

St. John's at Worship Fourth Sunday of Advent

Prelude "Carol of the Bells" *Leontovich/Wagner*

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

Introit "O Come, Let Us Adore Him" *arr. Sherman*

*Call to Worship

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

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

*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.

Unison Prayer of Confession from 1 Corinthians 13

**Love is patient;
we often are *not*.
Love is kind;
we often are *not*.
Love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude;
we sometimes *are*.
Love does not insist on its own way;
we sometimes *do*.
Love is not irritable or resentful;
we sometimes *are*.
Love does not rejoice in wrongdoing;
we sometimes *do*.
Love bears all things, believes all things,
hopes all things, and endures all things;
we are not always so faithful.
Love never ends.
May it be so with *your* love for *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 Isaiah 7:10 – 17 (p. 636) Lynn Strickler

The Sacrament of Baptism

Emily Acadia Muhlenkamp (daughter of Jason and Ashley Muhlenkamp)
Ellen Moeller, Elder Assisting

As part of the baptismal liturgy, we profess our faith using the Apostles' Creed:

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth;
and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried.
He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father, Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic church;
the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

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

Anthem "Let Us Love" *McDonald*

Scripture Reading Matthew 1:18 – 25 (p. 1)

Sermon UNEXPECTED LOVE Rev. Marshall

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

Offertory "Wondrous Love"

*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 93 (INSERT) "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"

*Benediction

*Postlude "Ding Dong Merrily on High" *arr. Marshall*

ENRICHING OUR WORSHIP OF GOD

Director of Music *Iris Blanco-Urgelles*

Greeter *Virginia Holt*

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

Mary Caroline Ward

Coffee Service *John and Sharon Griffin*

Rejoicing Ringers *Cat Duncan, Sarah Duncan, Connor Feldman, Oliver Feldman, Christina Fish, Nate Geiger, Sarah Geiger, Heather Hughes, Andrew Ward*

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!

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).

ST. JOHN'S CONCERT SERIES – TONIGHT!

Our next monthly concert will be **tonight 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!

COLLEGE STUDENT CHRISTMAS DINNER – TONIGHT!

All of St. John's college students 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.

A SPECIAL BENEVOLENCE ANNOUNCEMENT

Last year, \$55,000 was taken from the Wellington Fund in order to re-side the church building. In keeping with St. John's commitment to mission, 25% of that amount was set aside for ministry outside the life of our church (actually just *over* 25%, based on a somewhat complicated but necessary and accurate formula). Rather than dividing it up to support many different ministries, the Session decided to give the entire amount to one ministry where it could make a significant and lasting impact. **After much research, discussion, and prayerful discernment by our Outreach Committee, the Session voted on Monday night to give \$18,333 to Cornerstone Christian Academy in Philadelphia.** St. John's has a longstanding relationship with Cornerstone, with many of our members giving their time and energy as volunteers and mentors there. Cornerstone will use the funds toward their goals of hiring a school nurse, initiating a breakfast program, and improving their physical education program. Cornerstone is providing amazing ministry to the children of southwest Philadelphia, and we are so excited to be able to partner with them in such meaningful ways!

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 a homily by Christie McConnell.

Come celebrate the birth of Christ with us!



TONIGHT – Christmas Party (4 – 6 PM)

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

Sunday, January 8 – Lunch at Bertucci's (11:30 AM – 1 PM)

Meet at Bertucci's after worship to hang out, catch up, eat some pizza, and do a little Bible study!

Friday, January 27 – Snow Tubing!

Meet at the church at 5 PM, and we will drive to AvalanceXpress in York for a fun night of snow tubing, hot chocolate, and games! The cost is \$20 per person (\$3 extra if you want to ice skate).



FOR OUR BEAUTIFUL CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS – THANK YOU!

- The Collett Family*
- The Bellew Family*
- The Duncan Family*
- Mark & Elizabeth Ator*
- John & Barbara Alexander*
- Doug & Ellen Moeller*
- Virginia & Lee Holt*
- Mike & Becky Wagner*
- Nancy Kimmons & John Senior*
- Ann Roberts & Frank Lewandowski*
- The Netter Family*
- Barbara & John Woodcock*
- Dick & Chris Oliver*
- Marianne & Skip McClennen*
- The Loftus Family*
- Linda Partihelper in memory of Bob Risk*
- Pam Schafer*
- Kathy Johnson*
- The Coradi Family*
- Frank Mercurio*
- Frank Grande*
- Tom & Nancy Higgins*
- The Ealer Family*
- Justine An*
- Gordon & Mimi Wright*
- Patrick & Jen Marshall*
- Hal & Annie Powell*
- Nancy Davis*
- Chuck & Jeanne Lynam*
- Nancy Fielden*
- Joe Birmingham & Melody Ticknor*

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

Our beautiful sanctuary flowers are provided by the generosity of congregation sponsors. Cowen's Flowers creates the bouquets and bills the sponsor directly at a cost of \$48. Sponsors may take the flowers home after worship on Sunday, or donate them to one of our homebound or hospitalized members. If you would like to sign up to sponsor flowers in 2017, please contact Lauren Feldman

ST. JOHN'S CALENDAR

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)

Please Note – Days Off & Office Closures

Patrick will be out of the office on **Thursday** and **Friday** of this week.

The church office will be closed the week after Christmas. Messages will be checked daily in case of pastoral emergencies.



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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

“Love Came Down at Christmas”
by Christina Rossetti

Love came down at Christmas,
love all lovely, Love divine;
love was born at Christmas,
star and angels gave the sign.

Worship we the Godhead,
love incarnate, Love divine;
worship we our Jesus:
but wherewith for sacred sign?

Love shall be our token,
love be yours and love be mine,
Love to God and all men,
love for plea and gift and sign.

December 18, 2016
For the latest information and news about St. John's:
www.stjohnsdevon.com
facebook.com/stjohnspresbyteriandevonpa