

St. John's at Worship Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Welcome and Announcements

Introit 3 (Green) **“Come Into God's Presence”**
(v. 1, 3 times)

*Answering God's Call to Worship

One: This place for us is Holy Ground.

All: The place where we sing songs of praise to the Lord.

One: And repeat the stories of faith that inspire us to respond to Christ's love.

All: God called us here in whispering winds and in burning flames.

One: And with His presence disarms us of the barriers we have placed around us.

All: Instead, God meets us in our vulnerability, our humanity.

One: Let us worship the Lord.

*Hymn 14 (Green) “God, You Call us To This Place”

*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.

Confessing Our Sin Together

Redeeming God,

Out of the flames of your creation,

your voice calls, marking us as you own.

Yet there are times,

when we choose to ignore your voice,

and listen instead to our own needs and desires,

and those that challenge our faith from within the world.

forgive us for those times,

when we have ignored the needs of others;

when we have failed to place our feet upon your path;

when we allow the earthly voice to distract us from your call.

In your forgiveness, you offer again your invitation

to know your love, to be loved, and to respond to your call.

In hearing your voice, may we find our place within your creation.

Confessing Silently

Lord, thank you for your mercy!

Christ, thank you for your mercy!

Spirit, thank you for your mercy!

The Promise of Forgiveness

*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.**

*Affirming Our Faith

**We are not alone,
we live in God's world.**

We believe in God.

who has created and is creating,

who has come in Jesus,

the Word made flesh,

to reconcile and make new,

who works in us and others,

by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church;

to celebrate God's presence.

to live with respect in Creation,

to love and serve others,

to seek justice and resist evil,

to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,

our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death,

God is with us.

We are not alone.

Thanks be to God.

Scripture Reading Exodus 3:1-15 Bruce Phillips

Sermon ON HOLY GROUND Rev. Joyner

*Hymn 769 “For Everyone Born”
(vs. 1, 3, 5)

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Communion of the People

Prayer After Communion

Offering (Ushers will also collect blue prayer request cards at the time of the 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 (If you need to sit for the prayer, please feel free.)

*Hymn 267 (Green) “Will You Come and Follow Me?”

*Benediction

*Postlude “Glory to God Whose Goodness Shines on Me”

ENRICHING OUR WORSHIP OF GOD

Ushers Barb Buecler, Peter Crawford

Greeter Alice Bell

Flowers Given by Nancy and Bruce Phillips with thanks to God for his gifts of our granddaughters, Greta and Magnolia Grace.

Coffee Server Jeanne Thompson

Organist Nancy Kimmons

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!

SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL

This Summer, our children and youth will stay in worship for the full service as we worship as a church family. This will give our wonderful teachers some well-deserved rest during the summer months. We will still have a children's sermon for our kids (Grades 4 and under) to connect and learn about God. We have activity bags with children's materials, located in the coat closet in the back of the sanctuary. If you have trouble finding them, an usher will be happy to help you! **Sunday School resumes on September 17.**

USHER & SCRIPTURE READER SIGN-UPS

We are always looking for volunteers to help usher and read scripture in worship. There will be a link in today's email update where you can look at the available dates and sign up online to do one or both! We hope that you will check it out and pick a Sunday (or two!).

MEN'S GROUP

The next meeting of our Men's Group will be **Wednesday, September 6 at 7:00 a.m.** in the Carriage House. We will be discussing chapter 8 of Carol Dweck's book *Mindset*, which is available on Amazon or at Barnes & Noble. Men of all ages are welcome, even if you haven't done the reading!

CONFIRMATION PARENT MEETING

Parents of eligible confirmands are invited to join Pastor Ridgley in the Kean Room on Sunday, September 17 after worship to learn more about this year's Confirmation Class. Please email Pastor Ridgley to RSVP.

HOSTS FOR HOSPITALS

Hosts for Hospitals (who did a Minute for Mission here in March) is looking for people to provide lodging for patients and families traveling to Philadelphia for medical care. If you are interested in helping, you can contact them by phone (484-380-2999) or email (lodging@hostsforhospitals.org).

PASTOR PATRICK'S DOCTORAL PROJECT

The time has come for Pastor Patrick to do a project that will provide the research for his doctoral thesis paper, and he needs your help! He will be holding an informational session after worship **next Sunday, September 10** for those who are interested in hearing more and potentially participating in the project. The project itself will be a series of group discussions that take place on Sunday, September 17 after worship for about two hours. Patrick is looking for at least ten people who will commit to being at both of those gatherings. Please contact him with any questions.

SAVE THE DATE: ST. JOHN'S FALL FESTIVAL

We hope you'll join us on **Sunday, September 24** for food, fellowship, and fun at this year's Fall Festival! Check the weekly email in the coming weeks to learn more.

WOMEN'S BOOK STUDY – 2 opportunities!!

This fall the Sunday group will be continuing our study of the Book of Isaiah, (starting at Chapter 35). If you have any questions or are interested in attending, please contact **Nancy Wolfe**. Our first session will be on **Sunday September 10th at 8:00 am**.

The Monday group is still researching books for the fall. If you have any questions or are interested in attending, please contact **Nancy Arico**. Our first session will be on **Monday September 11th at 11:30 am**

SUPPER AT ST. JOHN'S IS BACK! -WEDNESDAY NIGHTS AT 6:00

Supper at St. John's will resume on **Wednesday, September 20** and run through **November 15**. We begin at 6:00 p.m. with a meal followed by a class starting at 7:00 p.m. and conclude promptly at 8:00 p.m. Childcare is available with one week's advance notice. Look for sign-ups during coffee fellowship after worship or email Betsy Miller (rgmdevon@aol.com) We are also looking for a dedicated clean-up crew. You do not have to participate in the class, and dinner is on us! If you would like to help, email Roseann (admin@stjohnsdevon.com)

This fall we will dive deeper into the Christmas Story by studying two of Adam Hamilton's books:

The Journey: Walking the Road to Bethlehem (9/20-10/13)

This course is a discussion and video-based program on Adam Hamilton's book "The Journey". Together we will travel from Nazareth to Bethlehem in the fascinating look at the birth of Jesus Christ.

Faithful: Christmas Through the Eyes of Joseph (10/18-11/15)

In this study, we will learn how Joseph's place in the nativity story is much like our own. In life, we encounter circumstances that we would have never chosen for ourselves. Joseph provides us a great example of humbly obeying God even when we don't understand and faithfully moving forward in the strength that God provides.

We will end our time together with a special church-wide Advent Wreath Workshop where members can pick up their advent devotional and make their family's Advent Wreath! Mark your calendar today for:
Sunday, November 26th 4pm-6pm

ONLINE GIVING

We are in the process of implementing a new app called *Giving* that will be used to track financial contributions to the church. This app will also give you the ability to give online (you will still be able to give the way you currently do, if you wish). One of the steps in migrating to this new system is "joining" couples in the system, so that regardless of who makes a particular donation, the couple as a whole is credited. As your couple is "joined," you will receive an email letting you know that this administrative step has occurred. There is nothing you need to do in response to this email. If your "couple" has not been joined correctly, please contact Roseann in the church office so a correction can be made. More information about the *Giving* app, including how to use it, will be shared in September, once the migration is complete.

YOUNG AND YOUNG AT HEART – SUMMER CONCERTS

Join us for free local outdoor concerts this summer as we relax and enjoy good music together. Bring a pizza or picnic, a friend, your family (kid friendly!), or just yourself and join us on the dates below. No RSVP is required, but please reach out to Lauren Feldman (laurengfeldman@yahoo.com) with questions and how to connect at each event. We look forward to seeing you there!

Thursday, Sept. 7 (7:00 p.m.) AM Radio Band – Wilson Farm Park

ST. JOHN'S CALENDAR

Sun, Sept. 3	9:30 am	Worship & Communion
Mon, Sept. 4		Church Office Closed for Labor Day
Tues, Sept. 5	5:00 pm	Exercise Class (Fellowship Hall)
Wed, Sept. 6	7:00 am	Men's Group (Carriage House)
	9:00 am	Companions in Prayer (Kean Room)
Thurs, Sept. 7	5:00 pm	Exercise Class (Fellowship Hall)
Sun, Sept. 10	8:15 am	Trustees Meeting (Kean Room)
	9:30 am	Worship
	10:45 am	Pastor Patrick's Doctoral Presentation

This Week in the Church Office

This week the church office will be closed on Monday in observance of Labor Day. Pastor Patrick is back in the office this week starting Tuesday. Pastor Ridgley is on vacation and will be back Sunday, September 10th. She is not available by email or phone until then.

Friday is Pastor Patrick and Pastor 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. **If you have a pastoral emergency pertaining to a death, hospitalization, or crisis situation when the office is closed or on a Saturday, you can call 484-604-0499.**

Our Church Administrator Roseann Christian is in the office Monday through Friday, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Any announcements for next week's bulletin or email must be sent to her by Noon on Wednesday.



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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)



A CHURCH FAMILY, A FAMILY CHURCH

For the very earth is holy.
The ground under our feet.
Take off your shoes and feel it,
feel the dry-ground-powder
and the sharp stones,
the infinite tiny beings
that call the earth home.
Take off your shoes.
Know you are part of
all this, part of the
glory that fills all things,
as the waters fill the seas.
You will be heard,
wherever you are.
You can listen
wherever you are.
You are home.

-Andrea Skevington

September 3, 2023
For the latest information and news about St. John's:
www.stjohnsdevon.com
facebook.com/stjohnspresbyteriandevonpa