

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

Prelude "Prepare the Royal Highway" *arr. Moklebust*

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

Introit "Savior of the Nations, Come" *arr. Moklebust*

Lighting the Advent Candles *The Irizarry-Del Valle Family*

\*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 peace shine among us.**

Leader: Let us worship God!

\*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.**

Prayer of Confession

We seek to serve you, O Lord, with glad and generous hearts.

Forgive us when our hearts are hardened

**And move us to trust the depth of your promise.**

We seek to live as baptized people,

Repenting of sin and sharing your grace.

**Forgive us when we fall into selfish ways,**

**And move us to know the goodness of your call.**

Have mercy on us, O God.

**By your grace, cleanse us.**

**By your providence, help us to learn from our mistakes.**

**By your Holy Spirit, equip us to love and honor you.**

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 1:5-25** (pg. 56) Mildred DelValle

Children's Time Rev. Joyner

*As Pre-K-4<sup>th</sup> 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 "The Gathering" *McDonald*

Scripture Reading **Luke 1:63-80** (pg. 57)

Sermon Rev. Joyner

*Advent Series: Slouching Towards Bethlehem*

Hymn 92 GREEN "Wait for the Lord" (Refrain only)

*Wait for the Lord, Whose day is near.*

*Wait for the Lord, Be strong, take heart!*

*(Repeat 4 times)*

\*Affirmation of Faith Adapted from the PC Canada

*Living Faith*

Leader: The Old Testament records God's message and mighty acts. It speaks of God's grace and judgment. It declares God's promise and points to the One to come.

**People: From Israel came the Messiah; in Jesus of Nazareth God kept the promise of Salvation. We understand his coming in the light of the Old Testament.**

Leader: Born of the seed of David, he lived a Jew among Jews. Child of an Israelite woman, he fulfilled God's promise that Israel would be a light unto the nations.

**People: In Christ God came to dispel the world's darkness.**

Leader: God became man and dwelt among us.

**People: In silence we ponder, in awe we confess this amazing truth.**

Leader: Conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, the eternal Son of God humbled himself to be one with us. To Israel and to the world came God in Christ.

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 213 "Lift up your heads, Ye Mighty Gates"

\*Benediction

\*Choral Response "Hold us Ever in Your Keeping" *Matheny*

\*Postlude "Angelus Virginem"

### ENRICHING OUR WORSHIP OF GOD

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

**Greeter** *Mimi Wright*

**Ushers** *Carla Chieffo, Herb Thal, Mimi Wright, Carolyn Repke*

**Flowers** *Given by Andy and Lee Walsh in memory of our mothers,  
Carol Russell and Martha Walsh.*

**Refreshments** *Jim and Carol Netter*

**Rejoicing Ringers** *Rowan Bellew, Brigitte Belzer, Courtney Cato, Ryan Crill,*

*Cat & Sarah Duncan, Nate & Sarah Geiger, Avery Hillier, Andrew Ward*

**Devon Chapel Bells** *Susan Bain, Sue Chudy, Christina Fish, Sue Hardin, Sue*

*Johnson, Susan Starke, Jim Tiede, Elizabeth Unger, Mary Caroline Ward*

**Devon Brass** *Jeff Estabrook, Frank Mercurio, Paul Steege, Mark Ator*

**Guest Musicians** *Nancy Kimmons (percussion), Christina Fish (oboe)*

*\*We are still looking for ushers for the 8 pm Christmas Eve service. If you are interested, please contact Pat Churchill.*

### 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, Mimi Wright, 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 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.

### ANGEL TREE – GIFTS DUE BACK TODAY

All of the angels on the Angel Tree have been sponsored! Wrapped gifts are to be returned to Fellowship Hall **today**. *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 or Marianne McClennen if you are able to help.

### CARRIAGE CLUB – TOMORROW

Carriage Club will meet **tomorrow at Noon** 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 still be made by contacting Virginia Holt. 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 31<sup>st</sup>. 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.

### ST. JOHN'S CONCERT SERIES

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

### ADVENT BOOK STUDY

Join us after worship (11 AM) in the Carriage House as we continue our 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 2 and 4. Next week we will be looking at chapter 5.

### ST. JOHN'S DANCING WITH THE STARS REGISTRATION STARTS TODAY

St. John's will be hosting a four-week adult dance class thought by a professional instructor. The class will run for 4 Saturdays, Jan 12 - Feb 2 from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm. Light lunch and fellowship to follow. Cost is \$60 per person including lunch. Register today in the Fellowship Hall, or contact Susanne Engheta. Due to limited space, registration is first come first served.

### 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!



### Today – 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! *The Grinch* United Artist KOP

**\$10 a person-- RSVP by Friday December 14th**

Stay tuned for details! (As soon as the movies are released for that week, Ridgley will know what time, but plan for late afternoon/evening!

### 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 9<sup>th</sup> 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 – 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. 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

<b>Sun, Dec 9</b>	8:00 am	Trustee Meeting (Kean Room)
	9:30 am	Worship & Sunday School
<b>Mon, Dec 10</b>	5:00 pm	St. John's Concert Series
	12:00 pm	Carriage Club
<b>Wed, Dec 12</b>	7:00 pm	Session Meeting (Kean Room)
	9:00 am	Prayer group
	6:00 pm	Called Session Meeting (Kean)

**Patrick is on vacation and will be back in the office on Wednesday. Until then, he is 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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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 9, 2018**  
For the latest information and news about St. John's:  
[www.stjohnsdevon.com](http://www.stjohnsdevon.com)  
[facebook.com/stjohnspresbyteriandevonpa](https://facebook.com/stjohnspresbyteriandevonpa)