

**St. John's at Worship  
The First Sunday of Christmas**

Prelude "Nothing but a Child" Earle

Welcome and Announcements *(please pass the fellowship roll)*

\*Congregational Introit "The First Noel"  
**The first Noel the angel did say  
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,  
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,  
born is the King of Israel.**

\*Answering God's Call to Worship  
One: The candles have been lit and the gifts have been given,  
and *still* we continue to celebrate!  
**All: Emmanuel! God is with us!**  
One: One day is not enough to contain the good news of Christ's birth!  
**All: Joy to the world! The Lord has come!**  
One: Let us sing praises to God for the coming of our Savior!

\*Hymn 240 "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing"

\*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.**

**The Promise of a Messiah**

Scripture Reading Isaiah 9:2, 6-7 (pg. 638, O.T.)  
Isaiah 11:1-9 (pg. 640, O.T.)

Anthem "Light of the World" Daigle

**The Annunciation**

Scripture Reading Luke 1:26-38 (pg. 56, N.T.)

Hymn 218, v. 1, 4 "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"

**The Birth of Jesus**

Scripture Reading Matthew 1:18-25 (pg. 1, N.T.)

Hymn 230, v. 1, 2 "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

Scripture Reading Luke 2:1-7 (pg. 58, N.T.)

Hymn 217, v. 1, 2 "Away in a Manger"

**The Proclamation to Shepherds**

Scripture Reading Luke 2:8-20 (pg. 58, N.T.)

Hymn 238, v. 1, 3 "Angels We Have Heard on High"

**The Word Made Flesh**

Scripture Reading John 1:1-18 (pg. 91, N.T.)

Hymn 110 (Insert) "Love Has Come"

\*Presentation of Offering  
Hymn 246, v. 1 "Joy to the World"

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her King!  
Let every heart prepare Him room,  
and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.**

\*Prayer of Dedication

**Our Response to Christ's Birth**

Scripture Reading Titus 2:11-14 (pg. 215, N.T.)

\*Hymn 28 (Insert) "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"

\*Benediction

\*Postlude "Go, Tell It on the Mountain" Traditional

**ENRICHING OUR WORSHIP OF GOD**

**Organist** Nancy Kimmons  
**Greeter** Susanne Engheta, Alex Engheta  
**Ushers** Brian Bouvier  
**Joy Messengers** Linda Duncan, Lauren Feldman, Troy Fisher, Lisa Howell,  
Nancy Kimmons, Pam Schafer, John Senior

**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**

Sunday School for grades K-12 will resume next Sunday. 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.

**CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING**

We are receiving the PC(USA)'s *Christmas Joy Offering*, which supports at-risk youth, provides assistance to current and retired church workers in need, and develops future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges, particularly equipping communities of color. You can use the envelope in your bulletin and place it in one of the offering trays. Online giving is also available. Just go to our website (stjohnsdevon.com), click the "Donate" button, and select "Christmas Joy Offering" from the dropdown menu.

**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.

**MEN'S GROUP**

The next Men's Group meeting will be **Wednesday, January 8 at 7:00 a.m.** in the Carriage House. All men are welcome!

**WOMEN'S BOOK STUDY – 2 OPPORTUNITIES!**

The Women's Book Groups are taking a break for Christmas and will resume with new books in January. The Sunday group meets in the Carriage House from 8:15-9:20 a.m. Contact Nancy Wolfe (nj.wolfe@verizon.net) with any questions.

The Monday Group meets at 10:00 a.m., both in person in the Kean Room and on Zoom. They will be reading *The Book of Forgiving: The Fourfold Path for Healing Ourselves and Our World* by Desmond Tutu and Mpho Tutu. Contact Nancy Arico (nancy.arico@verizon.net or 610-550-9547) with questions.

**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 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. If you are interested in learning more about Dementia Caregiving Support Groups that CaringKind offers regularly, please contact Lauren Tiede (ltiede@cknyc.org)

### TRANSFORMATION TEAM

The Transformation Team has completed their work of discerning the church that God is calling us to be now. If you were not able to attend one of their presentations, you can watch a recorded version of it any time on YouTube. A link is available on our website, as well as in this afternoon's weekly email.

Scan this QR for a digital copy of the proposal:



Scan this QR to indicate your interest in helping:



Printed copies of both documents are available on the usher's table in the back of the sanctuary.

### ST. JOHN'S NEW DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Last Sunday we shared the exciting news that we have hired **Janet Kaido** as our new Director of Music! Janet has a Master's Degree in Sacred Music from Westminster Choir College in Princeton, as well as an Artists' Certificate in Organ Literature and Improvisation Study from the University of Music Franz Liszt in Weimar, Germany. She most recently served as the organist and choir director at Christ Church Ridley Park, and before that she was the organist at Nassau Presbyterian Church in Princeton. Janet's first official day with St. John's will be Monday, January 6, and we will be sharing more about her with you in the coming weeks. We are so excited to welcome Janet to St. John's!

### 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 **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 [blbmconnell@aol.com](mailto:blbmconnell@aol.com).

### FREE CONCERT – SUNDAY, JANUARY 19

St. John's will be hosting a concert on Sunday, January 19, at 5:00 p.m. in the sanctuary! Pianist Jonathan Kreamer, soprano Bethann Dilione, and tenor Chris Lorge will present a program titled, "Love & Devotion," featuring songs that "delve into the multifaceted tapestry of dedication – from passionate romance to familial bonds and more." They will play a diverse selection of songs, some beloved, others unexpected, ranging from Verdi and Dvorak to Bernstein and Rodgers & Hammerstein, each offering a poignant reflection on the spectrum of human emotion. This concert is free and open to the whole community, so please bring friends/family and join us for an evening of beautiful music!

### ST. JOHN'S CALENDAR

- Sun, Dec 29** **The First Sunday of Christmas**  
9:30 am Worship (Lessons & Carols)
- Tues, Dec. 31** 5:00 pm Exercise Class (Fellowship Hall)
- Wed, Jan. 1** **New Year's Day (church office closed)**
- Thurs, Jan. 2** 5:00 pm Exercise Class (Fellowship Hall)
- Sat, Jan. 4** 9:00 am Exercise Class (Fellowship Hall)
- Sun, Jan. 5** **Epiphany**  
9:30 am Worship & Communion  
Sunday School (Pre-K–4<sup>th</sup>)

### This Week in the Church Office

Our Church Administrator Annie Carruthers will be in the office Monday, Tuesday, and Friday of this week. Any announcements for the January 5 bulletin or email must be sent to her at [admin@stjohnsdevon.com](mailto:admin@stjohnsdevon.com) by **Noon on Tuesday**.

Starting on Wednesday, January 1, Pastor Ridgley will be on sabbatical until April 2. During that time, she will not be available by email or phone. If you have a question that would normally go to her, please contact the church office, and we will direct you to the right place.

Friday is Pastor Patrick'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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- Rev. Dr. Patrick Marshall, Pastor ([patrick.marshall@stjohnsdevon.com](mailto:patrick.marshall@stjohnsdevon.com))
- Rev. Ridgley Joyner, Associate Pastor ([rjoyner@stjohnsdevon.com](mailto:rjoyner@stjohnsdevon.com))
- 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

"Now the Work of Christmas Begins"  
By Howard Thurman

When the song of the angels is stilled,  
when the star in the sky is gone,  
when the kings and princes are home,  
when the shepherds are back with their flocks,  
the work of Christmas begins:  
to find the lost,  
to heal the broken,  
to feed the hungry,  
to release the prisoner,  
to rebuild the nations,  
to bring peace among the people,  
to make music in the heart.

December 29, 2024  
For the latest information and news about St. John's:  
[www.stjohnsdevon.com](http://www.stjohnsdevon.com)  
[facebook.com/stjohnspresbyteriandevonpa](https://facebook.com/stjohnspresbyteriandevonpa)