

**St. John's at Worship  
Third Sunday after Epiphany**

Welcome and Announcements (*please pass the fellowship roll*)

\* Call to Worship

One: Listen, God is calling through the Word inviting

**All: Offering forgiveness, comfort and joy.**

One: May we be faithful, standing steadfast

**All: Walking in God's precepts, led by God's Word.**

\*Prayer of Invocation and 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.**

Musical Offering

*Air*

J.S. Bach

Unison Prayer of Confession

**Author of life, forgive us,  
when we have treated your Holy Scripture  
like a pious decoration.**

**Give us courage to face your Holy Word squarely,  
to wrestle and wonder, ponder and pray,  
to listen for the voices of our ancestors,  
and search for your living wisdom on every page.**

(silent confession)

In the name of your son, the Word made flesh, we pray.  
**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.**

\*Affirmation of Faith

*Confession of 1967*

**The one sufficient revelation of God is Jesus Christ,  
the Word of God incarnate,  
to whom the Holy Spirit bears unique and authoritative witness  
through the Holy Scriptures,  
which are received and obeyed as the word of God written.  
The Scriptures are not a witness among others,  
but the witness without parallel.  
The church has received the books of the Old and New Testaments  
as prophetic and apostolic testimony  
in which it hears the word of God  
and by which its faith and obedience are nourished and regulated.**

Scripture Reading

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10 (pg. 436)

Susanne Engheta

Children's Time

Rev. Joyner

Anthem

*Meditation*

Massenet

Sermon

THE GIFT OF SCRIPTURE

Rev. Joyner

\*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 529 (vs 1-3, 5)

“How Firm a Foundation”

\*Benediction

Postlude

*Holy, Holy, Holy*

Evanovich

**ENRICHING OUR WORSHIP OF GOD**

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

**Guest Musician** *Alexandr Kislitsyn*

**Ushers** *Chuck and Jeanne Lynam*

**Flowers** *The flowers this week are given by Barbara Beucler for  
the glory of God and in honor of Ridgley Joyner with  
appreciation for all of her contributions to our  
Church family.*

**EPIPHANY SERMON SERIES- THE GIFTS OF FAITH**

Following on the heels of Christmas, we will be following a worship series that offers us a chance to open up the presents that our faith gives us—some we love, some that confuse us, and some we might never have put on our wish list! Following the Revised Common Lectionary for Epiphany Year C, this nine-week sermon series highlights the wonderful and surprising gifts of God in our lives, if we can only learn to see them.

**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. 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!

**COVID PRECAUTIONS**

In response to the rise in cases in our area, the Covid Task Force has decided to implement additional mitigation efforts at least through January:

- Coffee hour, nursery care, and Sunday School will be postponed.
- Communion will be observed virtually. Individual bags of bread and juice are available at the Sanctuary doors, please refer to the weekly worship email sent on Saturday for the guided Communion liturgy.
- All church meetings/gatherings will need to be via Zoom. Please email Lara (lara.kennedy@stjohnsdevon.com) to reserve time on the St. John's zoom account.

**ANNUAL MEETING – SAVE THE DATE**

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation and Corporation of St. John's is called for **Sunday, January 30 at 10:45** via zoom, for the purpose of:

Distribution of the Annual Report  
Presentation of the Approved Budget  
Approval of Pastors' Terms of Call  
Election of Elders, Deacons, and Trustees

All members of St. John's are encouraged to attend. The Annual Report will be distributed via email before the meeting (there will also be paper copies available for pickup). The names and biographies of the nominees for Elder, Deacon, and Trustee will also be made available in advance.

**“SUPPER” AT ST. JOHN'S**

Please join us for an 8-week discussion of Rob Bell's book Love Wins facilitated by Brian Bouvier. This virtual course will dive into one of the most pressing questions for people of faith; is there hell and an afterlife and would a loving God send people to eternal torment forever? Bell puts hell on trial with a hopeful message - eternal life doesn't start when we die; it starts right now. And ultimately, LOVE WINS. Join us starting January 26th at 7:00 pm for thoughtful discussion, loving debate, and a connection to the love that is at the heart of our faith. You can pick up a copy of your book in the black and yellow bin on the Carriage House Porch. A suggested donation of \$10 can be mailed or dropped off at the church with “Supper at St. John's” in the memo line.

### UPCOMING YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

-TONIGHT! 4pm-5:30pm on Zoom- All youth grades 5-12 are invited to join us for our Chopped Challenge! You must RSVP with Ridgley to get so your parents can make sure you have the secret ingredients!

-January 30 4pm-5:30pm (at the home of Jeff & Lisa Estabrook) Join us for an outdoors only bonfire and s'mores off! Please bring one unique ingredient to make s'mores "with a twist!"

### FAMILY TUBING TRIP

February 6<sup>th</sup> from 12-5pm \$25 per person. All children and youth (and parents) are invited to join us for an afternoon of tubing at Blue Mountain Ski Resort! Families will need to caravan given the status of COVID cases--you may meet us at the ski resort at 1:30pm or at the church for parking lot pizza and a caravan to Blue Mountain! RSVP to Pastor Ridgley by Feb 1<sup>st</sup>!

### WINTER COAT DRIVE

The Deacons will be collecting donations of adult and children's coats, hats and gloves for Kensington residents and Broad Street Ministry through the month of January. Donations may be slightly used or new. They will be greatly appreciated in this terribly cold weather. Please drop off all your donations in the closet in the Carriage house. Please call Amy Lord with any questions 610-306-0741

### 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. Our new book will be *"The Beautiful Work of Learning to Pray - 31 Lessons"* by James C. Howell. We are meeting by Zoom, and anyone is welcome to "drop in" for one or all sessions. 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. If you have questions, and to get the Zoom link, please email Carolyn Repke.

### PASTORAL UPDATE

Pastor Patrick remains on medical leave of absence and we continue to pray for his healing. At this time, we are hopeful that Patrick will be able to return to St. John's in early February and we look forward to the day when we can welcome him back. Please know we also expect Patrick's activities to be somewhat curtailed for the first month upon his return. In the meantime, we appreciate your continued prayers for Patrick, his family, our church leadership and our entire church family.

### THE GIFT OF REV. PATRICK MARSHALL

As we prepare for Patrick's return from leave, we would like to welcome him back by CELEBRATING Patrick's gifts! The door to Patrick's office is currently decorated by Susanne Engheta and Nancy Arico with little gift bags. Please visit the door and write on a post it note a gift you see in Patrick and/or a time that he has been a gift to you. If you are unable to make it to the church, you can mail your post it note (no larger than 3") to the church and we will put it in the gift bags on his door for you. If you would like to write a more private or longer note, we encourage you to mail those to the church office for his church mailbox. Please make arrangements to do so by Sunday February 6th!

### ST. JOHN'S CALENDAR

Sun, Jan 23

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany

8:00 am Women's Book Club

9:30 am Sunday Worship

4:00 pm Youth Group

Sun, Jan 30

#### 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany

8:00 am Women's Book Club

9:30 am Sunday Worship (Livestream)

10:45am. Annual Congregational Meeting

4:00 pm Youth Group (1539 Ashby Rd)

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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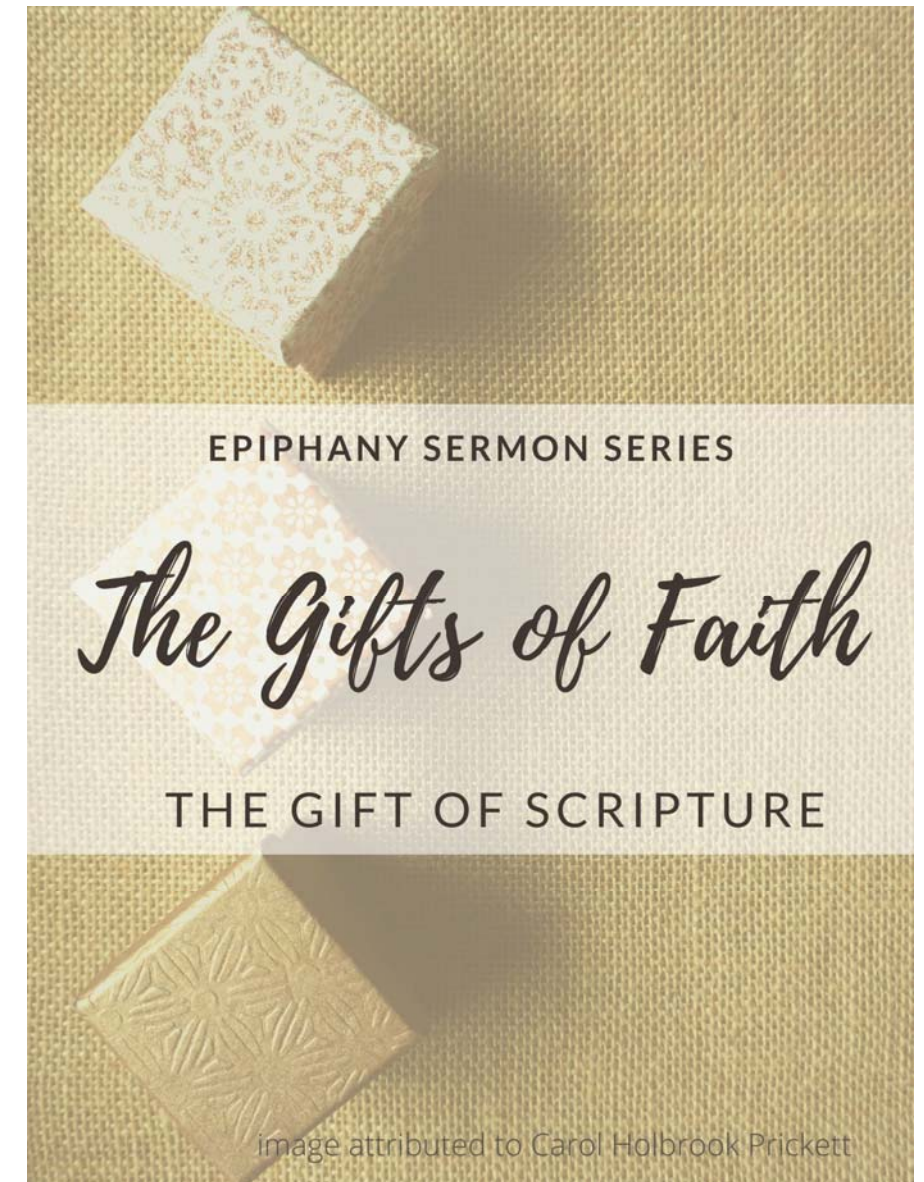
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Rev. Patrick Marshall, Pastor (patrick.marshall@stjohnsdevon.com)  
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A CHURCH FAMILY, A FAMILY CHURCH



January 23, 2022

For the latest information and news about St. John's:

[www.stjohnsdevon.com](http://www.stjohnsdevon.com)

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