

St. John’s at Worship
Second Sunday of Advent

Welcome and Announcements (please pass the fellowship roll)

Introit

Call to Worship
Pastor: In this season of watching and waiting and longing for you to come, as the days draw shorter and darkness surrounds us, we are seeking light. In our lives...
People: We seek your light.
Leader: In our families...
People: We seek your light.
Leader: In our community...
People: We seek your light.
Leader: In our nation...
People: We seek your light.
Leader: In our world...
People: We seek your light.

Lighting the Second Advent Candle

*Hymn 13 (INSERT) “Prepare the Way”

*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.
Help us to embrace your forgiveness and 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 Micah 4:1 – 5, 5:1 – 5a (pg. 864) John Adams

Children’s Time Rev. Joyner

As Pre-K through 12th graders leave 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 Micah 6:1 – 8 (pg. 866)

Sermon BEING REAL Nancy Arico

*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.

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

Offertory
*Doxology and Presentation of the Offering
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

*Hymn 431 “Let There Be Peace on Earth”

*Benediction

*Choral Response “Come, Light of God”

*Postlude

ENRICHING OUR WORSHIP OF GOD

Director of Music Iris Blanco-Urgelles
Greeters Jennifer Roberts
Ushers Carla Cheiffo, Carolyn Repke, Carol & Jim Netter
Flowers Given by Kristen & Brian Binkley in memory of Dave Binkley
Devon Brass Mark Ator, Jeff Estabrook, Frank Mercurio, Paul Steege
Coffee Service Linda Duncan

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, Jennifer Roberts, 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!

ANGEL TREE

Wrapped Angel Tree gifts are due back today. Please attach the gift name tag to your gift so that we know who it goes to. We are still in need of several more volunteers to help deliver the gifts. Please contact Marianne McClennen or Kate Johnson if you are able to help.

DEACONS COAT DRIVE

We are collecting new or gently-used winter coats for adults (all sizes) and children (12m through size 14) connected to Sherwood Christian Outreach Center in Philadelphia. New and used mittens, gloves, and scarves are also accepted. All donations can be dropped off in the front closet of the Carriage House. Monetary donations are also appreciated and will help purchase new coats. Please contact Amy Lord if you have any questions.

CARRIAGE CLUB – TOMORROW

On Monday, December 9 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. Please RSVP with Virginia Holt.

ST. JOHN’S CONCERT SERIES

Our next monthly concert will be next Sunday, Dec. 15 from 5–6 PM, featuring the Sounds of the Season. These concerts are free of charge and open to the community. Please bring a friend and join us for an evening of amazing Christmas music!

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS ARE COMING!

The Deacons are accepting sponsorships for beautiful red poinsettias to decorate our sanctuary for Christmas. 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 by the end of today.

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

If you would like to sign up to sponsor flowers in 2020, 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, or donate them to one of our homebound or hospitalized members.

ADVENT DEVOTIONAL

Carve out time this season to share with your kids what it means to wait on Jesus this month! We have a very easy to use family devotional available for your entire family to make time for God this Advent. Families can pick up their Advent Devotional “Preparing the Way” outside of Ridgley’s office!

PASTORAL VACATION & GUEST PREACHER

Patrick is on vacation and will be back in the office tomorrow. Ridgley is available for any pastoral care needs. We are so happy to welcome St. John’s own Nancy Arico as our guest preacher this morning! Nancy and her husband Joe joined St. John’s in 2018. She is working to complete a Certificate in Congregational Leadership through the Christian Leadership Program at the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary. She also has a Certificate in Spiritual Formation from Columbia Theological Seminary.



If you are not already receiving Ridgley’s weekly emails for youth and families, email her at rjoyner@stjohnsdevon.com.

RIDGLEY’S OFFICE HOURS

Ridgley is still holding office hours **Tuesdays from 10:30–1:30 at Terrain** (138 Lancaster Ave, in Devon Yard). Everyone is welcome to drop in! If you would like to set up a specific time to meet with her, or if you’d just like to get in touch, please call (864-417-8566) or email.

YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY – TODAY (4:30–5:30 PM)

Middle and High School students are invited to come together for food, fun, and fellowship. Please bring a wrapped gift (under \$10) for a white elephant gift exchange. Location to be announced.

SAVE THE DATE: STAR WARS (FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20)

We will be joining other youth groups from around the area at the Regal Cinemas in Oaks to watch the new Star Wars movie! Tickets will be \$10 (and that includes popcorn). Email Ridgley today to buy your ticket!

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICES

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

Wednesday, December 18 – 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 22 – 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.

Tuesday, 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.

OFFERING ENVELOPES AND YEAR-END GIFTS

Offering envelopes for 2020 are now available in Fellowship Hall. Year-end gifts will be credited in the 2019 tax year if they are received in the church office (or postmarked) by Tuesday, December 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.

ST. JOHN’S CALENDAR

Sun, Dec 8	Second Sunday of Advent	
	8:00 am	Trustees Meeting (Kean Room)
	9:30 am	Worship & Sunday School
	Noon	TE Care Holiday Drive Begins in Carr. House (through Thursday)
Mon, Dec 9	Noon	Carriage Club
	7:00 pm	Session Meeting (Kean Room)
Wed, Dec 11	9:00 am	Prayer Group (Kean Room)
Thurs, Dec 12	6:30 pm	Adult Handbell Rehearsal
	7:45 pm	Choir Rehearsal
Sun, Dec 15	Third Sunday of Advent	
	9:30 am	Worship & Sunday School

Patrick and Ridgley are off on Friday and Saturday. Lara is off 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)

Rev. Ridgley Beckett Joyner, Associate Pastor (rjoyner@stjohnsdevon.com)

Sue Chudy, Clerk of Session (susan.chudy@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

Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to a king’s son.
May he judge your people with righteousness,
and your poor with justice.
May the mountains yield prosperity for the people,
and the hills, in righteousness.
May he defend the cause of the poor of the people,
give deliverance to the needy, and crush the oppressor.
May he live while the sun endures,
and as long as the moon, throughout all generations.
May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass,
like showers that water the earth.
In his days may righteousness flourish and peace abound,
until the moon is no more.

– Psalm 72:1–7

December 8, 2019

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