

St. John's at Worship
Eighth Sunday After Pentecost

Welcome and Announcements

Introit "As the Deer Panteth" *Nystrom*

*Call to Worship Psalm 107:1–9, 43

One: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
for his steadfast love endures forever.

**All: Let the redeemed of the Lord say so,
those he redeemed from trouble and gathered in from the lands,
from the east and from the west,
from the north and from the south.**

One: Some wandered in desert wastes,
finding no way to an inhabited town;
hungry and thirsty, their soul fainted within them.

**All: Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble,
and he delivered them from their distress;
he led them by a straight way,
until they reached an inhabited town.**

One: Let them thank the Lord for his steadfast love,
for his wonderful works to humankind.

**All: For he satisfies the thirsty,
and the hungry he fills with good things.**

One: Let those who are wise give heed to these things
and consider the steadfast love of the Lord.

*Hymn 158 "Come, Christians, Join to Sing"

*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

**Forgive us, Lord,
for we are more invested in the treasures of this world
than in the riches of your kingdom.**

**We have trusted more in the promises of man
than in your eternal Word.**

**We have relied more on our own strength and ability
than on your incomparable power.**

**We have turned our faces from you
and set our hope on that which does not last.**

**In doing so, we isolate ourselves from you,
and we hurt our neighbors,**

allowing them to suffer while we satisfy ourselves.

**May your grace draw our eyes back to you,
draw our feet back to your right path,
and draw our hearts back to our neighbor.**

**In our weakness and fear, we have wandered,
but we long to return to you.**

Silent Confession

**Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.**

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 from *A Brief Statement of Faith* (1983)

**In life and in death we belong to God.
Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit,
we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel,
whom alone we worship and serve.**

**In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,
we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks**

**and to live holy and joyful lives,
even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth,
praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"**

**With believers in every time and place,
we rejoice that nothing in life or in death
can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Scripture Reading Lynne Hay

Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12–14; 2:18–23 (pg. 614, OT)

Children's Time Rev. Joyner

As Pre-K–4th grade leaves for Summer 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 "Before the Throne of God Above" *Cook/Bancroft*

Scripture Reading Luke 12:13–21 (pg. 74, NT)

Sermon WHAT'S THE POINT? 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 664 "Sent Forth by God's Blessing"

*Benediction

*Postlude "Holy, Holy, Holy" *Dykes*

ENRICHING OUR WORSHIP OF GOD

Music Director Iris Blanco-Urgelles
Ushers Barb Beucler, Lynne Hay
Greeter Alice Bell
Flowers Given by Barb Beucler in honor of her sister and soulmate, Connie Lee, and her brother-in-law, Brad Lee.

Coffee Server Barb Beucler, Linda Duncan
Guest Musicians Cassia Harvey (*cello*), Myanna Harvey (*violin*)

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 PROTOCOL

Masks remain optional but welcome. We do ask that if you are not feeling well or experiencing any symptoms such as a sore, scratchy throat or cough (even if you think it is just allergies or a cold), please worship from home via the livestream to ensure the wellbeing of your church family. If you find that you test positive for Covid within 2–3 days after attending worship or a church event, please contact the church office, so that we can notify the congregation about a possible exposure. Your privacy will be maintained.

SUMMER BOOK STUDY

Pastor Patrick will be leading a three-week study of Brian Zahnd's book *When Everything's on Fire: Faith Forged from the Ashes*, on August 7, 14, and 21, after worship. The book can be purchased on Amazon (there will be a link in the weekly email).

Book Description: Is it possible to hold on to faith in an age of unbelief? Intellectual certainty has long been a cornerstone of the Christian faith. But in an age of secularism, skepticism, and cynicism, our worldviews have been shaken. Various solutions exist – some double down on certainty, while others deconstruct their faith until there is nothing left at all. But Brian Zahnd offers a third way: what is needed is not a *demolition* but instead a *renovation* of faith. Written with personal and pastoral experience, Zahnd extends an invitation to move beyond the crisis of faith toward the journey of reconstruction. As the world rapidly changes in ways that feel incompatible with Christianity, *When Everything's on Fire* provides much-needed hope. A stronger, more confident faith is possible when it is grounded in the beauty and truth of Christ. Zahnd permits us to risk the journey of deconstruction so that God can forge something more beautiful in its place.

WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP – SUNDAYS AT 8:00 AM

The Women's Book Group is taking a break for the summer. We will resume our Sunday Morning Book Study on Sunday, September 11. 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, please email Carolyn Repke.

MEN'S MINISTRY

If you are interested in being part of a new men's ministry at St. John's, you are invited to an informational meeting after worship on Sunday, September 11. You are not committing to anything...just come hear more about it! Our hope is to gather a group of men who, through conversation and study, can support one another and grow in faith and friendship. More information will be coming soon!

SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL

Summer Sunday School runs through August 7. Children in Pre-k-4th grade are invited to go downstairs after the children's time for a lesson and activities.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

We are currently in need of volunteers to serve in the nursery in August so that our nursery workers can take a much-deserved sabbath. Please consider giving your time on a Sunday morning to help fulfill your baptismal vows to our little ones! Contact Marianne McClennen (mdmclennen@gmail.com) for more information.

SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE

There is still time to contribute toward the cost of the backpacks and supplies for the children served through Gemma Services. You can write a check, payable to St. John's, with "School Supplies" in the memo line. Please contact Nancy Higgins (nrhiggins76@gmail.com) with any questions.

SUMMER ART CLASSES AT ST. JOHN'S

This summer, St John's will be hosting art classes for adults. This is a great chance to learn something new, hone your natural skills, or just have fun with your church family. The following classes will be offered:

Watercolor: Have fun with one of the most fluid mediums and learn a little about water techniques in the process.

Beginner Level – 2 Lessons

Cost of materials: \$38.00 (made out to St. John's Presbyterian Church)

Dates: Wednesdays, August 3 and 10 at 5:00 PM

On Sunday, August 14 there will be a small display of the students' work during coffee hour, so that we can all enjoy the talent our church has to offer. Seats are limited, so if you are interested, please email Darien Irizarry at di501industries@gmail.com.

ST. JOHN'S CALENDAR

Sun, July 31	9:30 am	Worship & Summer Sunday School
Wed, August 3	9:00 am	Companions in Prayer (Kean Room)
	5:00 pm	Summer Art Class (Fellowship Hall)
Sun, August 7	9:30am	Worship & Summer Sunday School

Reminder

Pastor Ridgley is out of the office this week, on a retreat with our high school students in Montreat, NC. She will not be available by email or phone.

Friday is both 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 Roseann Christian is in the office Monday through Friday, from 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM. **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)



A CHURCH FAMILY, A FAMILY CHURCH

All the treasure you hold,
you can't take it with you
Any silver and gold,
you can't take it with you
You could make yourself a name with fortune and fame,
but you can't take it with you to the other side

You could build your mansions high,
but you can't take it with you
All your hard-earned pride,
you can't take it with you
Any plans you made to keep you sheltered and safe,
you can't take them with you to the other side

But love...real love...

When that day comes, don't look back
Love will be the bags you pack
for the other side

From the song "The Other Side"
by Andy Gullahorn

July 31, 2022
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