

St. John’s at Worship Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Prelude “How Firm a Foundation” *arr. Sandra Eithun*
The Rejoicing Ringers

Welcome and Announcements

Introit “Christians, We Have Met to Worship” *arr. Tucker*
The Devon Chapel Bells

*Answering God’s Call to Worship From Psalm 19

One: The heavens are telling the glory of God!
The whole world proclaims God’s handiwork!

**All: They speak no words,
and yet their praises resound throughout all the earth!**

One: The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul.

All: The decrees of the Lord are sure, making wise the simple.

One: The precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart.

All: The commandment of the Lord is clear, enlightening the eyes.

One: The ordinances of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.
They are more desirable than gold and sweeter than honey.

**All: Let the words of our mouths and the meditation of our hearts
be acceptable to you, O Lord, our rock and our redeemer.**

*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.

Confessing Our Sin Together

Creator God, in the beginning you created life and life abundant.

**You shaped us out of the dust of the earth
and out of love made us in your image.**

**But we allow ourselves to be shaped by the world around us –
by shame, power, greed, and control,
rather than love, service, and healing.**

We fail to care for the world that you created in love.

We fail to love our neighbor the way that you do.

We fail to love ourselves the way that you love us.

Wash us clean and shed what hinders us, O God.

Amend what we are, shape who we shall be.

Restore us, O Lord;

let your face shine upon us, that we may be saved...

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 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 Philippians 3:4b–14 (pg. 198, N.T.) Kate Johnson

Blessing Our Confirmands Rev. Joyner

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!**

*Hymn 408 “The Gift of Love”

Sermon PRESSING ON Rev. Marshall

Offering (Ushers will also collect blue prayer request cards at the time of the offering.)

Offertory “My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less” *arr. A. Beck*

*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 383, vss. 1–4 “This Is a Day of New Beginnings”

*Benediction

*Postlude “Fanfare” *J. Mouret*

ENRICHING OUR WORSHIP OF GOD

Usher Carla Chieffo

Greeter Alice Bell

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

Coffee Server Pat Marshall

Guest Organist Janet Wooden

Rejoicing Ringers James Adams, Garrick Bellew, Genevieve Bellew, Rowan Bellew, Sophie Coradi, Ryan Crill, Brandon Marshall, Emily Marshall, Ryan Marshall, Claire Tiede

Devon Chapel Bells Susan Bain, Christian Fish, Betsy Miller, Jim Tiede

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!

SUNDAY SCHOOL

After the Children’s Time, grades K–12th will leave with their teachers. If this is your child’s first time in Sunday School, the ushers have pamphlets that tell you everything you need to know. As always, nursery care is provided for children ages 5 and under. Please be sure to check children in 4th grade and under in the back of the sanctuary before worship begins.

PICK-UP CHOIR REHEARSAL

We have begun the process of searching for a new Director of Music, but that doesn’t mean we can’t still have a choir! We would love to have singers in the loft helping lead the congregation in hymns on Sunday mornings. Anyone who is interested in practicing the hymns for next week is invited to come at 9:10 a.m. next Sunday. Even if you don’t think of yourself as a “choir singer,” you sing the hymns anyway, so we hope you will give this a shot! Feel free to contact Nancy Kimmons with any questions.

STRATEGIC PLANNING TRANSFORMATION TEAM

Our Transformation Team had its first meeting on Thursday. Team members are **Nancy Arico, Lauren Feldman, Christa Fisher, Nancy Higgins, Lisa Howell, Jim Little, Rich Loomis, Jim Ryland, and Steve Scolari.** Pastor **Patrick** and Pastor **Ridgley** are also working with them. We will be commissioning them in worship soon, and we ask you to pray for them as they work to discern the church that God is calling us to be! Our “Book Nook” for the fall will feature the books that the team is reading with our consultant, Graham Standish, if you would like to read along with them!

PASTOR PATRICK’S DOCTORAL UPDATE

Patrick submitted the first of four chapters for his doctoral thesis paper this past week and received approval with no edits! This week, he will be taking a continuing education week to try to finish writing chapter 2. So while he will be working in his office, he will not be available by phone or email. Pastor Ridgley is available for any pastoral care needs. Thank you for understanding!

SUPPER AT ST. JOHN'S – WEDNESDAY NIGHTS AT 6:00 P.M.

Join us for dinner every Wednesday night 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. 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 week we will be finishing our study of *The Journey: Walking the Road to Bethlehem* by Adam Hamilton. This is a discussion and video-based course in which we will travel from Nazareth to Bethlehem in a fascinating look at the birth of Jesus Christ.

WOMEN'S BOOK STUDY – 2 OPPORTUNITIES!

This fall, the Sunday Women's Book Group will be continuing our study of the book of Isaiah. If you have any questions, or are interested in attending, please contact Nancy Wolfe. The group meets at 8:00 a.m. in the Carriage House. The Monday is reading *Sitting at the Feet of Rabbi Jesus* by Ann Spangler and Lois Tverberg (available on Amazon). The group meets at 11:00 a.m. in the Kean Room. If you have any questions or are interested in attending, please contact Nancy Arico.

MEN'S GROUP

The next meeting of our Men's Group will be on **Wednesday, October 25 at 7:00 a.m.** in the Carriage House to continue their study of Paul's letter to the Philippians (chapter 3). All men are welcome!

NURSERY HELP NEEDED

We are still looking for a volunteer to serve in the nursery on the first and third Sundays of the month. If you are interested, please contact Pastor Ridgley.

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.

DIVORCE RECOVERY SEMINAR

This January, the Deacons are hosting our first ever Divorce Recovery Seminar in our community. The seminar will be led by two licensed therapists and will be based on the book, "Rebuilding: When Your Relationship Ends" by Dr. Bruce Fisher. Because this is unlike anything that has been offered in this area, we need your help to get the word out! If you have a friend, divorce attorney, therapist, or community board that you would like to share this information with, please take a flyer and some brochures home with you today. They are located next to the entrance of the sanctuary closest to Pastor Ridgley's office. We will be having an informational meeting on Zoom on **Monday, October 2 at 7:00 p.m.** for those interested in participating in the class.

TRUNK OR TREAT

Sunday, October 29 (5:00–7:00 p.m.)

Our annual Trunk or Treat returns on Sunday, October 29! Please email Cindy Kerr to join the fun by hosting a trunk or volunteering to help. We also are accepting candy donations. You can leave a bag of individually wrapped candy with Roseann in the church office. Spread the word to your friends and family...all are welcome!

ST. JOHN'S CALENDAR

Sun, October 8	8:15 am	Trustees Meeting (Kean Room)
	9:30 am	Worship, Sunday School
	9:45 am	Confirmation Class (Carriage House)
Mon, October 9	11:00am	Women's Book Study (Kean Room)
	7:00 pm	Session Meeting (Kean Room)
Tues. October 10	5:00 pm	Exercise Class (Fellowship Hall)
Wed, October 11	9:00 am	Companions in Prayer (Kean Room)
	6:00 pm	Supper at St. John's (Fellowship Hall)
Sat, October 14	9:00 am	Exercise Class (Fellowship Hall)
Sun, October 15	9:30 am	Worship, Sunday School
	4:30 pm	Youth Fellowship (Carriage House)

This Week in the Church Office

Our Church Administrator Roseann Christian is in the office from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays. She is working virtually on Mondays and Wednesdays, available by phone and email. If you call the church office, she will still answer. Any announcements for next week's bulletin or email must be sent to her by Noon on Wednesday.

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.**



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Roseann Christian, Church Administrator (Admin@stjohnsdevon.com)
Sue Chudy, Clerk of Session (susan.chudy@stjohnsdevon.com)



A CHURCH FAMILY, A FAMILY CHURCH

To live in this world
you must be able
to do three things:
to love what is mortal;
to hold it
against your bones knowing
your own life depends on it;
and, when the time comes to let it go,
to let it go.

– From the poem "In Blackwater Woods"
by Mary Oliver

October 8, 2023

For the latest information and news about St. John's:
www.stjohnsdevon.com
facebook.com/stjohnspresbyteriandeonpa