

St. John's at Worship Third Sunday of Advent

Prelude "Advent Hope" *Hakes*

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

Introit "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" *Krug*

Call to Worship & Advent Wreath Lighting *Bellew Family*

One: The home we long for is built on a foundation of love with Jesus as our cornerstone.

All: The home we hope for is a home that knows peace:

One: A peace at the core of our being

All: A peace that calms our anxiety

One: A peace amidst our relationships

All: A peace experienced down the street and around the world.

One: The home we long for is a home that knows peace.

So today we light the candle of peace, as a reminder and as a prayer.

All: Let us give thanks for a foundation of love as together we build a home of peace.

Let us worship God

*Hymn (**Red #196**) "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus"

*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

O Holy God of Promise,

we so often place our trust in the things we can see, and touch, and easily believe. But you did not ask us to believe what is easy, you have asked us to believe what is true!

Forgive us, Holy One, when we doubt the ways you work.

Forgive us when we find it hard to believe an ancient story.

Forgive us we question how you chose to enter the world, born as one of us.

Forgive our lack of faith and belief in ways which seem so impossible to believe. Help us to look in faith, open our belief, and set aside our doubts that you sent your Son, born of a virgin,

the one who has come to set us all free.

We offer these prayers in the name of your Son, Emmanuel, God with us.

(Silent Prayer)

Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

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

O come, O King of Nations, bind in one the hearts of all mankind.

Bid our sad divisions cease and be yourself our King of Peace.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Scripture Reading Luke 1:57-80 (pg. 57) *Nancy Arico*

Welcoming New Members and Reaffirming the Baptismal Covenant

Allan Beverly, Lynne Brown, Jean Converse, Ellie Lund

As a part of reaffirming the baptismal covenant, we will profess our faith together 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.

As Pre-K through 4th 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 "The First Noel"

Sermon PEACE Rev. Ridgley Beckett Joyner

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

*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**) "Come, Live in the Light"

*Benediction

*Postlude "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen"

ENRICHING OUR WORSHIP OF GOD

Director of Music *Iris Blanco-Urgelles*

Ushers *Claire and Richard Hangen*

Flowers *Today's flowers are given by Kate Johnson, sending blessings to all during this Christmas season.*

Rejoicing Ringers *Garrick Bellew, Rowan Bellew, Courtney Cato, Sophie Coradi, Ryan Crill, Sarah Duncan, Avery Hillier*

Devon Chapel Bells *Susan Bain, Sarah Duncan, Christina Fish, Betsy Miller, Jim Tiede, Rowan Bellew*

Guest Musicians *Patty Turse (Harp)*

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!

ANGEL TREE

Angel tree gifts are due back today. Please have them wrapped and angel attached. Make sure multiple gifts are wrapped together or attached. Thank you all again for your generosity. The Prison Ministry Angel Tree unique link and access code is 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, 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 **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!

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.

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

If you would like to sign up to sponsor flowers in 2022, please contact Lisa Archbold. Cowan's Flowers creates the bouquets and bills the sponsor directly at a cost of \$48. You may take the flowers home, or donate them to one of our homebound or hospitalized members.

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 Kate Johnson after worship or contact her by Tuesday, Dec 14th.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Children in Pre-K through 4th 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.

Christmas Movie Night – Today, Dec. 12th (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!

Celebration of Christ's Birth – Dec. 19th (10 am)

Children and youth are invited to join us in the Fellowship Hall for a special party celebrating Christ's birth with carol-singing and cake!

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 (1000 Terrain St, Malvern). We will meet in the clubhouse for food, fellowship and football! Please bring a side to share.

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

On Dec. 24th 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!

CONTAINERS NEEDED

Attention yogurt lovers! The Deacons are collecting empty 24 oz and 32 oz containers for the flower ministry. As you have empties, please drop them off in fellowship hall, there will be a box with a sign.

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.

ST. JOHN'S CALENDAR

Sun, Dec 12th

Third Sunday of Advent

- 8:00 am Women's Book Study (Carriage)
- 8:00 am Trustees Meeting (Kean)
- 9:30 am Worship & Sunday School
- 10:45 am Women's Fellowship (Kean)
- 4:00 pm Movie Night
- 5:00 pm Sounds of the Season Concert

Mon, Dec 13th

Tues, Dec 14th

- 7:00 pm Session Meeting (Zoom)
- 5:00 pm Exercise Class
- 7:00 pm Nominating Committee (Zoom)

Wed, Dec 15th

Thurs, Dec 16th

- 9:00 am Companions in Prayer (Kean)
- 5:00 pm Exercise Class
- 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

Sat, Dec 18th

Sun, Dec 19th

- 8:30 am Interfaith Group (Carriage)
- Fourth Sunday of Advent**
- 8:00 am Women's Book Study (Kean)
- 9:30 am Worship & Sunday School
- 9:30 am Confirmation Meeting (Kean)
- 10:00 am Children's Christmas Party
- 2:00 pm Youth Advisory Council (Zoom)
- 3:00 pm Young Adult 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 Blanco-Urgelles, Director of Music (iris.blanco@stjohnsdevon.com)
- Lara Kennedy, Church Administrator (lara.kennedy@stjohnsdevon.com)



A CHURCH FAMILY, A FAMILY CHURCH



“Berakah”

By Hannah Garrity

“As dawn breaks over Zechariah's shoulder, his prophecy foretells God coming into the world- of light dawning in weary places.”

December 12, 2021
For the latest information and news about St. John's:
www.stjohnsdevon.com
facebook.com/stjohnspresbyteriandevonpa