St. John's at Worship The First Sunday of Advent

Welcome and Announcements

Introit	"Kyrie"	Dvorak			
*Lighting the Advent Wreath The Yoder Family					
One:	On this First Sunday of Advent, we light the candle of hope.				
	How does a weary world hope?				
All:	By telling stories of hope,				
	By lighting candles in the night,				
	And planting seeds in the winter that				
	Will bloom in the spring.				
One:	By praying for children as they grow, and pick	ing up trash on the			
	sidewalk.				
All:	By insisting that small acts can make a difference.				
One:	There are a million ways to practice hope.				
	So today we light the candle of hope as a remin	der and a charge.			
	(Lights candle)				
All:	With God's help, may we bring hope into a v	veary world.			
*Hymn 19 0	6 "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus"				
Prayer of Invocation & Confession					

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.

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 hears our prayers, Who knows the shape and form of our weariness. We believe in a God who wants joy and delight for us, Not just survival and existence. We believe in a God who looks ahead, Who is not done dreaming for the world--A God who sends hope in the form of people and change, Movements and Spirit. And so we return to this space, We bring our joy and our weariness Like two sides of the same coin, And we trust that God is already at work. Yes, we believe in a God who hears our prayers. Thanks be to God for a love like that. Amen.

Scripture Reading

Luke 1:1-23 (pg. 56, N.T.)

Jim Ryland

As Pre-K-4th graders leave for Sunday School, we send them with this liturgy: Now we go our separate ways to worship and learn about God. Pastor: Cong.: May God be with you there! Children: May God be with you here! "How Can I Keep from Singing" Anthem arr. Barnard

Sermon HOPE Rev. Joyner Advent Series: How Does a Weary World Rejoice?

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

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.

"Live into Hope"

ENRICHING OUR WORSHIP OF GOD

"People Look East"

"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"

(vs. 1, 2)

The Deacons are accepting sponsorships through December 8th for beautiful poinsettias to decorate our sanctuary for Christmas. The cost of each pot will be \$10 and the plant will be yours to take home with you after the service on December 29th. A Deacon will be at coffee hour to take your name and collect your money on each of those Sundays. You may also contact Jeanne Lynam at (cwlynam@msn.com) or by text/phone at 610-724-2704.

We hope you'll join us for the second Lunch & Learn of the year! Guests will meet in the Fellowship Hall for a light lunch (soup and sandwiches). We will be joined by Ohev Shalom Synagogue's Rabbinical Intern Lesley Pearl and Rev. Ridgley Joyner as we talk about "Lights of the World" and learn more about the celebration of Advent and Hannukah. Please RSVP using the link on our website or the weekly newsletter. If you can make a soup to share, even better! Indicate that on the form. For more information, contact Pastor Ridgley.

Organist Janet Wooden Greeters Nancy and Joe Arico

WELCOME TO ST. JOHN'S!

*Hymn 626

Invitation to the Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

*Presentation of Offering & Doxology

Communion of the People

Prayer after Communion

*Prayer of Dedication

*Hymn **insert**

*Benediction

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!

COMMUNION SUNDAY

We will be sharing the Lord's Supper today. This is not just for Presbyterians or members of St. John's. Everyone who seeks to know and love Jesus Christ is welcome to share in this meal! You will be invited to come forward up the center aisle, take a piece of bread, and dip it in the cup (all of the bread is gluten-free). There is also a basket of pre-sealed juice cups, if you would prefer not to do intinction.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

After the scripture reading, grades $K-4^{th}$ will leave with their teachers. Grades 5-12 will remain for communion. 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.

OFFERING & PRAYER CARDS

If you would like to support the life and ministry of St. John's, there are offering trays located at each door in the sanctuary. You can also give

electronically through our website (click the "Donate" button at the top right), or through the Church Center app. Prayer request cards can be placed in one of the offering trays before worship or during the greeting time.

PLEDGES FOR 2025

Thank you to everyone who has already pledged to support the life and ministry of our church family in the coming year. It's not too late to make a pledge for 2025! You can submit a pledge on our website or by using one of the cards on the usher's table in the back of the sanctuary.

MEN'S GROUP

The Men's Group will meet this Wednesday, December 4 at 7:00 a.m. in the Carriage House to discuss chapter 15 of Romans. All men are welcome!

WOMEN'S BOOK STUDY - 2 OPPORTUNITIES!

The Sunday group meets in the Carriage House from 8:15-9:20 a.m. We encourage you to join us for a four-week study, continuing next week, December 15 with Lesson 3. NT Wright's book Advent for Everyone: Matthew, can be purchased via Amazon for \$11. Questions can be addressed to Nancy Wolfe (nj.wolfe@verizon.net) or Libby Dalrymple (cadalrymple85@gmail.com). We hope you will join us!

The Monday group meets at 10:00 a.m., both in person in the Kean Room and on Zoom (use the church Zoom room link on the website) to discuss Encountering God in Tyrannical Texts: Reflections on Paul, Women, and the Authority of Scripture by Frances Taylor Gench. If you would like to find out more contact Nancy Arico (nancy.arico@verizon.net or 610-550-9547).

POINSETTIAS – NOW ACCEPTING SPONSORSHIPS!

LUNCH & LEARN – MONDAY, DECEMBER 16 (11:30 A.M.–1:00 P.M.)

TRANSFORMATION TEAM PRESENTATIONS

The Transformation Team has completed their work, and their proposal has been unanimously approved by the Session. They are now ready to share that work with you! They will be holding three sessions to walk through their proposal with you and answer your questions:

Saturday, December 7 (11:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall) Thursday, December 12 (7:00 p.m. on Zoom) Sunday, December 15 (11:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall)

The presentation will be recorded and made available in case you cannot make one of those dates. We hope that you will join us as we share the vision of the church that God is calling us to be going into the future!

YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY- DEC 15 4:30-6 PM

Join us in the Fellowship Hall for an evening of dinner (waffle bar!), games, and fellowship. Please wear your favorite Christmas jammies and bring a gift between \$10–15 for the White Elephant Gift Exchange!

PARENT MEETING FOR SUMMER TRIPS

There will be a meeting for parents on **December 15 at 11:30 a.m.** in the Kean Room to discuss upcoming summer trips for the Children & Youth Program. Contact admin@stjohnsdevon.com for additional information.

CAREGIVERS SUPPORT GROUP

St. John's is partnering with Lauren Tiede to host a support group through CaringKind, a nonprofit that creates, delivers, and promotes comprehensive and compassionate care and support services for individuals and families affected by Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. The group will start meeting in January, meeting weekly for 10 weeks, for those who are/have been caregivers for loved ones who have Alzheimer's and related dementias. If you are interested in learning more, please contact Lauren Tiede (ltied@cknyc.org)

HANGING OF THE GREENS- TODAY!

Advent has begun and it is time to decorate the Sanctuary! Please consider staying after worship to help put up the tree, hang greens on the pews, and decorate the Sanctuary for the season.

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICES St. John's offers several ways for you to celebrate the birth of Christ:

Wednesday, Dec. 18 (7:00 p.m.)

Longest Night Service (with communion) For those who are struggling to celebrate this season.

Sunday, Dec. 24 (4:00 p.m. & 8:00 p.m.)

Christmas Eve Worship 4:00 p.m. – Family Service (Christmas Pageant Returns!) 8:00 p.m. – Candlelight

We hope that you will join us, and feel free to bring family and friends! Children and youth wishing to participate in the nativity tableau are encouraged to come to the Family Service at 3:50pm to pick out their costume ahead of time.

ST. JOHN'S CALENDAR				
Sun, Dec 1	The First Sunday of Advent			
	8:15 am	Women's Book Group		
	9:30 am	Worship & Communion		
Mon, Dec. 2	10:00 am	Women's Book Group (Kean Room)		
Tues, Dec. 3	5:00 pm	Exercise Class (Fellowship Hall)		
Wed, Dec. 4	3:00 pm	TE Care Holiday Drive Begins (CH)		

3:00 pm	TE Care Holiday Drive (CH)
5:00 pm	Exercise Class (Fellowship Hall)
7:00 pm	Choir Practice (Sanctuary)
7:00 pm	Trans. Team Presentation (Zoom)
9:00 am	TE Care Holiday Drive (CH)
9:00 am	DVFS Group in Youth Room
9:00 am	Exercise Class
9:00 am	TE Care Holiday Drive (CH)
11:00 am	Trans. Team Presentation (Fell. Hall)
The Second Sunday of Advent	
8:15 am	Women's Book Group
8:15 am	Trustees Meeting (Kean Room)
9:30 am	Worship & Sunday School
10:45 am	Session Meeting – New Members (Kean)
11:00 am	Advent Crafternoon
Noon	TE Care Holiday Drive (CH)
	5:00 pm 7:00 pm 7:00 pm 9:00 am 9:00 am 9:00 am 11:00 am The So 8:15 am 8:15 am 9:30 am 10:45 am 11:00 am

This Week in the Church Office

Pastor Patrick is out of the office on vacation and will be back on Tuesday. Until then he is not available by email or phone. Pastor Ridgley is available for any pastoral care needs.

Any announcements for next week's bulletin or email can be sent to Annie at admin@stjohnsdevon.com by <u>Noon on Wednesday</u>.

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, please call 484-604-049



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Rev. Dr. Patrick Marshall, Pastor (patrick.marshall@stjohnsdevon.com) Rev. Ridgley Joyner, Associate Pastor (rjoyner@stjohnsdevon.com) Annie Carruthers, Church Administrator (admin@stjohnsdevon.com) Sue Chudy, Clerk of Session (susan.chudy@stjohnsdevon.com)



A CHURCH FAMILY, A FAMILY CHURCH

The last time I saw God By Rev. Sarah Speed (A Sanctified Art)

The last time I saw God face to face I was looking at a bed of tulips. God was every color of red. I was merely a mortal, in awe of it all. The time before that. we were tying back the curtains, looking for stars. God was the deepest purple and the brightest light. The time before that, the city was soft with snow. God was the quiet that tucked us all in. And in between these small gifts there were newborn babies, and sapling trees, homemade bread, the sound of a church

December 1, 2024 For the latest information and news about St. John's: www.stjohnsdevon.com facebook.com/stjohnspresbyteriandevonpa

> unzip the weight we carry around