

St. John’s at Worship  
The Third Sunday of Advent

Prelude “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” arr. Krug

Welcome and Announcements

Introit “Prepare the Royal Highway” arr. Moglebust

\*Lighting the Advent Wreath The Tiede Family

One: We have lit the candles of hope and peace. (Light candles)  
On this Third Sunday of Advent, we light the candle of joy.  
How does a weary world practice joy?

All: By dancing and throwing birthday parties.

One: By hanging Christmas lights and holding sleepy babies.  
By singing loudly and looking for good news.

All: By telling the story of Jesus and showing up for our community.

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

All: With God’s help, may we bring joy into a weary world.

\*Hymn (Insert) “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

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 knows our names,  
who counts the hairs on our heads,  
and carries the dreams in our hearts.

We believe that God’s fingerprints are all over creation,  
and that God is forever speaking to us in a million different ways.

We believe that awe and wonder,  
goosebumps and laughter,  
telling stories and paying attention,  
are all ways that we can say thank you  
to our creating, sustaining, and loving God.

Therefore we commit ourselves to moving through this world  
with open eyes, porous hearts, and grateful spirits.

We commit ourselves to living lives of awe, wonder, and gratitude,  
trusting that these things will forever draw us deeper into God’s  
loving arms.

We believe. We stand in awe. Thanks be to God!

Scripture Reading Luke 1:57–66 (pg. 57, N.T) Lynne Hay

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 “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” arr. Cherwien

Sermon EXPERIENCING WONDER 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 213 “Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”

\*Benediction

Postlude “The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns” arr. Johnson

ENRICHING OUR WORSHIP OF GOD

Organist Janet Kaido  
Devon Chapel Bells Betsy Miller (Director), Diane Alleva, Susan Bain,  
Christina Fish, Jim Tiede, Nancy Veronesi  
Rejoicing Ringers Rowan Bellew, Sophia Coradi, Ryan Crill,  
Sarah Duncan, Emily Marshall, Claire Tiede  
Musicians Christina Fish (oboe), Troy Fisher (tambourine)  
Greeter Kate Johnson

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, & NEW OFFERING ENVELOPES

Year-end gifts will be credited in the 2024 tax year if they are postmarked by December 31. Some people 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.

Offering envelopes for 2025 are available for pickup in Fellowship Hall. If there is not a pack of envelopes with your name on it, but you would like one, please email Brian Bouvier.

TRANSFORMATION TEAM PRESENTATION

The Transformation Team’s third and final presentation to the congregation is today at 11:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. They will be walking through their proposal with you and answering your questions. If you cannot join us today, you can watch a recorded version of the presentation any time. A link is available in this afternoon’s weekly email. Printed copies of the full proposal are available for everyone after today’s presentation. 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 – TOMORROW! (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.

MEN’S GROUP

The Men’s Group 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. They will meet for their final session of the year next week, Sunday, December 22nd, to discuss Lesson 4 (A Time to Love) from NT Wright’s book *Advent for Everyone: Matthew*. The book can be purchased via Amazon for \$11. Please contact Nancy Wolfe (nj.wolfe@verizon.net) or Libby Dalrymple (cadalrymple85@gmail.com) with any questions. We hope you will join us!

The Monday Group is taking a Christmas break and will resume on January 6, so it would be a great time to join them! 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). They 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).

YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY & PARENTS’ MEETING FOR SUMMER TRIPS

Join us in the Fellowship Hall **TODAY from 4:30–6:00 p.m.** for 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 **TODAY at 11:30 a.m.** in the Kean Room to discuss upcoming summer trips for the Children & Youth Program. Contact [admin@stjohnsdevon.com](mailto:admin@stjohnsdevon.com) for additional information.

NEXT SUNDAY IN WORSHIP

Next Sunday in worship we will be blessing Ridgley before her sabbatical and disbanding the Transformation Team with our gratitude now that their work is complete. It will also be a very musical service! We hope you will join us!

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICES

St. John’s offers several ways for you to celebrate the birth of Christ:

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

Longest Night Service (with communion)

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

Christmas Eve Worship

4:00 p.m. – Family Service (with kids’ Christmas pageant)

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 costumes ahead of time.

CAREGIVERS SUPPORT SEMINAR- SAVE THE DATE!

Lauren Tiede will be hosting a seminar after church in the Carriage House on **Sunday, January 12** focusing on general caregiving (not just dementia!) from 11:00am-12:00pm. If you are interested in learning more about Dementia Caregiving Support Groups that CaringKind offers regularly, please contact Lauren Tiede ([ltiede@cknyc.org](mailto:ltiede@cknyc.org))

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS 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 or sending them birthday wishes by text, email, or a card in the mail.

December 10	<b>Melanie Henricks</b>
December 13	<b>Barb Beucler</b>
December 16	<b>Earline Eck</b>
December 25	<b>Avery Hillier</b>
December 26	<b>Nancy Phillips</b>
December 26	<b>Lisa Howell</b>
December 30	<b>Sarah Crill</b>

If you have a December birthday and would like to be included on this list, please contact Barbara McConnell at [blbmccconnell@aol.com](mailto:blbmccconnell@aol.com).

**ST. JOHN’S CALENDAR**

**The Third Sunday of Advent**

**Sun, Dec. 15**

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

**Mon, Dec. 16**

**Tues, Dec. 17**

**Wed, Dec. 18**

11:30 am Lunch & Learn (Fellowship Hall)  
5:00 pm Exercise Class (Fellowship Hall)  
7:00 am Men’s Group (Carriage House)  
7:00 pm Longest Night Service (Sanctuary)

**Thurs, Dec. 19**

**Sat, Dec. 21**

**Sun, Dec 22**

**The Fourth Sunday of Advent**

8:15 am Women’s Book Group (Kean Room)  
9:30 am Worship & Sunday School  
Christmas Eve (church office closed during the day)  
4:00 pm Worship & Christmas Pageant  
8:00 pm Candlelight worship

**Wed, Dec. 25**

**Christmas Day (church office closed)**

**This Week in the Church Office**

Any announcements for next week’s bulletin or email can be sent to Annie at [admin@stjohnsdevon.com](mailto: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**



[www.stjohnsdevon.com](http://www.stjohnsdevon.com)

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Annie Carruthers, Church Administrator ([admin@stjohnsdevon.com](mailto:admin@stjohnsdevon.com))  
Sue Chudy, Clerk of Session ([susan.chudy@stjohnsdevon.com](mailto:susan.chudy@stjohnsdevon.com))



A CHURCH FAMILY, A FAMILY CHURCH

“All the Way to Joy”  
by Rev. Sarah Speed

We could play hard and fast,  
not let anything touch us at all,  
keep composure,  
have all the answers.  
Or we could crack ourselves open  
and let everything in.  
We could feel everything,  
every touch, every marvel.  
We could stand gaping  
at the beauty of the world,  
mouths wide open (because sometimes  
that is the very best form of gratitude).  
We could laugh so loudly  
that the whole restaurant looks,  
and err on the side of goofy  
whenever possible.  
We could put our defenses down.  
We could grow soft.  
We could choose awe.  
We could take her by the arm.  
We could let her lead us all the way to joy.

**December 15, 2024**  
**For the latest information and news about St. John’s:**  
**[www.stjohnsdevon.com](http://www.stjohnsdevon.com)**  
**[facebook.com/stjohnspresbyteriandeonpa](https://facebook.com/stjohnspresbyteriandeonpa)**