

St. John's at Worship First Sunday of Advent

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

Introit "Lift Up Your Heads" *Schweizer*

*Call to Worship McClintick Family

One: Can you be homesick for something you've never known?

All: We long for a world where all are fed, where laughter is contagious, where the doors are wide open.

One: We long for a world with more bridges than walls, where trees grow tall and rivers run clear.

All: We long for a world where all people feel at home.

One: We long for that world

All: We hope for that world

One: So today we light the candle of hope, because hope keeps our hearts alive as we wait. May this be a reminder that the wait is always worth it.

All: We are homesick, but we are on our way. Let us worship God.

*Hymn (**Red #707**) "Hymn of Promise"

*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

**Loving and Merciful God,
today we light the candle of hope,
a beacon of light that shines in the darkness.**

Today, we confess the ways we have caused others to feel hopeless.

Some feel the hopelessness of hunger because of our greed.

Others feel the hopelessness of violence because of our apathy.

Forgive us, gracious God.

**Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and of your steadfast love,
for they have been from of old.**

(Silent Confession)

This we pray in the name of your son, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

*Gloria Patri (to the tune of O Come Emmanuel)

**O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.**

Scripture Reading Luke 21:25-36 (pg. 85) Rich Scott

Children's Time Rev. Joyner

Anthem "Come Thou Fount" *Nettleton*

Scripture Reading 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13 (pg. 204)

Sermon HOPE Rev. Ridgley Beckett Joyner

Hymn (**Green #96**) "Wait for the Lord"

*Affirmation of Faith

One: We believe that God has come to us;

**All: that God brought us into being,
that this God gave us breath and purpose,
that we have been blessed to be a blessing to others,
that we have fallen short of this commandment
but that God has nevertheless loved us despite our brokenness.**

One: We believe that God is coming to us;

**All: that God is not happy to leave us alone,
that this God will come to us as a particular human being,
that God will be made known to us in flesh and bone like ours,
that Mary will soon give birth
and Joseph will soon clap his hands in joy,
that Jesus Christ will be born and our salvation made complete.**

One: We believe that God will come to us;

**All: that God will have the final word and that Word will be good,
that this God will give us the presence of the Spirit
to continue our work,
that we are called to be disciples to all the corners of the earth,
that the day is coming when tears and pain will be no more,
and all will gather at the Table to sing an endless and perfect
"Alleluia!"**

*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.**

*Prayers of Dedication and Prayers of the People

*Hymn (**insert**) "Live into Hope"

*Benediction

*Postlude "Hope is a Star" *Wren/Fogg*

ENRICHING OUR WORSHIP OF GOD

Director of Music *Iris BU*

Ushers *Carla Chieffo, Rich Scott*

Flowers *Today's flowers are given by the Lord family, to brighten everyone's day with the beauty of God's creation.*

Joy Messengers *John Senior, Linda Duncan, Pam Schafer, Troy Fisher, Cat Duncan, Led by Nancy Kimmons*

WELCOME 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

Masks are 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.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Today we will have nursery care for children 4 and under downstairs. We will be worshipping as a whole church family today (no Sunday School) so we invite you to locate your children's bulletin and bags for worship engagement with our little ones!

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

We are receiving nominations for next year's class of Elders, Deacons, and Trustees. If you know of anyone who may be called to fill one of these important leadership roles for St. John's, or if you yourself are feeling called, please email Judy Mileto.

YEAR END GIVING ENVELOPES

Giving Envelopes for 2022 are located downstairs in the Fellowship Hall. Please pick them up at your convenience. If there is not one there with your name on it, and you would like one, please call Ken Dilloway.

ANGEL TREE STARTS TODAY!

The tree is up in Fellowship Hall and filled with angels for the Chester County Family Academy school. Each angel will represent a child from kindergarten through 2nd grade. Each color represents a different class. On the angel is the child's name, grade and Christmas toy wish. Sign up during coffee hour for the angel/angels you chose so we can keep track and make sure every child is taken care of. Please return your gift/gifts by Sunday December 12th, wrapped, with the angel attached. We recommend that you spend around \$25. In some cases that might mean buying a couple of toys. Thank you so much for supporting Angel Tree. Any question please call Lee Walsh.

ST. JOHN'S CONCERT SERIES

Our next concert will be on **Sunday, December 12 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!

ADVENT CRAFT NIGHT (TODAY, 2-4PM)

Join us in Fellowship Hall as we craft our way into the Advent season! This year Advent Craft Night has a TWIST- crafts for adults AND kids! We hope everyone can join us!

ADVENT DEVOTIONAL

Be sure to pick up your copy of our Adult Devotional (“Words for Waiting”) and children’s devotional (“Mary’s Song”) for this year in the back of the Sanctuary!



If you are not already receiving Ridgley’s weekly emails for youth and families, email her at rjoyner@stjohnsdevon.com.

Youth Group Sweatpants!

The Youth Advisory Council has been hard at work to create 2022’s “Youth Group Swag!” Place your order for sweatpants by December 1st and drop off cash or a check made out to St. John’s for \$25. Check Pastor Ridgley’s weekly email or the @stjohnsdevonyouth on Instagram for the link to order.

Youth Christmas Party- Dec 5th (4-6 pm)

Youth grades 5-12 are invited to join us at St. John’s for our end of year Christmas party with Trinity and Covenant Presbyterian churches. Please bring a wrapped gift, value no more than \$10, for the white elephant gift exchange.

PASTORAL UPDATE

As we shared in an email and letter, the Session has approved a medical leave of absence for Pastor Patrick, beginning Wednesday, November 10, and lasting up to 90 days. If you were unable to attend our Q&A sessions, please feel free to reach out to Pastor Ridgley or any of the elders with your questions. We ask that you keep Patrick, his family, our church leadership, and our whole church family in prayer during this time.

KEEP IN TOUCH!

Copies of the most up-to-date directory are always available at the rear of the sanctuary! Grab one on your way out!

ST. JOHN’S CALENDAR

Sun, Nov 28	First Sunday of Advent
	8:00 am Women’s Book Club
	9:30 am Worship & Sunday School
	10:30 am Coffee Fellowship
	2:00 pm Advent Craft Night
Tues, Nov 30th	5:00 pm Exercise Class
	7:00 pm Nominating Committee
Wed, Dec 1st	9:00 am Companions in Prayer
Thurs, Dec 2nd	8:30 am Garden Club activity
	5:00 pm Exercise Class
	6:30 pm Bells rehearsal
	7:00 pm Choir rehearsal
Sat, Dec 4th	9:00 am Exercise Class
Sun, Dec 5th	Second Sunday of Advent
	8:00 am Women’s Book Club
	8:15 am Deacons Meeting
	9:30 am Worship & Sunday School
	9:30 am Confirmation Class
	10:45 am Session meeting
	4:00 pm Youth Christmas party

Pastor Ridgley is available for pastoral care meetings in the community, in your home, or over zoom/telephone. She is also available at the church for more private pastoral care appointments.

Lara is in the office on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays, and is available every day via email or phone by calling the regular office line. **If you have a pastoral care emergency and are unable to reach Lara, you can call 484-604-0499.**



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StJohnsDevon.com

Rev. Patrick Marshall, Pastor (currently on medical leave)
Rev. Ridgley Joyner, Associate Pastor (rjoyner@stjohnsdevon.com)
Sue Chudy, Clerk of Session (susan.chudy@stjohnsdevon.com)
Iris BU, Director of Music (iris.blanco@stjohnsdevon.com)
Lara Kennedy, Church Administrator (lara.kennedy@stjohnsdevon.com)



A CHURCH FAMILY, A FAMILY CHURCH



“Awake to Wonder”

By Lisle Gwynn-Garrity

“In this image and in Jesus’ words, I see a call to resilience despite the difficult realities that confront us. I see a longing so deep that keeps us reaching—for a home restored, for comfort renewed, for the fruit that is sure to come.”

- Rev. Lisle Gwynn-Garrity

November 28, 2021
For the latest information and news about St. John’s:
www.stjohnsdevon.com
facebook.com/stjohnspresbyteriandevonpa