

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 picking 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 reminder and a charge.
(Lights candle)
All: With God’s help, may we bring hope into a weary world.

*Hymn 196 “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

Children’s Time

As Pre-K–4th 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!

Anthem “How Can I Keep from Singing” arr. Barnard

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

*Hymn 626 “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence” (vs. 1, 2)

Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper

Invitation to the Table
Great Prayer of Thanksgiving
Communion of the People
Prayer after Communion

*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 insert “Live into Hope”

*Benediction “People Look East”

ENRICHING OUR WORSHIP OF GOD
Organist Janet Wooden
Greeters Nancy and Joe Arico

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!

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–4th 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!
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.

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

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:

we carry around