00 am	Advent Book Study
	4:00 pm	Hanging of the Greens
	4–6 pm	Advent Craft Night
	Sun, Dec 2–Thurs, Dec 6	
Wed, Dec 5	9:00 am	Prayer group
Thurs, Dec 6	10:00 am	Women’s Bible Study
Sat, Dec 8	7:00 pm	Private Christmas Party in CH
Sun, Dec 9	8:00 am	Trustee Meeting (Kean Room)
	9:30 am	Worship & Sunday School
	5:00 pm	St. John’s Concert Series
Mon, Dec 10	12:00 pm	Carriage Club
	7:00 pm	Session Meeting (Kean Room)

Patrick will be on vacation starting tomorrow. He will be back in the office on Wednesday, Dec. 12. During that time, he will be unavailable by phone or email.

Ridgley is out of the office on Friday and Saturday. Lara is out on Saturday and Sunday. 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 484-604-0499.**



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Rev. Patrick Marshall, Pastor (patrick.marshall@stjohnsdevon.com)
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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 Second Coming”
by William Butler Yeats

Turning and turning in the widening gyre
The falcon cannot hear the falconer;
Things fall apart; the centre cannot hold;
Mere anarchy is loosed upon the world,
The blood-dimmed tide is loosed, and everywhere
The ceremony of innocence is drowned;
The best lack all conviction, while the worst
Are full of passionate intensity.

Surely some revelation is at hand;
Surely the Second Coming is at hand.
The Second Coming! Hardly are those words out
When a vast image out of *Spiritus Mundi*
Troubles my sight: somewhere in sands of the desert
A shape with lion body and the head of a man,
A gaze blank and pitiless as the sun,
Is moving its slow thighs, while all about it
Reel shadows of the indignant desert birds.
The darkness drops again; but now I know
That twenty centuries of stony sleep
Were vexed to nightmare by a rocking cradle,
And what rough beast, its hour come ‘round at last,
Slouches towards Bethlehem to be born?

December 2, 2018
For the latest information and news about St. John’s:
www.stjohnsdevon.com
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