

St. John’s at Worship
Seventh Sunday After Epiphany

Welcome and Announcements

Introit “Help Us Accept Each Other” John Ness Beck

Meditative Call to Worship
“Be still in the presence of the Lord and wait patiently for God to act.”
– Psalm 37:7

Lord, help me to let go.

Take from me the tension
that makes peace impossible.
Take from me the fears
that hold me captive.
Take from me the worries
that blind my sight.
Take from me the distress
that hides your joy.

Help me to know
that you are with me,
that you love me,
that you provide for my life,
that you and I are one.

*Hymn 62, vss. 1, 5, 7 “All Creatures of Our God and King”

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 The Apostles’ Creed
I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth;
and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried.
He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father, Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic church;
the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Scripture Reading Genesis 45:1–11, 15 (pg. 42, O.T.) Jim Little

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!

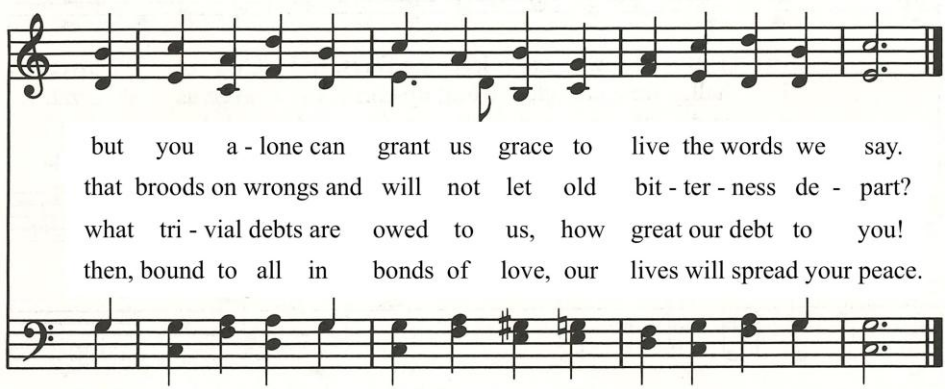
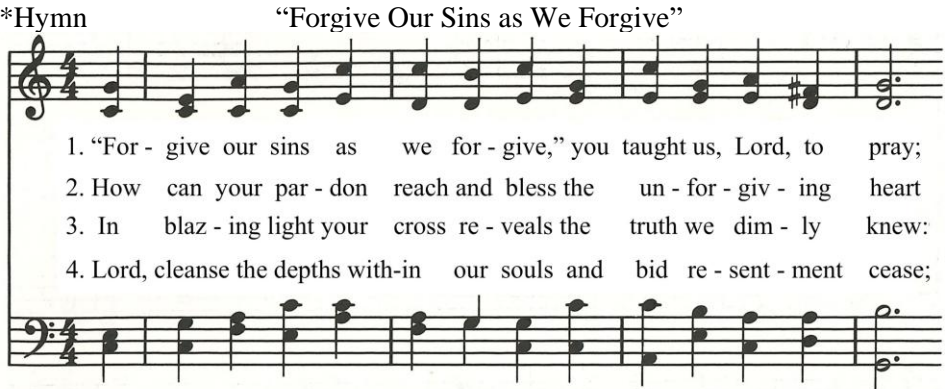
Anthem “Prayer for Our Time” arr. Hal Hopson

Sermon THE PARABLE OF THE BROTHERS Rev. Dr. Marshall

*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 “Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive”



*Benediction

Postlude “Ricercare on ‘St. Anne’” Gordon Young

ENRICHING OUR WORSHIP OF GOD

Music Director Janet Kaido
Usher Jeanne Lynam
Greeters Susanne Engheta, Alex Engheta
Coffee Stella & Alberto Urbina

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 scripture reading, grades K–12th 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.

MEN’S GROUP
The next Men’s Group meeting will be **Wednesday, March 5 at 7:00 a.m.** in the Carriage House. They are reading, *Sitting at the Feet of Rabbi Jesus* by Ann Spangler, and will be discussing chapters 5 and 6. All men are welcome!

WOMEN’S BOOK STUDY – 2 OPPORTUNITIES!
Both Women’s Book Groups are reading *The Book of Forgiving: The Fourfold Path for Healing Ourselves and Our World* by Desmond Tutu and Mpho Tutu. 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 again tomorrow at 10:00 a.m., both in person in the Kean Room and on Zoom. Contact Nancy Arico (nancy.arico@verizon.net or 610-550-9547) with questions.

RISE AGAINST HUNGER – TODAY AT 1:00 P.M.
We will be packing 10,000 meals for Rise Against Hunger at 1:00 p.m. today in Fellowship Hall. Thank you to everyone who signed up!

SUPPER AT ST. JOHN’S
Join us at 6 p.m. on Wednesday for a delicious home-cooked meal, followed by a class starting at 7 p.m. This is a wonderful time of food, fellowship, and education; a great chance to slow down in the middle of the week, enjoy a meal that you do not have to cook, and catch up with your church family! You are welcome to come for dinner, even if you cannot stay for the class (or just come for the class).

This week we will begin a new class led by Dr. Brennan Breed of Columbia Theological Seminary:

Is God in Control of a World Out of Balance? *Reading the Book of Daniel in the 21st Century.* Many of us feel like the world is getting stranger, more complex, and more unbalanced with every passing year. Several books of the Bible address an ancient situation that resembles ours in many ways, and one of them is the book of Daniel. In this study we will learn from the example of Daniel and his friends how can we retain faith in God’s sovereignty in the midst of a world that seems to have lost its moorings.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS AT ST. JOHN’S

Happy birthday to those in 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.

February 3	Ken Dilloway
February 4	Ken Coradi
February 6	Deborah Bellew
February 9	Ryan Crill, Julie Spahr, Katie Scott Yoder
February 10	Don Black, Caroline Carty
February 11	Katie Kerr Holcomb, Lee McConnell
February 15	Jeff Wagner
February 17	Kathy Shaw, Janet Kaido
February 18	Carol Netter
February 24	Shintaro Kaido (Janet’s husband)
February 28	Jeanne Thompson
February 29	Brynn Yoder

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

CONCERT RESCHEDULED – SUNDAY, MARCH 23 AT 5:00 P.M.

St. John’s will be hosting a concert on Sunday, March 23 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 a diverse selection of songs 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!

PASTOR RIDGLEY’S SABBATICAL

Pastor Ridgley is on sabbatical until April 2. During this time, she has no pastoral responsibilities and is unavailable by email, phone, and in person. Her purple stole remains on the communion table as a reminder to pray for her, that God would use this time of rest to nourish her body, mind, and spirit.

ST. JOHN’S CALENDAR

Sun, Feb. 23	8:15 am	Women’s Book Group (Carr. House)
	9:30 am	Worship & Sunday School
	1:00 pm	Rise Against Hunger (Fell. Hall)
Mon, Feb. 24	10:00 am	Women’s Book Group (Kean)
	7:00 pm	Implementation Team Meeting (Kean)
Tues, Feb. 25	5:00 pm	Exercise Class (Fellowship Hall)
Wed. Feb. 26	6:00 pm	Supper at St. John’s (Fell. Hall)
Thurs, Feb. 27	5:00 pm	Exercise Class (Fellowship Hall)
	7:00 pm	Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
Sat, Mar. 1	9:00 am	Exercise Class (Fellowship Hall)
Sun, Mar. 2	8:15 am	Deacons Meeting (Kean Room)
	8:15 am	Women’s Book Group (Carr. House)
	9:30 am	Worship & Communion

This Week in the Church Office

Pastor Patrick will be out of the office all afternoon on Monday and all morning on Tuesday for a Presbytery meeting.

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’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

“The Hardest Blessing”
by Jan Richardson

If we cannot lay aside the wound,
then let us say it will not always bind us.
Let us say the damage
will not eternally determine our path.
Let us say the line of our life will not always travel
along the places we are torn.
Let us say that forgiveness can take some practice,
can take some patience,
can take a long and struggling time.
Let us say that to offer the hardest blessing,
we will need the deepest grace;
that to forgive the sharpest pain,
we will need the fiercest love;
that to release the ancient ache,
we will need new strength for every day.
Let us say the wound will not be our final home—
that through it runs a road,
a way we would not have chosen
but on which we will finally see
forgiveness,
so long practiced,
coming toward us,
shining with the joy so well deserved.



www.stjohnsdevon.com

217 Berkley Road | Box 399 | Devon, PA 19333

Rev. Dr. Patrick Marshall, Pastor (patrick.marshall@stjohnsdevon.com)
Rev. Ridgley Joyner, Associate Pastor (on sabbatical until April)
Annie Carruthers, Church Administrator (admin@stjohnsdevon.com)
Janet Kaido, Director of Music (music@stjohnsdevon.com)
Sue Chudy, Clerk of Session (susan.chudy@stjohnsdevon.com)

February 23, 2025
For the latest information and news about St. John’s:
www.stjohnsdevon.com
facebook.com/stjohnspresbyteriandeonpa