

St. John's at Worship First Sunday of Advent

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

Introit "Keep on the Sunny Side"

*Call to Worship

Leader: The light of God's hope shines among us!

People: Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

*Hymn 211, vss. 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 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, Lord,

from the ways that we try to keep you from being born in 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 Isaiah 2:2 – 5 (p. 631) Pam Schafer

Children's Time Rev. Marshall

Pre-K through 12th grade may go to Sunday School after the cherub choir.
Sunday School ends at 10:45.

Anthem "In the Garden"

Scripture Reading Matthew 24:36 – 44 (p. 27)

Sermon UNEXPECTED HOPE Rev. Marshall

*Affirmation of Faith

God keeps his promises and gives us hope.

In the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, God kept his promises.

All that we can ever hope for was present in Christ.

But the work of God in Christ is not over.

God calls us to hope for more than we have yet seen.

The hope God gives us is ultimate confidence

that supports us when lesser hopes fail us.

In Christ God gives hope for a new heaven and earth,

certainty of victory over death,

assurance of mercy and judgment beyond death.

This hope gives us courage for the present struggle.

We know our efforts cannot bring in God's kingdom.

But hope plunges us into the struggle for victories over evil

that are possible now in the world, the church,

and our individual lives.

Hope gives us courage and energy to contend against all opposition,

however invincible it may seem,

for the new world and the new humanity that are surely coming.

Jesus is Lord!

He has been Lord from the beginning.

He will be Lord at the end.

Even now, he is Lord.

Declaration of Faith

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

Offertory "Angel Band"

*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 257, vss. 1, 2, 4 "We Meet You, O Christ"

*Benediction

*Postlude "I'll Fly Away"

ENRICHING OUR WORSHIP OF GOD

Director of Music *Iris Blanco-Urgelles*

Greeter *Virginia Holt*

Ushers *Carla Chieffo, Lee & Virginia Holt, and Nancy Phillips*

Coffee Service *Susanne Engheta*

Flowers *In loving memory of Gabrielle Zomber*

given by Andrea & Michael Zomber.

Guest Musician *Lisa Wildman, Jon Farquharson, Larry Toto*

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 immediately following worship. Our greeter, Virginia Holt, 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!

SUPPER AT ST. JOHN'S

Join us on Wednesday night at 6 PM for our final Supper at St. John's of the year. We will share one more delicious dinner and our final session of Alpha, "How Can I Resist Evil?"

ANGEL TREE

The Angel Tree is set up in Fellowship Hall, decorated with over 100 angels! On each angel you will find the name, age, and gift suggestions for a child. These children either attend Sherwood Christian Outreach Center, Chester County Family Academy, or has an incarcerated parent who is part of Prison Ministries. The Deacons ask you to select one or two angels and buy a gift for each child in the \$15-\$25 range, following the gift suggestions on the tag. *Wrapped gifts are to be returned to Fellowship Hall no later than Sunday, December 4. Please attach the gift nametag to your gift.* If you have any questions, please contact Mimi Wright or Kim Collett.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE – ELDERS, DEACONS, AND TRUSTEES

If you feel called to serve as an Elder, Deacon, or Trustee, or if you know of someone else who would be a good fit, please fill out the form inserted in your bulletin. There are boxes in the back of the sanctuary or downstairs in Fellowship Hall where you may submit your forms. You can also fill out and submit a form on our website. If you have questions, please speak to Patrick or a member of the Nominating Committee: John Adams (Chair), Sue Chudy (Deacons), Gordon Wright (Trustees), Cammy Wagner, Steve Barnes, or Judy Mileto.

REQUEST FROM THE DEACONS

There have been a lot of hospitalizations and pastoral care concerns in our church lately, and our Deacons are stretched a little thin. If you would like to help by preparing a meal for someone in need or visiting a church member in the hospital or at home, please contact Ann Roberts.

2017 OFFERING ENVELOPES

Offering envelopes for 2017 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.

LOOKING FOR A NOTARY?

Our Church Administrator, Lara Kennedy, was recently certified as a notary public, and is happy to notarize documents for members and friends of St. John's free of charge. You can contact her to set up an appointment by phone (610-688-5222) or email (lara.kennedy@stjohnsdevon.com).

HANGING OF THE GREENS – DECEMBER 3 (4 PM)

Join us on **Saturday, December 3rd at 4 PM** as we decorate the church for the Advent season!

ADVENT CRAFT NIGHT – DECEMBER 4 (4-6 PM)

Join us for our annual Advent Craft Night **next Sunday from 4-6 PM** in Fellowship Hall. It will be a fun evening of food, crafts, and fellowship to celebrate the Advent season. This event is open to everyone – kids and adults – and you are welcome to bring a friend! If you have questions or would like to help plan the evening, please contact Jeff Ealer.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

If you would like to purchase a large poinsettia (\$10) to decorate our sanctuary (which you may take home after worship on Christmas Eve), Lauren Feldman will be taking signups at coffee hour today. Look for her in Fellowship Hall or contact her at.

CARRIAGE CLUB – DECEMBER 12 (NOON)

Carriage Club will hold a Christmas luncheon on Monday, December 12 at Noon. Following a light lunch of salads and sandwiches, we will be treated to a program of Christmas music provided by Iris Blanco-Urgelles (piano), Cassia Harvey (cello), and Myanna Harvey (violin). Childcare will be available with seven days notice and all who have time for lunch are invited to join us. If your schedule does not allow you to be present for the entire program, please feel free to come and go as you must. Reservations are greatly appreciated and may be made by responding to the forthcoming e-mail or by contacting Virginia Holt.

ST. JOHN'S CONCERT SERIES

Our next monthly concert will be on **Sunday, December 18 from 5-6 PM**, featuring joyful songs of the Christmas season! These concerts are free and open to the whole community, so please bring a friend and join us for an evening of amazing music!



Sunday, November 27 – No Youth Group (Thanksgiving Weekend)

Sunday, December 4 – Advent Craft Festival (4 – 6 PM)

Sunday, December 11 – Christmas Caroling! (Details to be announced)

Friday, December 16 – STAR WARS!

We will be joining some other youth groups who have rented out a theater at UA King of Prussia for the premiere of the new Star Wars movie, *Rogue One*! We will meet at the theater at 6:30 PM, with the movie starting at 7 (ending around 9:30). Tickets are \$15. You can absolutely bring a friend, but please let Patrick know as soon as possible if you want to go, because we need to reserve enough tickets.

ST. JOHN'S CALENDAR

Sun, Nov 27	9:30 am	Worship and Sunday School
Wed, Nov 30	5:30 pm	Cherub Choir Rehearsal
	6:00 pm	Final Supper at St. John's
Thurs, Dec 1	9:00 am	Moms Group
	10:00 am	Women's Bible Study
	6:30 pm	Devon Chapel Bells rehearsal
Sat, Dec 3	4:00 pm	Hanging of the Greens
Sun, Dec 4	8:00 am	Deacons Meeting
	9:30 am	Worship, Sunday School, and Communion (Traditional)
	4:00 pm	Advent Craft Night

A Reminder about Staff Days Off

Patrick 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. Thank you for understanding!



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Rev. Patrick Marshall, Pastor (patrick.marshall@stjohnsdevon.com)

Iris Blanco, Director of Music (iris.blanco@stjohnsdevon.com)

Lara Kennedy, Church Administrator (lara.kennedy@stjohnsdevon.com)



A CHURCH FAMILY, A FAMILY CHURCH

From "Come, Lord Jesus"
by Jill Duffield

As the days get shorter and the nights deeper,
I long for the angels to announce to the shepherds
that Jesus has finally arrived.
I hope I will be close enough to overhear their chorus,
the good news of great joy for all of us.
I hope I can peek out my window and see that glowing star.
Too often I forget to look up
because I am concentrating so hard on the ground,
trying not to stumble in the dark.

November 27, 2016
For the latest information and news about St. John's:
www.stjohnsdevon.com
facebook.com/stjohnspresbyteriandevonpa