

**St. John's at Worship
Third Sunday of Advent**

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

Lighting the Advent Candles *The Coradi 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 love shine among us.

Leader: Let us worship God!

*Hymn 13 (INSERT) "Prepare the Way"

*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

In this season of waiting, we have a hard time being patient with each other, with ourselves, and even with you.

We live in a world where we can have whatever we want, whenever we want it, and you don't work that way.

So we force our will on the world around us, seeking control, because so much is out of our control.

And because we cannot control,

we act rashly, speak harshly, and live selfishly.

You who are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, be so with us, that we may be so with all, in Jesus' name.

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 Matthew 3:1 – 10 (pg. 2)

Cherub Choir "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing"
"Joy to the World"

As Pre-K–12th 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

Scripture Reading Luke 3:10 – 20 (pg. 60)

Sermon LOOKING FOR LOVE Rev. Marshall
Advent Series: Slouching Towards Bethlehem

*Affirmation of Faith from 1 John 4

Love is from God.

Everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

God's love was revealed among us in this way:

God sent his only son into the world

so that we might live through him.

In this is love, not that we loved God, but that God loved us

and sent his son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins.

Since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another.

No one has ever seen God;

if we love one another, God lives in us,

and his love is perfected in us.

We have seen and do testify

that the Father sent his Son as the savior of the world.

So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God,

and God abides in them.

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 104 (INSERT) "O Lord, How Shall I Meet You"

*Benediction

*Choral Response

*Postlude

ENRICHING OUR WORSHIP OF GOD

Director of Music *Iris Blanco-Urgelles*

Greeter *Mary K DaRin*

Ushers *Carla Chieffo, Carolyn & Scott Repke, Pat Marshall*

Refreshments *Patrick Bullock and Janice Rosencrance*

Cherub Choir *Debbie Ealer, Director*

James Adams, Luke Ealer, Ellie Fisher,

Brandon Marshall, Emily Marshall, Ryan Marshall,

Abigail Marvin, Travis Marvin

**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, 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!

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.

REGISTER FOR ST. JOHN'S DANCING WITH THE STARS

St. John's will be hosting a four-week adult dance class thought by a professional instructor. The class will meet on Saturdays, January 12 through February 2, from 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM. Light lunch and fellowship to follow. Cost is \$60 per person for the whole course, including lunch. Register today in the Fellowship Hall or contact Susanne Engheta. Space is limited, so register today!

COLLEGE CHRISTMAS PARTY – DECEMBER 23 (6 PM)

All college-aged young adults are invited to Patrick and Jen's house on Sunday, December 23 at 6 PM for pizza. It is 100% casual, and you don't need to bring a thing. It's a great time to catch up and reconnect with each other! Parents, please check with your college student to see if they are coming and let Patrick know (Patrick.marshall@stjohnsdevon.com) so that we can be sure to have enough food.



POINSETTIAS GIVEN BY:

John & Barbara Alexander

Mark & Elizabeth Ator

The Bellew Family

Steve & Kim Collett

Ken & Nancy Coradi

Peter & Nancy Crawford

Libby & Dave Dalrymple

Nancy Davis

Ken & Mary Dilloway

John & Sharon Griffin

Tom & Nancy Higgins

Lee & Virginia Holt

Jose & Mildred Irizarry-Del Valle

Nancy Kimmons & John Senior

Linda Corish, in memory of Bob Risk

Kathy Johnson

Ridgley & Will Joyner

The Kerr Family

Chuck & Jeanne Lynam

David & Christine Markle

Skip & Marianne McClennen

Lee & Barbara McConnell

Chris & Judy Mileto

Dick & Chris Oliver

Ann Roberts & Frank Lewandowski

Nancy Wolfe

Mark & Liz Ward

Gordon & Mimi Wright

The Loftus Family

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 chapter 5. Next week we will be looking at chapters 6 and 7.



Tonight – Youth Movie Night! *The Grinch* (5 PM, United Artist KOP) \$10 per person

Youth in grades 5–12 are invited to meet at the KOP movie theater at 5 PM to watch *The Grinch*! Please bring \$10 to help pay for your ticket and extra money if you want a drink or snack. Bring a friend! We will be done around 7:30, and a group text will be sent to parents when the movie ends.

Mission Trip Informational Meeting Today

There will be an informational meeting **after worship today** 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.

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!

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICES

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

Wednesday, December 19 – Blue Christmas (7 PM)

For many people this 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 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 to prepare your heart and mind for worship.

2019 OFFERING ENVELOPES

Offering envelopes for 2019 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 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.

ST. JOHN'S CALENDAR

Sun, Dec 16	9:30 am	Worship & Sunday School
	11:00 am	<i>Advent Conspiracy</i> book study (Carriage House)
Wed, Dec 19	9:00 am	Prayer Group (Kean Room)
	7:00 pm	Blue Christmas Service
Sun, Dec 23	9:30 am	Worship & Sunday School Choir Cantata
	11:00 am	<i>Advent Conspiracy</i> book study (Carriage House)
Mon, Dec 24		Christmas Eve
	4:00 pm	Family Worship & Children's Nativity Program
	8:00 pm	Candlelight Worship
Tues, Dec 25		Christmas Day

Patrick and Ridgley are 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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StJohnsDevon.com

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 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 16, 2018
For the latest information and news about St. John's:
www.stjohnsdevon.com
facebook.com/stjohnspresbyteriandevonpa