

St. John's at Worship Fourth Sunday of Advent

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

Call to Worship & Advent Wreath Lighting

The Tiede Family

One: A voice calls out in the wilderness.

It sings of a home for all, a home of justice and peace,
a home bursting with joy.

All: We could choose to ignore it.

Instead, we come into this sacred space.

We let the world grow quiet and we hear:

One: Joy in a God who gathers us in, and welcomes us home.

All: Joy in shared tables of hospitality and warmth.

One: Joy in the sounds of weary souls proclaiming hope-filled Hallelujahs

**All: Joy in making it home after a long journey,
discovering that you are found when you thought you were lost.**

One: Today we light the candle of joy,

because the welcome God has for us is nothing short of good news of
great...*seriously* great joy!

All: Family of faith, we are close to home. Let us worship God

*Hymn (**Red #202**)

“People Look East”

*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

**Holy and loving God,
we have dwelt in darkness
and preferred it to the light;
we have been proud of our accomplishments
and despaired over our shortcomings.
Smooth down the mountains of our pride,
and lift up the valleys of our doubts.
Open a path in the wilderness of our lives
that we might find our way to you again.
Refine us and prepare us once again
for life in your kingdom.**

(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 3:1-6 (pg.60)

Affirmation of Faith

We believe that God has come to us;

**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.**

We believe that God is coming to us;

**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.**

We believe that God will come to us;

**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!”**

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!**

“JESUS! THE ADVENT OF THE MESSIAH”

Music by Mary McDonald, words by Rose Aspinall

*Overture and Christmas Gloria!
The Gathering
God with Us to Dwell
Underscore 1: Heavenly Peace
Heavenly Peace
He Is Born
Born a Mighty King
Underscore 2: There Is Room
There Is Room
Jesus! High and Holy One*

*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 (**Red #246**)

“Joy to the World”

*Benediction

ENRICHING OUR WORSHIP OF GOD

Director of Music

Iris Blanco-Urgelles

Ushers

Peter Crawford, Brian Bouvier

Choir

*Miyuki Hashimoto, Paula Gonzalez, John McClintick
Heather McConnell, Jeff Estabrook, Ian Wolfe,
Jim Ryland*

Guest Musicians

*Myanna Harvey, Cassia Harvey, Kevin Walker,
Frank Mercurio, Patty Turse*

Narrators

Rev. Ridgley Joyner, Jose Irizarry

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!

WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB

Our women's book group has just finished the Barbara Brown Taylor book and is moving on to a new book in January. We will not be meeting for the next three weeks during the holidays. Our new book will be *"The Beautiful Work of Learning to Pray - 31 Lessons"* by James C. Howell. This is available in paperback. We will begin this new book on Jan 9th at 8 AM. We are still meeting both in person and by Zoom and anyone is welcome to “drop in” for one or all sessions. Those in person will be either in the Kean room or the carriage house. We invite and encourage all women to be part of the group in the new year. It is casual and wonderful conversation and the reading each week is short. Contact Carolyn Repke with questions.

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.

ANGEL TREE

A big thank you to all who participated in the angel tree for CCFA. You all did a great job of returning them on time, wrapping them and securing the angels. Lee Walsh and the deacons so appreciate your efforts. We know that all of you have made Christmas a little more special for these children!



FOR OUR BEAUTIFUL CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS – THANK YOU!

Peter & Nancy Crawford

Andy & Lee Walsh

Jean Converse

Chuck & Jeanne Lynam

John & Barbara Alexander

Kathy Johnson

Jim & Sue Tiede

Jeff & Lisa Estabrook

Bruce & Nancy Phillips

Lynne Brown

Dick & Chris Oliver

Dave & Libby Dalrymple

Kate Johnson

Joe & Nancy Arico

Barbara Beucler

Tom & Nancy Higgins

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.

Celebration of Christ's Birth – Today, 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 (TODAY, 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. 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. Attendance in the sanctuary for both services will be capped at 100 people, capacity beyond that will be seated for worship in Fellowship Hall, where we will be live-streaming the service. At the conclusion of each service, the congregation will gather in the Memorial Garden to sing *Silent Night* by candlelight.

CHRISTMAS EVE FELLOWSHIP

The Christian Fellowship Committee invites you to join us in Fellowship Hall immediately after the 4:00 Family Service on Christmas Eve. There will be warm apple cider, hot cocoa and cookies. Stop in to share some Christmas joy with the whole St. John's family!

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 19th

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

Tues, Dec 21st

5:00 pm Exercise Class
7:00 pm Longest Night Service (Trinity)

Wed, Dec 22nd

9:00 am Companions in Prayer

Thurs, Dec 23rd

5:00 pm Exercise Class

Fri, Dec 24th

4:00 pm Family Worship Service
8:00 pm Candlelight Service

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



“Gather Us In”

By Lisle Gwynn-Garrity

“Perhaps the path toward creating a home for all requires some deconstruction...And yet, nothing is beyond redemption. Collective belonging gives way for collective joy—joy that is free and full. God's love will find a way to renew us and gather us in.”

December 19, 2021
For the latest information and news about St. John's:
www.stjohnsdevon.com
facebook.com/stjohnspresbyteriandeonpa