

St. John's at Worship The Third Sunday of Easter

Welcome and Announcements

Minute for Mission Great Valley Food Cupboard Carol Claypoole

Introit "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name" Holden/
arr. Bill Ingram

*Answering God's Call to Worship

One: Jesus said, "Follow me."

All: Jesus said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid."

One: Jesus said, "Forgive seventy times seven."

All: Jesus said, "Feed my sheep."

One: In response, we say:

**All: "Here's my heart, take and seal it,
Seal it for thy courts above."**

One: Let us worship God with all our hearts.

*Hymn 304 "Easter People, Raise Your Voices"

*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

Gracious God, like Peter, we crawl out of the boat only to sink.

You tell us your truth, and we push it away.

We ask about forgiveness and are surprised by abundance.

We profess our faith and deny it three times.

We run to the empty tomb and leave in silence.

**Over and over again, we find ourselves wandering aimlessly
along the journey of faith.**

Tether us to your heart.

Forgive our denials and our limited imagination.

**Call us out of the boat once more, Lord,
because we are eager to return to 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

**We believe in a God who shows up in our lives,
surprising and catching us off-guard in the best of ways.**

**We believe in a God who cares for God's people,
a shepherd who longs for her sheep to be fed and tended.**

**We believe in a God who took on flesh,
a God whose love changed the world as we know it.**

**We believe that this here-and-now God invites us out of the boat,
calling ordinary people like Peter...like us...
into community and a life of loving service.**

And so we give this God our hearts.

We give our whole hearts to Jesus, and nothing less. Amen.

Scripture Reading John 21:9–19 (pg. 115, N.T.) Libby Dalrymple

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!**

*Hymn 393 "Spirit of the Living God"

Sermon HERE'S MY HEART 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 *Excerpts from Three Pieces*
Helen Zheng (Viola), Grace Xia (Flute)

*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 267 (Green), vss. 1, 2, 4, 5
"Will You Come and Follow Me"

*Benediction

*Postlude

ENRICHING OUR WORSHIP OF GOD

Guest Organist Tatiana Abramova
Ushers Libby & Dave Dalrymple
Greeter Kristen Loftus
Flowers Given by Lynn Brown and Jean Converse in loving
memory of our parents, Gwendolyn & Kramer Johnson
Coffee Server Joe Arico
Devon Chapel Bells Diane Alleva, Christina Fish, Sue Beth Johnson,
Jim Tiede, Nancy Veronesi

WELCOME TO ST. JOHN'S!

We are so happy that you have joined us this morning to celebrate the good news of Jesus Christ, and we hope that you experience the new life that this season of Easter brings! 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 each of the sanctuary doors. We would love for you to join us downstairs for refreshments and fellowship immediately 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.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING OFFERING

Throughout the season of Easter, we are receiving the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering, which goes to provide water, food, and disaster relief for those in need around the world. Please use the envelopes located in the pew rack or visit <http://specialofferings.pcusa.org/oghs> to learn more and give online.

PROGRESSIVE DINNER

St. John's Annual Progressive Dinner will be held on Saturday, May 11, and we are looking for hosts! The evening begins at one home where we will all gather together for appetizers and drinks. Then we will move to different homes for dinner and dessert in small groups. Please sign up in the Fellowship Hall or send an email to laurengfeldman@yahoo.com.

MEN'S GROUP

The Men's Group will be this **Wednesday, April 17 at 7:00 a.m.** in the Carriage House to discuss chapter 4 of Romans. 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 Jeanne Lynam (cwlynam@msn.com) or text 610-724-2704 with any questions.

DEACONS FOOD DRIVE

The Deacons will be holding a food drive to support the Great Valley Food Cupboard, starting on April 14. There will be large plastic bins in Fellowship Hall to collect 1-pound cans of coffee, Keurig cups, boxes of hot chocolate packets, and boxes of iced tea or lemonade packets. Please contact Betsy Friend with any questions (610-647-4142).

St. John's is one of the largest supporters of the Cupboard located at 945 North Valley Forge Road in Devon. They are open every Tuesday (11:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.) and every second Wednesday of the month (6:00–8:00p.m.) and support 200 individuals and 30 families in our community. St. John's grows and shares herbs from our church garden each season. Carol Claypoole (churchclrk@aol.com) has been the coordinator for 12 years.

LENTEN/EASTER SERMON SERIES

Today marks the end of our Lenten/Easter sermon series, "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. So for one last time, we will wander alongside Peter, open to what we might learn about Jesus (and ourselves) by stepping in his shoes.

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

Youth in grades 5–12 are invited to join us in the Carriage House for a Spring Cleaning workday. We'll be sprucing up our community spaces and enjoying dinner together!

BOOK NOOK – WE WANT YOUR HELP!

As we prepare for our Summer Book Nook in Fellowship Hall, we are asking for your help. Send us the titles of your favorite books, and we will include them throughout the summer. It doesn't just have to be "church books." It can be novels, history, poetry, science, even cookbooks...all genres are welcome! Just email your submissions to Pastor Patrick (Patrick.marshall@stjohnsdevon.com).

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, Apr 14

Third Sunday in Easter

8:00 am Women's Book Group
8:30 am Trustees Meeting (Kean Room)
9:30 am Worship, Sunday School
10:45 am Session Meeting with Confirmation Students and Parents (Kean Room)

Mon, Apr 15

6:00 pm All Boards Dinner (Fellowship Hall)

Tues, Apr 16

5:00 pm Exercise Class (Fellowship Hall)

Wed, Apr 17

7:00 am Men's Group (Carriage House)
9:00 am Companions in Prayer (Kean Room)

Thurs, Apr 18

5:00 pm Exercise Class (Fellowship Hall)

Sat, Apr 20

9:00 am Exercise Class (Fellowship Hall)

Sun, Apr 21

Fourth Sunday in Easter (Confirmation Sunday)

8:00 am Women's Book Group (Kean Room)
9:30 am Worship, Sunday School

This Week in the Church Office

Pastor Ridgley is taking a continuing education course Monday, April 14 through Thursday, April 18 in the mornings. She will be available via email and phone after 1:00 p.m. this week.

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)

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

"Here's My Heart" by Rev. Sarah Speed

As a child I made a nativity set for my mother –
pinch pot clay, uneven angel wings,
hair made with the help of a garlic press,
Joseph's staff rolled out like I was God and it was an earthworm.

There was nothing beautiful about it,
nothing whispering of talent, but I made it for my mother!

So I wrapped that questionable piece of art in a box
and gave it to her like I was handing her a Picasso.

Here, mother, you carried me in your womb.

You bandaged my knees when I fell.

You made soup when I was sick.

You rocked me to sleep as an infant
and sewed my costumes by hand.

In return, I made you this haphazard nativity!

And in my childlike mind, I thought that the small white lamb,

molded from a lumpy piece of clay,

could somehow make us even,

could somehow balance the scales,

could somehow pay her back.

And bless my mother, because in her grace,

she smiled and she displayed

that hodge-podge nativity set on the mantel,
as if it were her pride and joy. (I believed that it was.)

Maybe that's the way it is with God.

I say, Here's my heart, and God smiles. And God takes it.

And despite the ragtag nature of my human-hearted faith,

whatever I can give always ends up on God's mantel.

Whatever I can give always calls for pride and joy.

April 14, 2024

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

www.stjohnsdevon.com

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