

St. John’s at Worship Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Welcome and Announcements

Introit “From the Rising of the Sun” *Anon*

*Answering God’s Call to Worship

One: Praise the Lord!
Give thanks for God’s goodness!
All: God’s steadfast love endures forever.
One: Happy are those who observe justice,
who do righteousness at all times.

**All: Save us, Lord, and gather us from among the nations,
that we may give thanks to your holy name,
and glory in your praise.**

One: Come and worship God!

*Hymn **25 (Green)** “Come, Worship God”

*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

One: Ever present God, you call us to be your hands in this world.
**All: Forgive us for the times we have been afraid
to reach out toward those left out or kept away.
Help us to recognize the harm we have done
in our actions and inactions,
and lead us to work toward a different way.**

One: You call us to be your feet in this world.
**All: Forgive us for the times we have not tread lightly.
Guide us to live in harmony with the earth that gives us life,
instead of treating it as something to be conquered.**

One: You call us to live in this world with open hearts.
**All: Forgive us for the ways we have closed ourselves off from you.
Remind us of your expansive love,
that we might recognize your presence everywhere we go.**

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 (**Insert**) “Glory to God Whose Goodness Shines on Me”

*Affirming Our Faith

**The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles
rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture,
engages us through the Word proclaimed,
claims us in the waters of baptism,
feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation,
and calls women and men to all ministries of the church.**

**In a broken and fearful world, the Spirit gives us courage
to pray without ceasing,
to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,
to unmask idolatries in Church and culture,
to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,
and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.**

**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!”**

Scripture Reading Exodus 32:1–14 (pg. 78. O.T.) Nancy Davis

Children’s Time Rev. Marshall

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 **821 (Insert)** “My Life Flows On”

Sermon RE-FORMING Rev. Joyner

Offering (Ushers will also collect blue prayer request cards at the time of the offering.)
Offertory “Turn, Turn, Turn” *Seeger*

*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 **117 (vss. 1, 3, 6)** “O God, Our Help in Ages Past”

*Benediction

*Postlude “Day by Day” *Schwartz & Tebelak*

ENRICHING OUR WORSHIP OF GOD

Usher Lynne Hay
Greeter Wanda Odom
Flowers The flowers are given by the Lortz family to thank the members of St. John’s for their prayers and support during Dan’s recovery. God does indeed listen to our prayers!
Coffee Server Barbara McClintick
Musicians Nancy Kimmons, John Senior, Lisa Howell, Pam Schafer, Richard Scott, Troy Fisher

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 has begun their work of discerning what God is calling St. John’s to be and do now. 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!

PASTORAL UPDATE

Pastor Patrick finished writing chapter 2 of his doctoral thesis this past week and is awaiting word on approval/revisions. He will be out of the office on vacation this week to recover and celebrate his birthday on Tuesday! Starting tomorrow, he will be unavailable by email or phone until Tuesday, October 24. During that time, Pastor Ridgley is available for any pastoral care needs.

RYAN’S CASE FOR SMILES

St. John’s is an active partner with Ryan’s Case for Smiles, whose mission is to enable children with cancer and other life-changing illnesses, as well as their families, to feel and heal better. On the fourth Monday of each month at 1:00 p.m., volunteers gather in Fellowship Hall to cut, pin, sew, iron, and pack pillowcases for children at CHOP, St. Christopher’s, and Shriners’ hospitals. Not only do the children smile when they see their pillowcases, but we enjoy getting together and making them! Word has spread of our sewing days, and several non-church members have become faithful volunteers. We would love to have you join us each month, and we hope that through the envelopes provided in the bulletin, you will help support the purchase of fabric required to continue this mission. Checks can be made out to St. John’s with RCFS in the memo line. Thank you!

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP – TODAY! (4:30–6 P.M.)

Youth in grades 5-12 are invited to join us in the Carriage House this afternoon for a mission project (packing College Care Packages!) and tie-dying this year's youth group t-shirts! Youth Advisory Council will gather at 4 p.m. in the Carriage House prior to youth fellowship.

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 starting a new study, *Faithful: Christmas Through the Eyes of Joseph* by Adam Hamilton. 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 26, from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.** We hope that you will join us!

TRUNK OR TREAT – SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29 (5:00–6:30 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! Youth will gather for Grog in the Carriage House from 6:15–7:00 p.m.

DEACONS CLOTHING DRIVE

This year we are collecting new and gently-used clothing for The Coalition to Save Lives in Norristown. They are in need of both adult and children's coats, jackets, sweaters, boots, shoes, hats, and mittens. All donations are greatly appreciated and can be dropped off in the front closet of the Carriage House through November 8. Please contact Ann Roberts (610-952-1128 or annroberts204@gmail.com) with any questions.

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!

WOMEN'S BOOK STUDY – 2 OPPORTUNITIES!

This fall, the Sunday Women's Book Group are continuing their study of the book of Isaiah. The group meets at 8:00 a.m. in the Carriage House. If you have questions, or are interested in attending, please contact Nancy Wolfe. The Monday group 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.

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.

ST. JOHN'S CALENDAR

Sun, October 15	9:30 am	Worship, Sunday School
	10:45 am	Confirmation Mentor Meeting (Kean Rm.)
	4:00 pm	Youth Advisory Council (Carriage House)
	4:30 pm	Youth Fellowship (Carriage House)
Mon, October 16	11:00 am	Women's Book Study (Kean Room)
Tues. October 17	5:00 pm	Exercise Class (Fellowship Hall)
Wed, October 18	9:00 am	Companions in Prayer (Kean Room)
	6:00 pm	Supper at St. John's (Fellowship Hall)
Sat, October 21	9:00 am	Exercise Class (Fellowship Hall)
	9:30 am	Interfaith Group (Carriage House)
Sun, October 22	9:30 am	Worship, Sunday School
	9:45 am	Confirmation Class (Kean Room)

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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Sue Chudy, Clerk of Session (susan.chudy@stjohnsdevon.com)



A CHURCH FAMILY, A FAMILY CHURCH

"The backward and forward reference of reform invites us on the one hand to attend respectfully to the wisdom and Scriptural interpretations of those who have gone before us with humility.

On the other hand, it pushes us to do more than simply reiterate what fathers and mothers in the faith have said.

Rather, we must do in our day what they did in theirs, worship and serve the living God.

Therefore, while we honor the forms of faith and life that have been bequeathed to us, we honor them best in a spirit of openness to the Word and the Spirit that formed and continue to re-form the church. The church, because of who God is, a living God, remains open to always being reformed."

– Rev. Anna Case-Winters

October 15, 2023

For the latest information and news about St. John's:

www.stjohnsdevon.com

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