

St. John's at Worship Third Sunday of Advent

Prelude "Break Forth Oh Beauteous Light" *J.S. Bach*

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

Update on the Lower Level Renovation Project Jeff Wagner

Introit "Love Came Down at Christmas" *C. Dobrinski*

*Call to Worship

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

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

*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.

Unison Prayer of Confession

You offer a deep and abiding joy,

rooted in a patient awareness of your love for us.

But we crave instant gratification

and immediate relief from our fears and burdens,

so we often settle for the superficial pleasure that we find in money,

material possessions,

and mindless external distractions;

things which do not satisfy the deepest hungers of our hearts.

In our pursuit of pleasure,

we have neglected the needs of our neighbors,

those who are poor, hungry, and hurting,

and we have neglected you.

Set us free from selfish satisfaction

and open us up to the joy that is found in loving as we are loved,

in Christ.

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 35:1 – 10 (p. 663) Bruce Phillips

Children's Time Rev. Marshall

Pre-K through 12th grade may go to Sunday School after the Children's Time.

Sunday School ends at 10:45.

Scripture Reading Luke 1:46b – 55 (p. 57)

Sermon UNEXPECTED JOY Rev. Marshall

Anthem "Joy to the World" *Moklebust*
Please sing along, using hymn #246

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

Offertory "Dixie Maria" *Hassler*

*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 89, vss. 1, 3, 4 "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"

*Benediction

*Postlude "Comfort, Comfort Ye My People" *Marchand*

ENRICHING OUR WORSHIP OF GOD

Director of Music *Iris Blanco-Urgelles*

Greeter *Carol Netter*

Ushers *Carla Chieffo, Carolyn Repke, Herb Thal, Nancy Davis*

Coffee Service *Sharon and John Griffin*

Flowers *Given by Howard and Betsy Friend in loving memory of
our parents Howard and Marjorie Friend, and Bill and
Betty Drake.*

Devon Chapel Bells *Susan Bain, Marilyn Benton, Sarah Duncan,
Connor Feldman, Christina Fish, Sue Hardin,
Sue Johnson, Elizabeth Unger, Betsy Miller*

Guest Musician *Linda Duncan (Flute)*

Devon Brass *Frank Mercurio and Jeff Estabrook (trumpets),
Mark Ator (French horn) and Paul Steege (trombone)*

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, Carol Netter, 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!

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.

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.

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.

YEAR-END GIFTS

Year-end gifts will be credited in the 2016 tax year if they are received in the church office by Friday, December 30, or postmarked by the 31st. In the past, some members and friends of St. John's have donated 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 (treasurer@stjohnsdevon.com).

CARRIAGE CLUB – TOMORROW AT NOON

Carriage Club will hold a Christmas luncheon tomorrow 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. Reservations are greatly appreciated and may be made 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!

CHURCH-WIDE CHRISTMAS CAROLING – TODAY!

Today at 5 PM, our entire church family is invited to bring holiday cheer to the neighborhood around St. John's. We will meet at the church and walk around the neighborhood, singing Christmas carols. Caroling books will be provided; please wear festive apparel. After caroling we will return to our church for light snacks and fellowship. All are welcome, but RSVPs are helpful. Please contact Debbie Ealer.

COLLEGE STUDENT CHRISTMAS DINNER

On **Sunday, December 18** all of St. John's college students are invited to Patrick and Jen's house 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.



TODAY – Christmas Caroling (5 – 6 PM)

Help us spread some Christmas cheer as we walk around the neighborhood and sing Christmas carols.

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 you **have to let Patrick know as soon as possible if you want to go, because we only have TWO tickets left!**

Sunday, December 18 – Christmas Party (4 – 6 PM)

Meet in the Carriage House and food, games, and SANTA GROG!

CHRISTMAS EVE/DAY WORSHIP SERVICES

We will gather for worship twice on Christmas Eve:

4:00 PM – Family Service

Children 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.

We will also gather to worship at **9:30 AM on Christmas Day** with scripture readings, carols, and guest preacher Christie McConnell.

Come celebrate the birth of Christ with us!

ST. JOHN'S CALENDAR

Sun, Dec 11	8:00 am	Trustees Meeting
	9:30 am	Worship and Sunday School
Mon, Dec 12	12:00 pm	Carriage Club
	7:00 pm	Session Meeting
Sun, Dec. 18	9:30 am	Worship, Sunday School, and the Sacrament of Baptism
	4:00 pm	Youth Fellowship Christmas Party
	5:00 pm	St. John's Concert Series
	6:00 pm	College Student Christmas Dinner at Patrick & Jen's house
Sat, Dec. 24	4:00 pm	Worship (Family service)
	8:00 pm	Worship (Candlelight service)
Sun, Dec. 25	9:30 am	Worship (No Sunday School)

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

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



A CHURCH FAMILY, A FAMILY CHURCH

“Awaken Me”

by Mechthild of Magdeburg (13th century)

O sweet and loving God,
 When I stay asleep too long,
 Oblivious to all your many blessings,
 Then, please, wake me up,
 And sing to me your joyful song.
 It is a song without noise or notes.
 It is a song of love beyond words,
 Of faith beyond the power of human telling.
 I can hear it in my soul,
 When you awaken me to your presence.

December 11, 2016
 For the latest information and news about St. John's:
www.stjohnsdevon.com
facebook.com/stjohnspresbyteriandevonpa