

## St. John's at Worship Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Welcome and Announcements (*Please fill out the fellowship roll*)

Introit "Gather Us In"

\*Call to Worship Based on Psalm 19

One: The heavens are telling the glory of God!  
The whole world proclaims God's handiwork!

**All: They speak no words,  
and yet their voices sing out through all the earth!**

One: *We* join that chorus now,  
that our voices and our very being  
might sing out songs of praise to God!

**All: Let the words of our mouths  
and the meditation of our hearts  
be acceptable to you, O Lord,  
our rock and our redeemer.**

One: Let us worship God!

\*Hymn **430 (INSERT)** "Come Sing, O Church, in Joy!"

\*Prayer of Invocation & 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

**Most gracious God, we confess that our words – spoken and unspoken – have wounded.**

**We ask forgiveness for the times that we should have spoken out, but said nothing.**

**We are humbled into silence for the times that we have said far more than we should have.**

*Silent Confession*

**By your Word made flesh,  
heal the wounds that we have received and caused,  
and put a new, living word in our hearts. Amen.**

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 Mark 8:27–38 (pg. 43) Jim Ryland

Blessing Our Students and Teachers Rev. Marshall

*As Pre-K through 4<sup>th</sup> 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

Sermon MORE THAN WORDS Rev. Marshall

\*Affirmation of Faith from *A Brief Statement of Faith* (1983)

**In life and in death we belong to God.  
Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit,  
we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel,  
whom alone we worship and serve.  
In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,  
we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks  
and to live holy and joyful lives,  
even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth,  
praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"  
With believers in every time and place,  
we rejoice that nothing in life or in death  
can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.  
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

\*Presentation of Offering & Doxology

**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 (If you need to sit for the prayer, please feel free.)

\*Hymn **267 (INSERT)** "Will You Come and Follow Me"

\*Benediction

\*Postlude

### ENRICHING OUR WORSHIP OF GOD

**Director of Music** *Iris Blanco-Urgelles*

**Ushers** *John McClintick, Jim Ryland*

**Flowers** *Given by Kathy Johnson, Nancy Rich, and Judy Mileto in loving memory of our parents Henry & Virginia Aikens.*

**Vocalists** *Jeff Estabrook, Miyuki Hashimoto*

### WELCOME (BACK) TO ST. JOHN'S!

We are so happy that you have joined us for worship this morning! We hope that you experience the presence and love of Jesus Christ here with us today. 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 the sanctuary doors. We are glad that you are here and hope you will worship with us again soon!

### COVID PRECAUTIONS

With Chester County's move to "substantial spread," masks are now required for all, regardless of vaccination status.

Initially, we will be using every other pew for seating (although there are no restrictions on capacity). If the number of worshippers exceeds our ability to do that, we will begin filling in the open pews as necessary.

We will not be passing offering plates. Instead, offering baskets are located at each of the entrances to the sanctuary, and you can place your offering there on your way in or out.

### LIVESTREAM WORSHIP

Rather than pre-recording a worship video each week, we are now broadcasting our Sunday morning service online as it happens! Each week you will receive a link to watch the Sunday service live on YouTube at 9:30 AM. (It will still be recorded so that it is available to watch any time after that.) We hope that those who can't join us in person will join us for the livestream, and that it helps you feel more connected to your church family!

### ST. JOHN'S FALL ADULT EDUCATION

With the rise in Covid cases, we will not be having the "supper" portion of Supper at St. John's, but we will still be offering a virtual class. **Starting on Wednesday, September 15 from 7–8 PM**, Patrick will be teaching a class via Zoom called "Mission Impossible? The Church after Covid." He will be walking us through the work he has done thus far in his doctoral program, addressing questions like, "How do we navigate conflict in such a divided world?" "How do we know what God wants us to do?" "How do we adapt in a rapidly changing world?" "How do we make worship relevant?" and "Can we nurture trust in a polarized world?" More information will be coming soon. We hope that you will join us!

### CONGREGATIONAL CARE

**Barbara Alexander** had surgery on Tuesday to replace a broken elbow and has been moved to The Quadrangle for rehab. Get well cards can be sent to:

### WOMEN'S BOOK STUDY

The Sunday morning Women's Book Study will resume on September 19 at 8 AM via Zoom. They are picking up right where they left off, with chapter 13 of Barbara Brown Taylor's book *Always a Guest*. The book is a collection of sermons, so it would be easy to join in on any given week without the need to have read the prior chapters. If you would like to participate or just have questions, please contact Carolyn Repke (crepke@comcast.net).

### SUNDAY SCHOOL RESUMES TODAY!

Children in Pre-K through 4<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to join us for in-person Sunday School during worship. Nursery care is available for younger children. Youth in grades 5–12 have the option to stay in worship or help with Sunday School downstairs. Regardless of vaccination status, masks are mandatory in order to ensure the safety of our unvaccinated children. Check-in for families has also resumed as well. We ask that when you enter the sanctuary, you sign in your child for contact tracing and security purposes.



If you are not already receiving Ridgley's weekly emails for youth and families, email her at [rjoyner@stjohnsdevon.com](mailto:rjoyner@stjohnsdevon.com).

#### Back to School BYOB – Friday, September 17 (6:30–8:00 PM)

Youth and children of all ages are invited to bring their own *banana* and join us at the church for ice cream sundaes and games! Parents, this is a drop-off event, and masks are required, regardless of vaccination status.

#### Confirmation Class Informational Meeting – Sunday, Sept. 19 (11:00 AM)

Parents and youth in grades 8–9 are invited to join us in the Kean Room after worship to get acquainted with this year's confirmation schedule, curriculum, and mentors.

#### Youth Group Escape Room – Sunday, Sept. 19 (4–6 PM)

Youth in grades 5–12 are invited to join us at Escape Room Mystery in King of Prussia for a collaborative event with youth from Trinity Presbyterian in Berwyn and Covenant Presbyterian in Malvern. The cost is \$10/person, with a \$20 family max.

#### Youth Group Fall Kickoff – Sunday, October 3

All youth in grades 5–12 are invited to join us from 4–6 PM, more details coming soon!

### ST. JOHN'S CALENDAR

<b>Sun, Sept 12</b>	8:15 am	Deacons (Carriage House/Zoom)
	9:30 am	Worship & Sunday School
	11:00 am	Trustees Meeting (Kean/Zoom)
<b>Wed, Sept 15</b>	9:00 am	Prayer Group (Kean Room)
	7:00 pm	Adult Ed Class begins (online)
<b>Sun, Sept 19</b>	8:00 am	Women's Book Study (Zoom)
	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 when the office is closed or on a Saturday, you can call 484-604-0499.**

### ST. JOHN'S LEADERSHIP

#### The Session

##### Class of 2022

*Peter Crawford, Tom Higgins,  
Jim Ryland, Andy Walsh*

##### Class of 2023

*Nancy Arico, Carla Chieffo, Judy Mileto*

##### Class of 2024

*Susanna Engheta, Gavin Kerr, Wanda Odom*

#### Board of Deacons

##### Class of 2022

*Dave Dalrymple, Kate Johnson (President),  
Amy Lord, Hunter Thomson*

##### Class of 2023

*Lisa Archbold, Sarah Marvin, Carol Netter*

##### Class of 2024

*Joe Arico, Lisa Estabrook,  
Jim Netter, Lee Walsh*

#### Board of Trustees

##### Class of 2022

*Chuck Lynam, Bruce Phillips*

##### Class of 2023

*Steve Oliver, Jeff Wagner (President)*

##### Class of 2024

*Patrick Bullock, John Lieberman, Dan Lortz*

#### Treasurer

*Brian Bouvier*

#### Financial Secretary

*Ken Dilloway*



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Rev. Ridgley Joyner, Associate Pastor ([rjoyner@stjohnsdevon.com](mailto:rjoyner@stjohnsdevon.com))  
Sue Chudy, Clerk of Session ([susan.chudy@stjohnsdevon.com](mailto:susan.chudy@stjohnsdevon.com))  
Iris Blanco-Urgelles, Director of Music ([iris.blanco@stjohnsdevon.com](mailto:iris.blanco@stjohnsdevon.com))  
Lara Kennedy, Church Administrator ([lara.kennedy@stjohnsdevon.com](mailto:lara.kennedy@stjohnsdevon.com))



A CHURCH FAMILY, A FAMILY CHURCH

To believe in something and not to live it is dishonest...  
Your beliefs become your thoughts.  
Your thoughts become your words.  
Your words become your actions.  
Your actions become your habits.  
Your habits become your values.  
Your values become your destiny.

– Mahatma Gandhi

September 12, 2021  
For the latest information and news about St. John's:  
[www.stjohnsdevon.com](http://www.stjohnsdevon.com)  
[facebook.com/stjohnspresbyteriandevonpa](https://facebook.com/stjohnspresbyteriandevonpa)