

St. John’s at Worship
First Sunday in Lent

Welcome and Announcements

Introit “God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens”
 “Amazing Grace” *Albert Zabel*

Answering God’s Call to Worship
One: People always came to Jesus asking questions.
**All: Who is my neighbor?
 What is the greatest commandment?
 What must I do to find eternal life?**
One: We do not have to have it all figured out.
 We can come to Jesus asking questions.
**All: Where are you? What can I do?
 How can these things be true? Why, Lord...?**
One: Lent is a season for asking questions.
**All: May we listen. May we learn.
 May we look for God and follow.**

*Hymn **269** “Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days”

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
One: If God asked you, “Who is your neighbor?” what would you say?
**All: We would say every person, every child,
 every weeping willow,
 and every morning lark.
 Every freckled face,
 every wrinkled pair of hands,
 every tail-wagging dog,
 and every crisp, ripe apple.
 We would say, we are connected—
 to one another, to all of God’s creation.
 There are no strangers in Christ. We are all family.**
One: I think God would delight in that answer. For it is said,
 “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,
All: with all your soul,
One: with all your mind,
All: with all your strength,
One: and you shall love your neighbor as yourself.”
All: We believe, Lord. Help our unbelief.

Scripture Reading Luke 10:25–37 (pg. 71, 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!**

*Hymn **405** “Seek Ye First”

Sermon STRANGER & NEIGHBOR Rev. Dr. Marshall
 Lenten Sermon Series:
 Everything in Between: Navigating the Polarities of Life and Faith

*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 **560** “Help Us Accept Each Other”

*Benediction

*Postlude “If Thou but Suffer God to Guide Thee” *J.S. Bach*

ENRICHING OUR WORSHIP OF GOD
Music Director Janet Kaido
Handbell Choir Betsy Miller (Director), Diane Alleva, Christina Fish,
 Jim Tiede, Nancy Veronesi
Greeter Gail Nelson
Coffee Jeanne Thompson, Sandy Forbes
Flowers The flowers are given by Pam Schafer in loving
 memory of her mother and father with gratitude, love,
 joy, and sorrow.

WELCOME TO ST. JOHN’S!
No matter who you are, where you come from, what you look like, or what you are wearing, you are welcome here! No matter where you are in your faith, you belong here. All we want is to help you experience the presence and love of Jesus Christ! 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 Men’s Group will meet **Wednesday, March 19 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 8 and 9. All men are welcome!

WOMEN’S BOOK STUDY – 2 OPPORTUNITIES!
The Sunday book group meets from 8:15–9:20 a.m. in the Kean Room to read *The Book of Forgiving: The Fourfold Path for Healing Ourselves and Our World* by Desmond & Mpho Tutu. Contact Nancy Wolfe (nj.wolfe@verizon.net) with any questions.

Starting tomorrow, the Monday book group will begin a Lenten study, *Pause: Spending Lent with the Psalms*, by Elizabeth Caldwell. 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). A copy of the book will be added to the Book Nook in Fellowship Hall, if you want to check it out. Contact Nancy Arico (nancy.arico@verizon.net or 610-550-9547) for more information.

DEACON’S CLOTHING DRIVE
This month we are collecting new and gently-used clothing for CityTeam based in Chester. Donations can be dropped off in the front closet of the Carriage House from March 16–31. Please contact Ann Roberts (610-952-1128 or annroberts204@gmail.com) with any questions.

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 will be the third week of our 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.

TRANSFORMATION PROCESS UPDATE
The Implementation Team has been hard at work populating the various ministry teams with those who signed up and prioritizing their work. They hope to wrap up this phase of the process this month, and they will be in touch soon with those of you who signed up. Please continue to pray for the team members (**Doris Humphrey, Steve Scolari, Jim Tiede, and Pastor Patrick**) as they help us implement God’s vision for the life of our church.

LENTEN SERMON SERIES

Today we are starting a new sermon series, “Everything in Between: Navigating the Polarities of Life and Faith.” So often, the divided world around us talks in terms of binaries; it’s black or white, either *this* or *that*, with nothing in between. But by looking at some of Jesus’ most well-known stories in Luke’s gospel, we will see that God is often present in between the polarities, calling us to engage the complexities of life, rather than avoiding them.

MARCH 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.

March 4	Janice Rosencrance
March 5	Steve Scolari
March 7	John Lieberman
March 8	Ryan Marshall, Chris Oliver
March 10	Colvin Oliver
March 11	Peter Oliver
March 17	Charlie Scott
March 20	Jen Marshall
March 21	Susanne Engheta
March 27	Pat Churchill
March 29	Ellie Fisher

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

FREE CONCERT – 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, Mar. 9	8:15 am	Women’s Book Group (Kean Room)
	9:30 am	Worship & Sunday School
Mon, Mar. 10	10:00 am	Women’s Book Group (Kean)
	7:00 pm	Session Meeting (Kean)
Tues, Mar. 11	5:00 pm	Exercise Class (Fell. Hall)
	7:00 pm	Implementation Team Meeting (Kean)
Wed. Mar. 12	6:00 pm	Supper at St. John’s (Fell. Hall)
Thurs, Mar. 13	5:00 pm	Exercise Class (Fell. Hall)
	7:00 pm	Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
Sat, Mar. 16	9:00 am	Exercise Class (Fell. Hall)
Sun, Mar. 17	8:15 am	Trustees Meeting (Carr. House)
	8:15 am	Women’s Book Group (Kean)
	9:30 am	Worship & Sunday School

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’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

Never Met a Stranger
by Rev. Sarah Speed

When we talk about God, we say
God’s never met a stranger.
God makes friends at the airport.
God waves to babies in the check-out line.

When we talk about God, we say
God will leave the porch light on.
God will have warm bread in the oven.
God will have all the time in the world.

When we talk about God, we say
God will look you in the eye.
God will love you as you are.
God will call you by your name.

When we talk about God,
we never have to talk about
which side of the road God might walk down.
Wherever you are,
that’s where God will be.



www.stjohnsdevon.com

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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)

March 9, 2025
For the latest information and news about St. John’s:
www.stjohnsdevon.com
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