

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

Welcome and Announcements

Introit

*Lighting the Advent Wreath The Oliver Family

One: Last week we lit the candle of hope. (Light first candle)
On this Second Sunday of Advent, we light the candle of peace.
How does a weary world practice peace?

All: By listening before we speak and saying sorry when we need to.

One: By advocating for justice and caring for our neighbor.
By practicing Sabbath and forgiving seventy times seven.

All: By choosing grace over hate and opening the door for each other.

One: There are a million ways to practice peace. So today we light the candle of peace as a reminder and a charge. (Light second candle)

All: With God's help, may we bring peace into a weary world.

***Hymn 91 (Green)** “Awake! Awake and Greet the New Morn”

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 that joy is a sacred gift,
existing on a plane deeper than happiness,
stemming from the truth that we belong to God.**

We believe that joy is not meant for isolation.

**Joy is meant to be shared,
weaving us together in laughter and in hope.**

**And when joy feels impossibly out of reach,
we believe that part of being a sacred community
is leaning on one another.**

So together we say:

**I will share my joy when yours runs out.
You will share your joy when mine runs out.
And in doing so, we will both see God.**

Scripture Reading Luke 1:24–45 (pg. 56, N.T.) Jeanne Lynam

Children's Time

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!**

Anthem

Sermon REJOICING TOGETHER Rev. Dr. Marshall
Advent Series: How Does a Weary World Rejoice?

***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 431 “Let There Be Peace on Earth”

*Benediction

Postlude

ENRICHING OUR WORSHIP OF GOD

Organist	Nancy Kimmons
Joy Messengers	Troy Fisher, Lisa Howell, Nancy Kimmons, John McClintick, Pam Schafer, John Senior, Jeff Wagner
Usher	Jeanne Lynam
Greeters	Nancy & Joe Arico
Flowers	The flowers are given by Howard & Betsy Friend in memory of their mothers, Betty and Marjorie, whose birthdays are in December.

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–12 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.

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.

END OF YEAR GIFTS & PLEDGES FOR 2025

Year-end gifts will be credited in the 2024 tax year if they are postmarked) by December 31. Some members and friends of St. John's donate shares of stock or mutual funds at the end of the year. If you are interested in this option, we use Vanguard to process these transactions. Please ask your broker to use DTC number 0062; our account number is 6142 8971. If you have any questions, please contact Brian Bouvier (215-979-1415 or brianbouvier57@gmail.com).

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 18 at 7:00 a.m.** in the Carriage House to discuss chapter 16 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: A Time to Heal**. 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 will be taking a Christmas break and will resume in the new year on January 6. They meet at 10:00 a.m., both in person in the Kean Room and on Zoom (Use the church Zoom room link on the website). It would be a great time to join us! We will be reading and discussing *The Book of Forgiving: The Fourfold Path for Healing Ourselves and Our World* by Desmond Tutu and Mpho Tutu. A copy of the book will be added to the “Book Nook,” if you want to check it out. If you would like to find out more contact Nancy Arico (nancy.arico@verizon.net or 610-550-9547).

TRANSFORMATION TEAM PRESENTATIONS

The Transformation Team has completed their work, and their proposal has been unanimously approved by the Session. They held a gathering yesterday to walk through their proposal with you and answer your questions. There are two more of these gatherings coming up:

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!

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! We will meet in the Fellowship Hall for a light lunch (soup/sandwiches). Lesley Pearl (the Rabbinical Intern at Ohev Shalom Synagogue) and Pastor Ridgley will talk about "Lights of the World," as we 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, please indicate that on the form. For more information, contact Pastor Ridgley.

CHRISTMAS EVE POINSETTIAS – SIGN UP TODAY!

Today is the last day to purchase a poinsettia to decorate the sanctuary for Christmas Eve. The cost is \$10/plant, and it will be yours to take home after worship on December 29. You can sign up with a Deacon at Coffee Time, or you can contact Jeanne Lynam (cwlynam@msn.com or text/call 610-724-2704).

YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY & PARENTS’ MEETING FOR SUMMER TRIPS

Join us in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, December 15 from 4:30–6:00 p.m. for an evening of food (waffle bar!), games, and fellowship. Wear your favorite Christmas jammies and bring a gift between \$10–15 for the White Elephant Gift Exchange!

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.

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 story are encouraged to come to the Family Service at 3:50 p.m. to pick out their costume ahead of time.

CAREGIVING SUPPORT- COMING JANUARY 2025

Due to the needs of our members, we are pivoting in a different direction for the Caregivers Support Group. Lauren Tiede will be hosting a seminar after church in January focusing on caregiving. If you are interested in learning more about the Dementia Caregiving Support Groups CaringKind offers regularly, please contact Lauren Tiede (ltiede@cknyc.org)

DECEMBER BIRTHDAY’S AT ST. JOHN’S

Happy Birthday to members and friends of our church family who are celebrating birthdays this month! Please consider wishing them a happy birthday in person at church or send them birthday wishes by text, email, or a card in the mail.

- December 10 **Melanie Henricks**
- December 13 **Barb Beucler**
- December 16 **Earline Eck**
- December 25 **Avery Hillier**
- December 26 **Nancy Phillips**
- December 26 **Lisa Howell**
- December 30 **Sarah Crill**

If you have a December birthday and would like to be included on this list, please contact Barbara McConnell at blbmcconnell@aol.com.

ST. JOHN’S CALENDAR

The Second Sunday of Advent

- Sun, Dec. 8
 - 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
 - 12–2 pm TE Care Holiday Drive (Carr. House)
- Mon, Dec. 9
 - 9 am–5 pm TE Care Holiday Drive (Carr. House)
- Tues, Dec. 10
 - 7:00 pm Session Meeting (Kean Room)
- Wed, Dec. 11
 - 9 am–5 pm TE Care Holiday Drive (Carr. House)
- Thurs, Dec. 12
 - 5:00 pm Exercise Class (Fellowship Hall)
- Sat, Dec. 14
 - 8 am–5 pm TE Care Holiday Drive (Carr. House)
- Sun, Dec 15
 - 5:00 pm Exercise Class (Fellowship Hall)
 - 7:00 pm Choir Practice (Sanctuary)
 - 9:00 am Exercise Class (Fellowship Hall)

The Third Sunday of Advent

- 8:15 am Women’s Book Group
- 9:30 am Worship & Sunday School
- 11:30 am Parents’ Meeting – Summer Trips (Kean)
- 4:30 pm Youth Christmas Party (Fellowship Hall)
- 6:00 pm Officers’ Holiday Party (Carriage House)

This Week in the Church Office

Any announcements for next week’s bulletin or email can be sent to Annie at admin@stjohnsdevon.com 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, please call 484-604-0499

A CHURCH FAMILY, A FAMILY CHURCH

“Lessons in Connection”
By Rev. Sarah Speed

It’s been a long day,
long enough to complain,
long enough to wine and dine my disappointment,
to give weariness keys to the house.
But then you get the giggles,
dancing with the dog in the kitchen.
Paws-sliding, tail-wagging,
side-cramping giggles.
I can hear it from across the house.
Your joy burrows its way
through the cracks in my armor,
and then we are both laughing,
gulping for joyous, electric air.
And that’s when I know—
if you grab my hand,
if you ask me to dance,
if our weary human souls can
make room for connection,
then we will survive.
Joy will take root.
Love will keep her keys to the house.

December 8, 2024
For the latest information and news about St. John’s:
www.stjohnsdevon.com
facebook.com/stjohnspresbyteriandeonpa



www.stjohnsdevon.com

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