

## St. John's at Worship Third Sunday in Lent

Welcome and Announcements

Introit "The Majesty and Glory of Your Name" *Fettke/Johnson*

\*Call to Worship Psalm 63:1-8

One: O God, you are my God.  
I seek you; my soul thirsts for you.  
**All: My flesh faints for you,  
as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.**

One: So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary,  
beholding your power and glory.

**All: Because your steadfast love is better than life,  
my lips will praise you.  
I will bless you as long as I live;  
I will lift up my hands and call on your name.**

One: My soul is satisfied as with a rich feast,  
and my mouth praises you with joyful lips  
when I think of you on my bed  
and meditate on you in the watches of the night.

**All: For you have been my help,  
and in the shadow of your wings, I sing for joy.  
My soul clings to you;  
your right hand upholds me.**

One: Let us worship God!

\*Hymn 129, vss. 1-5 (GREEN)

"Throughout These Lenten Days and Nights"

\*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

**God of grace, you ask us to care for the poor and the hungry,  
but that makes us uncomfortable.**

**You ask us to care for the environment,  
but that requires sacrifice.**

**You ask us to love our neighbor as ourselves,  
but that requires vulnerability.**

**Instead, we hide our hands, avert our eyes, and choose ourselves.**

**Forgive us for holding tight to our own agendas  
and letting go of your call to love.**

**Cultivate in us more faithful spirits –  
hearts that are loving enough to choose one another  
and trusting enough to make the sacrifice,  
as you sacrificed yourself for us in Jesus Christ.**

Silent Confession

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 13:1-9 (pg. 76) John McClintick

Children's Sermon Rev. Joyner

*As Pre-K – 4<sup>th</sup> 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 "God of Wonders" *Byrd/Hindalong*

Sermon CULTIVATING THE SOIL Rev. Marshall

\*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) "Restore in Us, O God"

\*Benediction

Postlude "Pastoral from *Messiah*" *Handel*

### ENRICHING OUR WORSHIP OF GOD

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

**Ushers** *John McClintick, Jim Ryland*

**Flowers** *Given by the Marvin Family in loving remembrance  
of parents and grandparents, Donald Marvin,  
Marylou and Jens Bush, and Ken  
and BettyLou Archbold.*

**Coffee Servers** *Bruce & Nancy Phillips*

**Guest Musician** *Patricia Turse (piano/organ)*

### 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!

### 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 have resumed. 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: There is a tree on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall where you can write on the green leaves what you hope to cultivate, and on the red/orange/yellow leaves what you want to let go of. Feel free to take a leaf home to write on it there, and if it you would like to keep it private, you can always pin it to the tree with the writing side down.

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

Lenten Study: Join us every Sunday at 11:00 AM in Ridgley's office for a brief time of reflection on the day's scripture and sermon.

### 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.

### 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.

## LOVING SOMEONE WITH DEMENTIA

Next Sunday, March 27, we will start a three-part educational series on Dementia and Alzheimer's, led by St. John's own Lauren Tiede. Join us after church in the Carriage House at 10:45 AM to learn more about caring for our loved ones who have these hard diagnoses.

- March 27: What is Alzheimer's Disease & Dementia?
- April 24: Ten Warning Signs of Alzheimer's & Dementia
- May 21: Effective Communication Strategies

### STAFF CHANGES

On Tuesday, March 1, our Church Administrator, Lara Kennedy, shared with the staff and Personnel Committee that she has accepted a compelling job offer closer to home in a position where she will have the opportunity to grow professionally in a management role. Lara's letter of resignation was presented to Session at the meeting on March 14, and included the following message, which she would like to share with the greater St. John's church family:

*"St. John's has been a very special place for me to work over the course of the last six years, and will always be very dear to my heart. In particular, I am extremely grateful for the support I have received this past year as I navigated my recovery from a catastrophic injury. The St. John's family quite literally helped to get me back on my feet, and now as I take this big leap forward for the trajectory of my career, I have faith that I will still be bolstered and held up by your love and prayers. It feels divinely planned that as we focus on our Lenten study of 'Cultivating and Letting Go,' we will also be working towards a very real season of change, one that I hope we all find peace with."*

Lara will remain on staff until Easter, and is working with Patrick, Ridgley, and members of the Administration and Personnel Committees to ensure a smooth transition.

## YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

Youth in grades 5–12 are invited to join us on Sunday nights for Youth Group as we learn, fellowship and serve! Some upcoming events:

### Today, March 20 (4:30–6:00 PM)

Youth grades 5-12 are invited to join us at Covenant Presbyterian Church for a night of working in their garden. Bring clothes that can get dirty and work gloves if you have them!

**March 27 (4:00-6:00 PM)** Youth grades 5-12 are invited to join us at St. John's to paint Oliver Rocks with Trinity Presbyterian Youth!

### 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.

## ST. JOHN'S CALENDAR

### Sun, March 20

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent

- 8:00 am Women's Book Club
- 9:30 am Worship & Sunday School
- 9:30 am Confirmation Class (Kean)
- 4:30 pm Youth Fellowship

### Mon, March 21

- 7:00 pm New Officer Training (Zoom)

### Wed, March 23

- 9:00 am Companions in Prayer (Kean)

### Sun, March 27

#### 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent

- 8:00 am Women's Book Club
- 9:30 am Worship & Sunday School
- Ordination/Installation of New Elders, Deacons, and Trustees
- 9:30 am Confirmation Class (Kean)
- 11:00 am New Trustee Training (Kean)

### 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)

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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Iris Blanco-Urgelles, Director of Music (iris.blanco@stjohnsdevon.com)  
Lara Kennedy, Church Administrator (lara.kennedy@stjohnsdevon.com)



A CHURCH FAMILY, A FAMILY CHURCH

Only the hungry search for bread.  
Only the thirsty look for water.  
This is a place for those who are hungry and thirsty in spirit.

Only those who ache for meaning will pursue it.  
Only those who yearn for a deeper life will seek it.  
This is a place for those who ache and yearn for something more.

So let us come here today with our hunger and thirst,  
our unsatisfied longings, our heart-felt yearnings,  
and let the God of life satisfy our souls.

– Ann Siddall

**March 20, 2022**  
**For the latest information and news about St. John's:**  
**www.stjohnsdevon.com**  
**facebook.com/stjohnspresbyteriandevonpa**