

## St. John's at Worship Second Sunday of Advent

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

Introit "Saviour, Like a Shepherd Lead Us" *Jones*

Call to Worship & Advent Wreath Lighting Duncan Family

One: We are seeking deeper faith, a place to belong, the feeling that God is here in this room.

**All: We are seeking joy that overflows, the courage to love, the conviction to act in the face of injustice.**

One: We are seeking, but here in this space we are found.

**All: This is our sanctuary. God's love is here.**

One: God's love is like an open door, the roof over our heads and the floor beneath our feet.

**All: God's love is the light that guides us home and a table with room for everyone.**

One: Today we light the candle of love to remind us of the truth that God's love is a home for all, for you and me, for neighbors and strangers.

**All: May this light of love burn brightly in this space and even brighter in our hearts. Let us worship God.**

\*Hymn (**Red #213**) "Lift up Your Heads ye Mighty Gates"

\*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

**It is never easy for us to confess our sins, Waiting God.**

**There are the hurts we have caused to our families and friends, which we would like to forget.**

**There are those we believe are impossible to love, and so we don't try.**

**There are people who live on the edge of our society, and we ignore their cries for help.**

**Forgive us, God who comes near to us.**

**When we have lost our way, show us yours.**

**Lead us in humility home to you.**

**Teach us your truth,**

**so we might be able to keep your Word, revealed to us in Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.**

(Silent Confession)

**Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

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

**O come, O Key of David, come and open wide our heavenly home.**

**Make safe for us the heavenward road and bar the way to death's abode.**

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.**

\*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!"**

Scripture Reading Luke 1:39-55 (pg. 57) Rich Scott

*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 "God is the Lord of All" *Hopson*

Sermon LOVE Rev. Ridgley Beckett Joyner

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

### Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Communion of the People

Prayer after Communion

\*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 and Prayers of the People

\*Hymn (**insert**) "For Everyone Born" (vs. 1,3,5)

\*Benediction

\*Postlude "Blessed be the Name" *Hogan*

### ENRICHING OUR WORSHIP OF GOD

**Director of Music** *Iris BU*

**Ushers** *Carla Chieffo & Rich Scott*

**Flowers** *Today's flowers are given by the Marvin family, in memory of Bettylou Archbold.*

**Men's Choir** *Rich Scott, Jeff Estabrook, Paul Steege, Jim Ryland, John McClintick, Frank Mercurio on trumpet*

### 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. 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. 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!

### 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 at 610-688-7739 or email at dilloway1@aol.com

### ANGEL TREE

Angel tree gifts are due back next Sunday, December 12. Please have them wrapped and angel attached. Make sure multiple gifts are wrapped together or attached. there will be labeled locations for gifts for each class set up in fellowship hall on **Sunday, Dec. 12th**. Thank you all again for your generosity. Lee Walsh 484-888-6000. The Prison Ministry Angel Tree unique link and access code will be posted in the weekly email for the congregation to give a gift to a child with an incarcerated parent. You can purchase through the link, a gift card for a child for \$42 each, and the child will be mailed a gift card directly from Angel Tree. We have (20) children this year to sponsor throughout the country.

### ST. JOHN'S CONCERT SERIES

Our next concert will be on **Sunday, Dec. 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 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!

### LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE (DEC. 21, 6 PM AT TRINITY PRES)

This year St. John's will gather with Trinity Presbyterian for a collaborative and contemplative worship service on the longest night of the year. This service is for those who find the holiday season particularly challenging.

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

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 required 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).

### Youth Christmas Party- Dec. 5<sup>th</sup> (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.

### Christmas Movie Night – Sunday, Dec. 12<sup>th</sup> (4-6 pm)

All youth and children are invited to join us in their favorite Christmas pajamas for a viewing of the movie ELF! Parents, use this as an opportunity to have a night out or get some things done before the holiday!

### COLLEGE & YOUNG ADULT CHRISTMAS PARTY (DEC. 19, 3-5 PM)

Young adults age 18 – 25 are invited to the home of Kristi and Steve Alexander ( ). We will meet in the clubhouse for food, fellowship and football! Please bring a side to share.

### CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

On Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> we will celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ at our services at 4pm (Family Friendly Lessons & Carols) and 8pm (Livestream Traditional Candlelight). Our current COVID precautions will remain in effect. Stay tuned for more information!

### PASTORAL UPDATE

As we shared in an email and letter, the Session has approved a medical leave of absence for Pastor Patrick, beginning Wednesday, Nov.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.

### THANK YOU!

Marilyn Benton wishes to express her gratitude to everyone at St. John's for the cards, well wishes and prayers. She is recovering well from fracturing her

wrist, and wants everyone to know that their love and kindness has made a big difference!

### ST. JOHN'S CALENDAR

<b>Sun, Dec 5<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Second Sunday of Advent</b> 8:00 am Women's Book Study 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
<b>Mon, Dec 6<sup>th</sup></b>	7:00 pm CE Meeting
<b>Tues, Dec 7<sup>th</sup></b>	5:00 pm Exercise Class 7:00 pm Nominating Committee
<b>Wed, Dec 8<sup>th</sup></b>	9:00 am Prayer Group
<b>Thurs, Dec 9<sup>th</sup></b>	5:00 pm Exercise Class 6:30 pm Handbell Rehearsal 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal
<b>Sun, Dec 12<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Third Sunday of Advent</b> 8:00 am Women's Book Study 8:00 am Trustees Meeting 9:30 am Worship & Sunday School 10:45 am Women's Fellowship
<b>Mon, Dec 13<sup>th</sup></b>	5:00 pm Sounds of the Season Concert 7:00 pm Session Meeting

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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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



### "The Tie that Binds"

By Rev. Denise Anderson

*"Is there anything more healing than an open door? If you're seeking sanctuary, if the waters are rising—listen. It may be hard to hear, but God is always saying, 'Come on home.'"*

- Rev. Sarah Are Speed

December 5, 2021  
For the latest information and news about St. John's:  
[www.stjohnsdevon.com](http://www.stjohnsdevon.com)

