St. John's at Worship World Communion Sunday

Welcome and Announcements

Introit "Precious Jesus" Althouse

*Call to Worship

One: From north and south and east and west...

II: All creation sings forth your praise!

One: The mountains and the hills burst into song;

All: The trees of the field shall clap their hands.

One: Your steadfast love never ceases.

All: With joy and peace, let us worship God together!

*Hymn 4 (Green)

"Come, All You People"

*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

Gracious Lord, you created the whole world and called it good, but we look at the world and see division and suffering.

You call us to maintain the unity of spirit in the bond of peace,

but we choose division over diversity,

confrontation over civility,

conflict over peace born from justice.

You call us to love the least of these among us,

but we hear the cries of the oppressed and choose our own comfort. We allow senseless suffering rather than sacrifice for our neighbors.

Forgive us.

Grant us fresh vision to see one another as siblings in Christ.

Rekindle in us your gifts -

the spirit of power, love, and self-discipline – that with faith in Christ, we might be made new and live together in your kingdom. Amen.

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 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 24:13–35 (pg. 90, N.T.)

Jeff Estabrook

As Pre-K-12th 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!

Anthem "Forever God's Love Endures"

Choplin

Sermon THE COMMUNION OF SAINTS

Rev. Marshall

*Hymn 548, vss. 1, 2, 4 "In Christ There Is No East or West"

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 539 (Insert)

"We Will Go Out with Joy"

*Benediction

*Choral Response

"The Lord Now Sends Us Forth"

*Postlude

"Sunday Joy"

Hayes

ENRICHING OUR WORSHIP OF GOD

Music Director

Iris Blanco-Urgelles
Lynne Hay and Jim Little

Greeters Flowers

Ushers

Mildred Del Valle Morales, Yuyza Irizarry Del Valle Given by Marie Cantafio in memory of her beloved

husband, Ralph, and their beloved daughter, Gemma.

Coffee Servers

Frank Frederick, Lynne Brown

Soloist

Miyuki Hashimoto

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.

COMMUNION SUNDAY

Today is World Communion Sunday, and we will be sharing the Lord's Supper with our brothers and sisters in Christ all around the world! Today especially, we are reminded that communion 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! You will be invited forward by the center aisle to take a pre-sealed cup with bread and juice. Gluten-free cups are marked with an X in the center of the tray.

WOMEN'S BOOK STUDY

The Women's Book Study meets on Sunday mornings at 8:00 AM and on Mondays at 11:30 AM (you are welcome to bring your lunch). These groups are open to all women, and both are reading the same book, *In Defense of Kindness: Why It Matters, How It Changes Our Lives, and How it Can Save the World* by Bruce Reyes-Chow.

ST. JOHN'S MEMORIAL GARDEN

In June, twenty new interment units were added to our Memorial Garden, and this fall we will be aerating and reseeding to bring back the lawn after the construction work. If anyone has questions or interest in interment or a memorial plate, please contact Earline Eck (earline.eck3@gmail.com). After worship on October 30 (All Saints' Sunday), we will be placing seven bronze plates on our memorial plaque to honor those who have lovingly been a part of our church family. The following plates will be added: Rev. and Mrs. Ernie McMillan, Janet Holmes Duke, Caroline Shauger, Lois Glaser, Don Harsh, and Oliver Feldman. We hope that you will join us after worship on Sunday, October 30 in remembrance of these members of our church family.

CHURCH TREASURER

Brian Bouvier will be ending his time as Church Treasurer at the end of this term, March 31, 2023. If you (or someone you know) has gifts that you think might fit the needs of this position, we encourage you to talk to Jeff Wagner (President of the Trustees) or to Pastor Patrick.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS THIS WEEK

Roseann will be out of the office tomorrow, recovering from her daughter's wedding! We will have volunteers in the office to answer the phone. Roseann will be back in the office on Tuesday.

SUNDAY SCHOOL IS BACK!

After the scripture reading, children in K–12th grade will leave with their teachers. If this is your child's first time in Sunday School (or their first time in a while), the ushers have pamphlets that tell you everything you need to know about Sunday School. As always, nursery care is provided for children ages 5 and under. Please be sure to check in your child (ages 4th grade and under) in the back of the Sanctuary before worship begins!

CONCERT SERIES – SAVE THE DATE!

Iris' concert series returns this month on Sunday, October 16, from 5–6 p.m. Future concerts will take place on November 13 and December 11. Be on the lookout for more information coming soon!

SUPPER AT ST. JOHN'S

After more than two years, Supper at St. John's has resumed, and will run through November 16. This is a wonderful time of food, fellowship, and education. It is a great chance to slow down in the middle of the week, enjoy a delicious meal that you do not have to cook, and catch up with your church family!

We begin each week at 6:00 p.m. with dinner, followed by a class starting at 7:00 p.m., concluding promptly at 8:00 p.m. You can still come to eat, even if you do not stay for the class. We are also looking for volunteers to help clean up each week. Childcare is available with one week's notice.

Even if you missed previous classes, it's not too late to join us! You can participate in person or by Zoom, although we encourage you to join us in person!

What We Believe: Foundations (featuring Timothy Keller)

The Apostles' Creed is one of the oldest summaries of the basic beliefs of Christianity. This course is a video-based program of lectures by Timothy Keller on What We Believe Foundation. The first lecture is an introduction to the Creed followed by video lectures on what Christians believe about sin and salvation, resurrection and eternal life, the Church, the Holy Spirit, the incarnation, and God. There will be a discussion after each video, moderated by Carla Chieffo, Kris Graham, and Nancy Arico.

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP - TODAY! (4:30-6:00 PM)

Youth grades 5–12 are invited to join us at Devon Lanes for a night of bowling and fellowship. Please bring \$5 to contribute toward shoe and lane rental. We hope to see you there!

COLLEGE CARE PACKAGES

Parents of college students, email Sam Hillier (hilliersh@hotmail.com) your child's school address by October 10 so that the Deacons are able to send college care packages to them!

ST. JOHN'S CALENDAR

Sun, Oct 2	World Communion Sunday	
	8:00 am	Women's Book Study
	9:30 am	Worship & Sunday School
	4:30 pm	Youth Fellowship (Devon Lanes)
Mon, Oct 3	11:30 am	Women's Book Study
	7:00 pm	Christian Ed Committee (Zoom)
Tues, Oct 4	500 pm	Exercise Class (Fellowship Hall)
Wed, Oct 5	900 am	Companions in Prayer (Kean Room)
	6:00 pm	Supper at St. John's
Thurs, Oct 6	5:00 pm	Exercise Class (Fellowship Hall)
Sun, Oct 9	8:00 am	Women's Book Study
	8:30 am	Trustees Meeting
	930 am	Worship & Sunday School

Reminder

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.

Please see the announcement regarding Roseann's hours this week. 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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Rev. Patrick Marshall, Pastor (patrick.marshall@stjohnsdevon.com)
Rev. Ridgley Joyner, Associate Pastor (rjoyner@stjohnsdevon.com)
Roseann Christian, Church Administrator (Admin@stjohnsdevon.com)
Sue Chudy, Clerk of Session (susan.chudy@stjohnsdevon.com)
Iris Blanco-Urgelles, Director of Music (iris.blanco@stjohnsdevon.com)



A CHURCH FAMILY, A FAMILY CHURCH

"Communion of the Saints" by J. Barrie Shepherd

Never been quite sure just what it meant, precisely what I was affirming my belief in, as I entered the Credal home stretch and headed, breathless, for the life everlasting. Then came Corona's necessary distancing, and I sat computer-side – oatcake, fruit juice, votive candle – seeking my solitary way through The Lord's Supper, a virtual (virtuous?) liturgy led by my friendly pastor on the screen. In a way it seemed quite personal, intimate, almost one-on-one. No elders bearing elements, no distracting neighbors in the pews, no need to fuss with masks, gloves and sanitizer. But where to find the Church. to know and feel that certain common touch. that actual live and life-giving Communion? Unless that is precisely what they meant, those four old enigmatic words, "The Communion of Saints." Unless, across the centuries – those cruel seasons of isolation, imprisonment and worse – those inspired divines were all along insisting that whenever we take this loaf and cup, we show not only the Lord's death, but we unite with such a company of witnessing believers, such an eternal host of family and friends, that space and time dissolve here, and the feast embraces everyone and everywhere.