

The Fourth Sunday in Lent

An asterisk () indicates that you are invited to stand as you are able.*

Welcome and Announcements

Introit “God’s Grace” *Valerie W. Stephenson*

*Answering God’s Call to Worship

One: On our worst days,

All: God is good.

One: On our best days,

All: God is good.

One: When life is consistent,

All: God is good.

One: And when life turns on its head,

All: God is good.

One: Day and night, Sunday through Saturday,

All: God is good. God is here. God is love.

One: Hold tight to that good news, and let us worship God!

*Hymn **400** “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

*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

Holy God, we often find ourselves moving through a world that does not make sense.

Like Peter, we want to shout, “This should not happen!”

We want to control scenarios that are beyond our reach.

We want to hold your world in our hands.

Forgive us for the moments when we are led by fear instead of faith.

Forgive us for arguing when we could listen.

Forgive us for the ways that we cling to this world and to our lives.

Soften our hard edges and teach us how to listen.

Help us to deny ourselves, so that we can truly follow you.

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

**I believe in a God of second chances,
a God who sees through my stubbornness
and holds my fear with tenderness.**

**I believe that this God of second chances
uses ordinary people like Peter to do good in the world.**

Therefore, I believe and hope that God can use me, too.

**I believe that from time to time,
God invites us to imagine the impossible.**

**I believe that from time to time,
God invites us to change our minds.**

This change is holy and important work, although challenging.

**When fear and scarcity plague me,
or when the impossible feels out of reach,**

I believe that God meets me with grace and invites me to follow.

Thanks be to God for a love like that. Amen.

Anthem “Heart of God” *Z. Williams*

Scripture Reading Matthew 16:21–28 (pg. 18, N.T.) Jim Ryland

Children’s Time 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!**

Sermon “I’M FIXED UPON IT” Rev. Dr. Marshall
Sermon Series – Wandering Heart: Figuring Out Faith with Peter

Offering (Blue prayer request cards can be placed in the offering trays.)
Offertory “Come Healing” *L. Cohen*

*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

*Hymn **339 (Insert)** “Be Thou My Vision”

*Benediction

*Postlude “Amazing Grace” *Traditional*

ENRICHING OUR WORSHIP OF GOD

Greeter Wanda Odom

Usher Cindy Kerr

Flowers Given by Pam Schafer in loving memory of my mother and father with gratitude, love, joy, and sorrow.

Coffee Server Debbie Bellew

Organist Nancy Kimmons

Joy Messengers Nancy Kimmons, John Senior, Linda Duncan,
Lauren Feldman, Troy Fisher, Lisa Howell, Jeff Wagner

Bell Ringers James Adams, Garrick Bellew, Genevieve Bellew, Rowan Bellew, Sophie Coradi, Ryan Crill, Avery Hillier, Brandon Marshall, Emily Marshall, Ryan Marshall, Claire 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.

MEN’S GROUP

The next meeting of our Men’s Group will be on **Wednesday, March 20 at 7:00 a.m.** in the Carriage House. All men are welcome!

WOMEN’S BOOK STUDY – 2 OPPORTUNITIES!

The Sunday Women’s Book Group meets at 8:00 a.m. in the Carriage House to study *A is for Alabaster: 52 Reflections on the Stories of Scripture* by Anna Carter Florence. If you have questions, please contact Nancy Wolfe (nj.wolfe@verizon.net). The Monday group meets at meets at 11:30 a.m. in the Kean Room to read *The Universal Christ* by Richard Rohr. If you have questions, please contact Nancy Arico (nancy.arico@verizon.net).

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

The 2024 Flower Sponsorship Chart is posted in Fellowship Hall. If you would like to sponsor the flowers in the sanctuary on a Sunday, just write your name by the date. You can contact Lisa Estabrook (610-608-2842 or Lisa.L.Estabrook@gmail.com) with any questions.

DVFRIENDS ORIGINAL MUSICAL – THIS WEEK

DVFriends is a school for bright students in grades 1-12 with language-based learning differences, ADHD, and executive function challenges. Each year students write, score, and perform an original musical. In December, St. John’s hosted the scriptwriters’ annual retreat day in the Carriage House. Six students from grades 7-12 spent the day writing scenes, working on musical melodies, and making tremendous progress on this year’s show. The result is *Bloodlines*, a story about a family separated as they try to escape a cult. Years later, the children who escaped discover this secret and that they have a sibling who might still be in the cult. They embark on a journey to uncover the truth, find their missing sibling, and reunite their family. The students would like to invite anyone from St. John’s who is interested to attend one of the musical performances this week: **Thursday, March 14 (3:30-4:30 p.m.); Friday, March 15 and Saturday, March 16 (both 7-8 p.m.)** at the school (19 E. Central Avenue in Paoli). Admission is free, and all are welcome. Thank you, St John’s for opening your church home to DV students!

DEACONS BLANKET DRIVE

We have been collecting gently-used blankets for the Presbyterian Church on the Mall located in the Plymouth Meeting Mall. They operate a “code blue” shelter where any donated blankets are greatly appreciated. Blankets can be dropped off in the front closet of the Carriage House. Please contact Ann Roberts (610-952-1128 or annroberts204@gmail.com) with any questions.

LENTEN SERMON SERIES

We are in the midst of a Lenten sermon series called, “Wandering Heart: Figuring Out Faith with Peter.” Like many of us, Peter has a wandering heart. His journey is not polished, linear, or perfect, but he is always tethered to the love of God. When you look closely at Peter’s story, you find Jesus at each step along the way – offering him abundance, catching him when he begins to sink, challenging him when he stands in the way, washing his feet, predicting his betrayal, and offering him love. This Lent, we will wander alongside Peter, open to what we might learn about Jesus (and ourselves) by stepping in his shoes.

SUPPER AT ST. JOHN’S

There are only two weeks left of Supper at St. John’s! 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. This is a wonderful time of food, fellowship, and education; 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! You are welcome to come for dinner, even if you cannot stay for the class (or just come for the class).

The Rev. Dick Ollinger is leading a Bible study on *Encounters with Jesus in the Gospel of John*, which looks at some of the life-giving and life-changing encounters Jesus had with individuals in the Gospel of John, and we reflect together on the implications they bear for our faith today. Study guides for each week can be found on St. John’s website under “Resources,” click on “News,” then click on “Supper at St. John’s.”

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP

Sunday, March 24 marks the beginning of Holy Week, leading up to Jesus’ death and resurrection. There are several ways for you to observe this week:

Sunday, March 24 – Palm Sunday

Families are invited to join us on Sunday, March 24 for a morning of fun! Children in 4th grade and under will gather at the beginning of worship for a Palm Parade, where they walk through the sanctuary waving palms during the opening hymn. After Sunday School, parents will bring them out to the Memorial Garden for an egg hunt! If you are interested in donating candy for this event, please leave your donated bag in the Church Office by March 18!

Thursday, March 28 – Maundy Thursday

We gather at 7:00 p.m. to share communion and observe the night of Jesus’ betrayal and arrest, when he shared the last supper with his disciples.

Sunday, March 31 – Easter Sunday

Join us for worship at 9:30 a.m. as we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ!

SAVE THE DATES – CHANGEMAKERS KIDS CLUB

June 25, July 23, August 20 from 5:30–8:00 p.m. (with dinner)

This summer we will be partnering with St. Luke Lutheran Church in Devon to provide a once-a-month bible camp for busy families. We will explore, experiment, and observe all the ways God loves us and how we can change the world for better. This event is for children 2 years old to rising 5th graders. Youth in grades 6 to 12 are invited to come and help as counselors! Registration begins on May 1.

ST. JOHN’S CALENDAR

Sun, Mar 10	Fourth Sunday in Lent
	8:00 am Women’s Book Group (Carriage House)
	8:15 am Trustees Meeting (Kean Room)
	9:30 am Worship, Sunday School
Mon, Mar 11	11:30 am Women’s Book Study (Kean Room)
	7:00 pm Session Meeting (Kean Room)
Tues, Mar 12	5:00 pm Exercise Class (Fellowship Hall)
Wed, Mar 13	9:00 am Companions in Prayer (Kean Room)
	6:00 pm Supper at St. John’s (Fellowship Hall)
Thurs, Mar 14	5:00 pm Exercise Class (Fellowship Hall)
Sat, Mar 16	9:00 am Exercise Class (Fellowship Hall)
Sun, Mar 17	Fifth Sunday in Lent
	8:00 am Women’s Book Group (Kean Room)
	9:30 am Worship, Sunday School

This Week in the Church Office

Our Church Administrator Roseann Christian is in the office from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays. She works 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.**



www.stjohnsdevon.com

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Rev. Dr. Patrick Marshall, Pastor (patrick.marshall@stjohnsdevon.com)
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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

“Open Hands”
by Rev. Sarah Speed

We are born with the ability
to wrap our fingers around another,
to hold tight to what we know.
Maybe that’s where the instinct comes from—
this clinging,
this sinking,
this holding on.
Maybe that’s why Peter cries, “Never!”
when Jesus must leave.
From the very beginning
we’ve known how to hold tight.
So I pray:
open up my hands.
Uncurl my fingers
one by one.
Loosen the grip
that I hold unyielding.
Remind me that birds must fly
and children must grow
and leaves must fall.
And even though
we are born with the ability
to hold tight,
we can learn how to love
with open hands.

March 10, 2024
For the latest information and news about St. John’s:
www.stjohnsdevon.com
facebook.com/stjohnspresbyteriandevonpa