

St. John's at Worship First Sunday in Lent

Welcome and Announcements

Introit "Amazing Grace" *Larson*

*Call to Worship

One: We cultivate the earth—

All: When we till the ground and lay new seeds.

One: We cultivate loving space—

All: When we pay attention to what others need.

One: We cultivate worship—

All: When we come together, our hearts on our sleeves.

One: In this worship, may we be honest and present;

All: May we be faithful and gracious.

One: For the God of the soil – who is the God of our hearts – is near.

All: Let us worship Holy God.

*Hymn 8 (GREEN, vss. 1–4) "Gather Us In"

*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.

Unison Prayer of Confession

Holy God, we are works in progress.

In spaces where we could cultivate belonging, we build up walls.

**In spaces where we could cultivate compassion,
we pressure ourselves and others to achieve the impossible.**

In spaces where we could let go of anger, we keep score.

So today we pray –

Remind us how to cultivate hope, love, and justice.

Remind us how to let go of fear, perfection, and hatred.

Forgive us.

Guide us.

Heal us.

Silent Confession

One: Together we gratefully pray,

All: 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

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.**

Scripture Reading Luke 4:1–13 Jim Little

As Pre-K – 4th grade leaves 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 "Let Us Love" *McDonald*

Sermon Rev. Joyner
CULTIVATING FAITHFULNESS & LETTING GO OF TEMPTATION

Hymn 405 "Seek Ye First"

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) "Lord Who Throughout These Forty Days"

*Benediction

Postlude "Blessing" *Prouxl*

ENRICHING OUR WORSHIP OF GOD

Director of Music *Iris Blanco Urgelles*

Ushers *Jim & Kate Little*

Flowers *Given by Marie Cantafio in memory of her beloved husband, Ralph, and her beloved daughter, Gemma.*

Coffee Servers *Chuck & Jeanne Lynam*

Guest Musicians *Alexandr Kislitsyn (violin), Cassia Harvey (cello)*

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 would love for you to join us for refreshments downstairs in the Fellowship Hall following worship. We are glad that you are here and hope you will worship with us again soon!

COMMUNION SUNDAY

On the first Sunday of every month, we share the Lord's Supper. This meal reminds us of Christ's sacrifice for us – his body broken and his blood shed – so that we might be nourished in our faith to live for him. This is not just for Presbyterians or members of St. John's. Everyone who seeks to know and love Jesus Christ is welcome to share in this meal! **Please be sure to pick up a bag with a piece of bread (gluten/nut-free bread is available) and a pre-sealed cup of juice.**

COVID PRECAUTIONS

As cases in our area continue to decrease, the Covid Task Force has updated some of our precautions:

- Masks are now optional in the church building.
- The air purifiers will remain on, and we will continue to distance seating in the pews.
- We will continue to livestream worship.
- Coffee hour and nursery care both resume today. Nursery workers will wear masks for the safety of our youngest members.

As always, please email Lara (lara.kennedy@stjohnsdevon.com) if you need to reserve time for a meeting on the St. John's Zoom account.

LENT 2022: CULTIVATING AND LETTING GO

Lent is a season of spiritual gardening, inviting God to unearth in us what lies fallow, what needs to be tended, and what needs to die for new life to emerge. This Lent, we are embracing the literal and spiritual practices of cultivating and letting go through a variety of mediums: worship, art, study, and practice! Here are some ways to engage this Lenten Season:

Lenten Tree: Nancy Higgins has created an art installation for us in the Fellowship Hall to be an embodiment of our Lenten Practices this season. Visit the tree to write on the green leaves what you hope to cultivate, and on the red/orange leaves what you hope to let go of.

Lenten Devotional: Each week the bulletin will include a devotional card with a poem and some questions for reflection for the week. If you are worshipping via livestream, a PDF will be available in our weekly newsletter.

Lenten Study: Join us every Sunday after worship for a short Visio Divina study with art and the scripture of the day. This week we will meet in Ridgley's office!

“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 explores 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 on Wednesdays at 7:00 PM for thoughtful, loving discussion and a connection to the love that is at the heart of our faith. The Zoom link is in the weekly newsletter!

EASTER LILIES

The Deacons are accepting sponsorships for Easter lilies to beautify our sanctuary on Easter Sunday (April 17). The cost is \$10 per plant, and it is yours to keep after worship. Beginning March 27, a Deacon will be in Fellowship Hall at coffee time if you would like to purchase a plant.

WOMEN’S BOOK CLUB

Our women’s book group has just started reading *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. 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.

YOUTH GROUP SWAG

The sweatpants designed by our very own Sarah Duncan are finally here! Pick up yours from Ridgley today! If you haven’t made your payment, please leave a check in the drop box next to Ridgley’s office.

SUMMER TRIPS

Early Registration has opened for our Summer Youth Trips. If you register for either our Middle School Conference at Massanetta Springs (June 16–19) or our High School Mission and Youth Conference at Montreat Conference Center (July 30–August 6) by March 13, you can save \$50! For more information, reference Ridgley’s weekly email for Youth, Children, and Families, as well as our Weekly eNewsletter. A \$100 deposit is needed to secure your discounted rate. Please leave a check in the drop box outside Ridgley’s office.

VBS SAVE THE DATE

Join us for VBS August 15–19 from 9 AM to 1 PM. We hope you’ll join us! If you are interested in helping plan VBS this year, please contact Ridgley (rjoyner@stjohnsdevon.com)

UPCOMING YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

Sunday, March 6 Bible Study: Grades 5–7 are invited to meet us at the church for Bible Study from 4–5 PM, and Grades 8–12 are invited to meet us at the church from 5–6 PM for Bible Study (no preparation needed).

Sunday, March 13 Bowling at Devon Lanes: Grades 5–12 are invited to join us at Devon Lanes for Bowling with Trinity and Covenant Presbyterian. Be sure to bring \$5 per youth to help offset the cost of bowling!

ST. JOHN’S CALENDAR

Sun, March 6	8:00 am	Women’s Book Club
	8:15 am	Deacons Meeting
	9:30 am	Worship & Communion Sunday School
	9:30 am	Confirmation Class (Kean Room)
	12:00 pm	AnnMarie DeMarco Funeral
Wed, March 9	4:00 pm	Youth Bible Study
	9:00 am	Companions in Prayer
Sun, March 13	8:00 am	Women’s Book Club
	8:30 am	Trustees Meeting
	9:30 am	Worship & Sunday School
	4:00 pm	Youth Fellowship
Mon, March 14	7:00 pm	Session Meeting

Reminder: Friday is Patrick and Ridgley’s sabbath day, and the church office is closed on Saturday. If you email or call on those days, you will not get a response until they are back in the office. Our Church Administrator Lara Kennedy is in the office on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday, and works virtually (available by email/phone) on Monday and Thursday. **If you have a pastoral emergency when the office is closed or on a Saturday, you can call 484-604-0499.**



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Lara Kennedy, Church Administrator (lara.kennedy@stjohnsdevon.com)



A CHURCH FAMILY, A FAMILY CHURCH

“In the Fast Lane”

A Lenten Poem by J. Barrie Shepherd

Slowing down, this holy season,
may be the way to go.
Letting go, at least an hour here and there,
of that wheel with which you drive,
and which drives you.
Pulling over, kicking back,
searching for a rest area.
Shutting down those surround sounds
of music and the breaking news
that keep you wide awake.
And tuning out and in again
to all those hungers never met
in daily destinations.

March 6, 2022
For the latest information and news about St. John’s:
www.stjohnsdevon.com
facebook.com/stjohnspresbyteriandevonpa