

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

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

Lighting the Advent Candles *The McClintick 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 joy shine among us.**

Leader: Let us worship God!

\*Hymn (INSERT), vss. 1 – 4 “The Candle of Hope”

\*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.**

Scripture Reading Psalm 100 (pg. 552)

Children's Time Rev. Joyner  
*At this time Pre-K – 4<sup>th</sup> grade leave for Sunday School until 10:45.*

CHORAL CANTATA

**“THE CHRISTMAS STORY: A CLASSIC CAROL CELEBRATION”**

Written and arranged by Tom Fettke & Thomas Grassi

Narration by Ken Bible

*The Awaited One*

*Rejoice and Be Merry*

*O Holy Night*

*On Christmas Night All Christians Sing*

*A Midnight Clear*

*Rocking Carol*

*A Spanish Carol Suite*

*Wexford Carol*

*Sing We Now of Christmas*

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 **211, v. 1** “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

\*Benediction

\*Choral Benediction

**ENRICHING OUR WORSHIP OF GOD**

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

**Greeter** *Andrea Zomber, Dick Oliver*

**Ushers** *Carla Chieffo, Carolyn Repke, Nancy & Joe Arico*

**Refreshments** *Bob & Karen Edwards*

**Special thanks to all the musicians who have worked so hard to present the cantata this morning:** *Pat Churchill, Cassia Harvey, Miyuki Hashimoto, Jeff Estabrook, Christina Fish, Paula Gonzales, Nancy Kimmons, John McClintick, Heather McConnell, Frank Mercurio, Betsy Miller, Jim Ryland, Tatyana Smolen, Rich Scott, Paul Steege, Patty Turse, Ian Wolfe*

**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 greeters, Andrea Zomber and Dick Oliver, 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!

**THE CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING**

Over the next few weeks, we are receiving the Christmas Joy Offering. For more than 70 years, the Presbyterian Church has collected the Christmas Joy Offering to support the unmet needs of families who have devoted their lives to the mission of the PC(USA). This offering is shared equally by the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions (which provides critical assistance to Presbyterian Church workers and their families) and Presbyterian-affiliated racial ethnic schools and colleges (which enable students to develop their gifts and find their calling). There are envelopes in the pew racks if you would like to give, and the offering will be dedicated in January.

**SANCTUARY FLOWERS**

If you would like to sponsor flowers in 2019, please contact Jeanne Lynam (cwlynam@msn.com). 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.

**ADVENT BOOK STUDY**

Join us after worship (**11 AM**) in the Carriage House as we conclude our 4-week study of the book *Advent Conspiracy: Can Christmas Still Change the World?* 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*.

**COLLEGE CHRISTMAS PARTY – TONIGHT! (6 PM)**

All college-aged young adults are invited to Patrick and Jen's house tonight 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.

**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!



**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!

**Youth Group Winter Kickoff – Sunday, January 6 (4 PM)**

We will kick off Youth Group in 2019 at Escape Room Mystery in King of Prussia. Space is limited, so sign up with Ridgley today!

**UPCOMING CONCERTS**

St. John's will be hosting *two* special concerts in January:

**Sunday, January 13 at 5:00 PM, *Our Favorite Things***

This is a free recital presented by Lara Kennedy and her colleagues Lyndsay Varsaci and Jonathan Kreamer, featuring handpicked selections from a variety of genres, including blues, gospel, classical, and musical theater.

**Sunday, January 27 at 5:00 PM, *Folk Music II***

This is the next in Iris's monthly concert series, revisiting last year's popular focus on folk songs from around the world.

These concerts are free and open to the whole community, so we hope that you will join us and bring a friend for two wonderful evenings of amazing music.

**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 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.

### CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICES

We hope that you will join us tomorrow night to celebrate the birth 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. There will be a special musical prelude beginning at 7:30, so come early to prepare your heart and mind for worship.



THE BEAUTIFUL POINSETTIAS DECORATING  
OUR SANCTUARY ARE GIVEN BY:

*John & Barbara Alexander*

*Mark & Elizabeth Ator*

*The Bellew Family*

*Steve & Kim Collett*

*David & Christine Markle*

*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*

*Ann Roberts & Frank Lewandowski*

*Kathy Johnson*

*Ridgley & Will Joyner*

*The Kerr Family*

*Chuck & Jeanne Lynam*

*The Loftus Family*

*Skip & Marianne McClennen*

*Lee & Barbara McConnell*

*Chris & Judy Mileto*

*Dick & Chris Oliver*

*Nancy Wolfe*

*Mark & Liz Ward*

*Gordon & Mimi Wright*

### ST. JOHN'S CALENDAR

<b>Sun, Dec 23</b>	9:30 am	Worship & Sunday School Choir Cantata
	11:00 am	<i>Advent Conspiracy</i> book study (Carriage House)
<b>Mon, Dec 24</b>		<b>Christmas Eve</b>
	4:00 pm	Family Worship & Children's Nativity Program
	8:00 pm	Candlelight Worship
<b>Tues, Dec 25</b>		<b>Christmas Day</b>
<b>Sun, Dec 30</b>	9:30 am	Worship & Sunday School
<b>Thurs, Jan 3</b>	10:00 am	Women's Bible Study

Please note that the church office will be closed the week after Christmas.

We will be checking messages multiple times each day,  
and Patrick/Ridgley will still be available by email and phone.  
If you have a pastoral emergency, 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

From "Joy Unspeakable"  
by Barbara Holmes

Joy Unspeakable  
is not silent,  
it moans, hums, and bends  
to the rhythm of a dancing universe.  
It is a fractal of transcendent hope,  
a hologram of God's heart,  
a black hole of unknowing.

December 23, 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)