

St. John’s at Worship  
First Sunday of Advent

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

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.

Pastor: In our families...

People: We seek your light.

Pastor: In our community...

People: We seek your light.

Pastor: In our nation...

People: We seek your light.

Pastor: In our world...

People: We seek your light.

Lighting the First Advent Candle

\*Hymn 196 “Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus”

\*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

Merciful God, how many John the Baptists,  
how many prophets of your light have we ignored  
because they were not what we were looking for?  
How many times have we ignored voices crying in the wilderness,  
“Make straight the way of the Lord?”  
How many times have we breathed a sigh of relief  
and turned our backs on your messengers  
because they did not speak the message we expected to hear?  
Help us hear anew the cry of those who would lead us to Christ.  
Tune our ears to your heralds, that we might also testify to your light.  
Amen.

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 11:1 – 10 (pg. 640) Nancy Wolfe

Children’s Time Rev. Joyner

Anthem

Scripture Reading Matthew 3:1 – 12 (pg. 3); 11:1 – 5 (pg. 11)

Sermon GREAT EXPECTATIONS Rev. Joyner

\*Hymn 626, vss. 1, 2 “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”

Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper (Traditional)

Invitation to the Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Communion of the People

Prayer after Communion

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 332 (INSERT) “Live into Hope”

\*Benediction

\*Choral Response “Come, Light of God”

\*Postlude

ENRICHING OUR WORSHIP OF GOD

Director of Music Iris Blanco-Urgelles

Greeters Alice Bell, Amy Lord

Ushers Carla Chieffo, Susanne Engheta, Alex Engheta, Pat Marshall, Carolyn Repke

Flowers Given by Ridgley & Will, in memory and gratitude for the life of Ferris Kimball Joyner, well beloved uncle.

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, Alice Bell and Amy Lord, 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!

COMMUNION SUNDAY

On the first Sunday of every month, St. John’s shares the Lord’s Supper. This meal reminds us of Christ’s sacrifice for us – his body broken and his blood shed – so that we might be nourished in our faith to live for him. This is not just for Presbyterians or members of St. John’s. Everyone who seeks to know and love Jesus Christ is welcome to share in this meal! When the trays are passed, take a piece of bread and a cup of juice and hold on to it; you will be invited to eat/drink when everyone has one. All of our bread is gluten free.

ANGEL TREE

All of the angels on the Angel Tree have been sponsored! Wrapped gifts are to be returned to Fellowship Hall no later than December 8. 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 or would like to help.

CARRIAGE CLUB

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 on Sunday, December 15 from 5–6 PM! These concerts are free of charge and open to the community. Please bring a friend and join us for an evening of amazing 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.

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 after worship or donate them to one of our homebound or hospitalized members.

**FAMILY WORSHIP TODAY**

There is no Sunday School today, as our children will remain in the sanctuary, and we will worship together as one big church family. The kids are invited to share communion, even if they do not fully understand what it means yet (one of the ways we learn is by doing!). There are activity packs to help engage the kids in worship, and as always, there will be nursery care for children 4 and under.

**ADVENT CRAFT NIGHT & HANGING THE GREENS – TONIGHT!**

**Tonight from 4–6 PM** our church will once again welcome the Advent season with a craft night for children in 4<sup>th</sup> grade and under. Join us for food, crafts, and music! The Middle & High School Youth are invited to come help the kids, and even make their own crafts! There will also be a group gathering to decorate the sanctuary for the Advent season. If you are interested in helping, please contact Jim Ryland

**PASTORAL VACATION**

Patrick will be on vacation starting tomorrow. He will be back in the office on Monday, Dec. 9. During that time, he will be unavailable by phone or email. Ridgley is available for any pastoral care needs.



If you are not already receiving Ridgley’s weekly emails for youth and families, email her at [rjoyner@stjohnsdevon.com](mailto:rjoyner@stjohnsdevon.com). Fall children and youth calendars are available at the back of the sanctuary!

**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.

**ADVENT DEVOTIONAL**

Carve out time this season to share with your kids what it means to wait on Jesus. We have a very easy to use devotional called *Preparing the Way* available to help your whole family make time for God this Advent. You can pick up your copy outside of Ridgley’s office or at Advent Craft Night tonight!

**YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY – DECEMBER 8 (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!

**INFORMATIONAL MEETING ON UNDOCUMENTED MINORS AT DEVEREUX**

You may have heard in the news about the plan to house undocumented migrant children at the Devereux Behavioral Health Center in Devon. On **Monday, Dec. 2 at 7 PM**, St. Luke Lutheran Church in Devon will be hosting an informational meeting where a representative of Devereux will share information, answer questions, and create an open space for dialogue. All are welcome to attend.

**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 at (215) 979-1415 or [brianbouvier57@gmail.com](mailto:brianbouvier57@gmail.com).

**ST. JOHN’S CALENDAR**

<b>Sun, Dec 1</b>	<b>First Sunday of Advent</b>
	9:30 am    Worship & Communion
	11:00 am    Special Session Meeting to receive new members (C. House)
	4:00 pm    Advent Craft Night (Fell. Hall) and Hanging of the Greens
<b>Wed, Dec 3</b>	9:00 am    Prayer Group (Kean Room)
<b>Thurs, Dec 4</b>	6:30 pm    Adult Handbell Rehearsal
	7:45 pm    Choir Rehearsal
<b>Sun, Dec 8</b>	<b>Second Sunday of Advent</b>
	8:00 am    Trustees Meeting (Kean Room)
	9:30 am    Worship & Sunday School
	Noon       TE Care Holiday Drive Begins in Carr. House (through Thursday)
<b>Mon, Dec 9</b>	7:00 pm    Session Meeting (Kean Room)

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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[StJohnsDevon.com](http://StJohnsDevon.com)

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Lara Kennedy, Church Administrator ([lara.kennedy@stjohnsdevon.com](mailto:lara.kennedy@stjohnsdevon.com))



A CHURCH FAMILY, A FAMILY CHURCH

“An Advent Call to Worship”  
by Cheryl Lawrie

It doesn’t matter whether or not you can have faith; whether or not you are cynical or despairing, hope-filled or hope-less: what matters to God is simply that you are here.

We are entering the time of Advent, in preparation for Christmas. Advent reminds us that if God is to be born again in the most ordinary parts of our world and our lives that we need prepare for it.

We need to make the space in our lives where love might be born.

Welcome to this tiny corner of a harsh and dark world. Together, let us practice being ready in the faith that Christ will come.

**December 1, 2019**  
**For the latest information and news about St. John’s:**  
**[www.stjohnsdevon.com](http://www.stjohnsdevon.com)**  
**[facebook.com/stjohnspresbyteriandevonpa](https://facebook.com/stjohnspresbyteriandevonpa)**