

An asterisk (*) indicates that you are invited to stand, as you are able.

Prelude “In Stable Rude” arr. Lamb
Jesus, our brother, kind and good, was humbly born in a stable rude,
and the friendly beasts around him stood; Jesus, our brother, kind and good.

Welcome & Announcements

Introit “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence” arr. McChesney

Lighting the Advent Wreath The Yoder Family
One: In a world full of fear, where do you see glimmers of peace?
All: We see glimmers of peace in the quiet of early morning,
when people shake hands, when loved ones say they’re sorry,
and when the church sings together.
One: Even in a fearful world, peace is all around us.
All: Today we light the candle of peace as a reminder of this good news.
(Light candle)
One: May this flicker of light help us remember that, even in a fearful
world, peace is present. We just have to look for it.

*Hymn 196 “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

Prayer of Invocation & Confession (ending with 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 198 (Red) vs. 1, 5
My soul gives glory to my God. My heart pours out its praise. God lifted up my
lowliness in many marvelous ways. Praise God, whose loving covenant supports
those in distress, remembering past promises with present faithfulness.

*Affirming Our Faith
One: We have seen the valley. We have seen a sky without stars.
We have seen the longest night, and still we believe.
All: We believe in a with-us God. We believe in the hope of tomorrow.
We believe that good news is louder than fear.
We believe this good news is for all people.
One: So even when our knees shake, even when our voice trembles,
even when fear is all around us, we will hold onto that good news.
All: We will reach for each other. We will look for God in our midst.
One: We will sing songs of joy. We will proclaim:
All: Unto us, love is born.
One: We have seen the longest night, and we have seen unimaginable love.
All: So still, we believe. Amen.

Scripture Reading Isaiah 43:16–21 (pg. 672, O.T.) Bruce Phillips

As Pre-K–5th 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 “A Stable Lamp is Lighted” Richard Wilbur

Scripture Reading Matthew 11:1–11 (pg. 11, N.T.)

Sermon WHEN HOPE RUNS LOW Rev. Dr. Marshall

*Hymn 626 (vss. 1, 2) “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”

The Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper

*Presentation of Offering & Doxology (Hymn 95, Red)
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 & Prayers of the People

*Hymn 431 “Let There Be Peace on Earth”

*Benediction

*Postlude “My Soul Gives Glory to My God”

Please take time after the Postlude to greet one another,
especially people you don’t already know!

ENRICHING OUR WORSHIP OF GOD

Music Director Janet Kaido
Greeter Barbara McConnell
Coffee Servers Gail Nelson, Wanda Odom
Devon Chapel Bells Diane Alleva, Susan Bain, Stephanie Crill,
Christina Fish, Karen Huang, Janet Kaido, Jim Tiede

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!

COMMUNION SUNDAY

We will be sharing the Lord’s Supper today. This is not just for Presbyterians
or members of St. John’s. Everyone who seeks to know and love Jesus Christ is
welcome to share in this meal! You will be invited to come forward up the
center aisle, take a piece of bread, and dip it in the cup (all of the bread is
gluten-free). There is also a basket of pre-sealed juice cups, if you would
prefer not to do intinction.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

After the scripture reading, grades K–4 will leave with their teachers. Grades
5–12 will remain for communion. 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 by scanning this QR code.
Prayer request cards can be placed in one of the offering trays.



ADVENT CRAFTERNOON – TODAY (10:30–11:30 A.M.)

Children and adults are invited to join us in the Fellowship Hall after worship
for a morning of Advent crafting. A light brunch will be served.

WOMEN’S BOOK STUDY – 2 OPPORTUNITIES!

The Sundy book study meets at 8:15 a.m. in the Carriage House, apart from
the first Sunday of every month. They are taking a break from their current
book to read *Advent in Plain Sight: A Devotion Through Ten Objects* by Jill
Duffield. Contact Nancy Wolfe (nj.wolfe@verizon.net) for more
information.

The Monday group meets at 10:00 a.m., both in person and on Zoom (use the
church Zoom link found on the website under Quick Links). They are
discussing *Elusive Grace: Loving Your Enemies While Stiving for God's
Justice* by Scott Black Johnston. If you would like to find out more or order a
book, contact Nancy Arico (nancy.arico@verizon.net or 610-550-9547).

MEN’S GROUP

The Men’s Group will meet Wednesday, December 17 at 7:00 a.m. in the
Carriage House to discuss chapter 5 of their study guide on Isaiah. Contact
Pastor Patrick to get more information.

GIFT CARDS FOR GREAT VALLEY FOOD CUPBOARD

Great Valley Food Cupboard is in need of Acme Gift Cards for the Christmas
holiday. You can write a check to St. John’s and note “Gift card for food
cupboard” on the memo line. The cards will be purchased on Saturday
December 20, so if you want to contribute, please do so before then.

CHILDREN’S WORSHIP RESOURCE STATION

Our littlest worshippers are now able to customize their worship experience.
In the coat closet in the sanctuary, kids can pick out a bag to fill with a
children’s bulletin, art supplies, fidget toys, books, and games to enrich their
time. Please return to the brown basket when finished! In a hurry? Pre-made
bags are available.

THE BOOK NOOK AND CHILDREN’S LIBRARY HAVE MOVED!

Both the Book Nook and the children’s library have moved to the library
behind the sanctuary (where the copier is). Check it out if you or your kids
are looking for some good books to read!

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY – CODE BLUE SHELTER - NORRISTOWN

TLC For the People is looking for volunteers to help run the Code Blue Cold
Shelter in Norristown at St. John's Church (520 Church Street) this week. If
there are not volunteers, the shelter cannot open for those who need a warm
place to sleep. There are 3-hour shifts from 5pm-8am. Please consider
signing up to help! Click the links in the weekly email to sign up.

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICES

We hope that you will celebrate the birth of Christ with us at one of our Christmas Eve services. At 4:00 p.m., our Family Service features a kid’s nativity pageant. Children wishing to participate should come at 3:50 p.m. to pick out their costume. At 8:00 p.m. we will have a traditional candlelight service with music by our choir. Please feel free to bring family and friends!

POINSETTIAS FOR ADVENT – DEADLINE TODAY!

Jeanne Lynam will be taking signups for poinsettias at coffee hour. Each plant costs \$10, and it will be yours to take home after worship on Sunday, Dec. 28. You may also reserve a poinsettia with her and make payment through the link provided in the weekly email. Please contact Annie in the office if you have any questions about online payments.

ANGEL TREE GIFTS DUE BACK NEXT SUNDAY

There are still a few angels on the tree in Fellowship Hall for the children at Gemma Services. Gemma provides education and mental health services (both residential and community) to children who have experienced loss, trauma, or significant challenges. On each angel is the name, grade, and Christmas gift wish of a child. Deacons will be in Fellowship Hall to sign you up for the angel(s) you choose, so we can keep track and make sure every child is taken care of. We ask that you return your gifts by **Sunday, Dec. 14, UNWRAPPED and with the angel attached.** Gemma has volunteer opportunities to wrap at their home office in Plymouth Meeting. Contact Nancy Coradi nancycoradi@gmail.com for more information or visit gemmaservices.org

FAMILY ADVENT CALENDAR

You can find a red and green poster board “calendar” on the wall in Fellowship Hall with 24 days listed. Simply lift off one of the decorations, revealing an item to purchase for Home of the Sparrow, an Exton organization that helps women in need of housing, supplies, educational advice, and support. Write your name on the form next to the calendar, corresponding to the date/gift you’ve selected. Bring your unwrapped items back to Fellowship Hall by Dec. 21 and place them in the container marked “Advent Calendar Gifts.”

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS AT ST. JOHN’S

Happy Birthday to members and friends of our St. John’s 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. Please join us today for cake after the service in Fellowship Hall to celebrate our St. John's members who are having birthdays this month! Contact Barbara McConnell (blbmccConnell@aol.com) if you would like to be added!

December 10 – Melanie Henricks	December 25 – Jesus Christ, Avery Hillier
December 12 – Sue Chudy	December 26 – Lisa Howell
December 13 – Barb Beucler	December 26 – Nancy Phillips
December 16 – Earline Eck	December 30 – Sarah Crill

END OF YEAR GIVING

Year-end gifts will be credited in the 2025 tax year if they are postmarked by Dec. 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).

SENIOR HIGH BIBLE STUDY- WED, DEC. 10 - 5:00PM-6:00PM

Join Pastor Ridgley and Michael Whalen for pizza, ice cream and scripture! We will be continuing to read through the book of 1 Samuel.

YOUTH GROUP CHRISTMAS PARTY- SUN, DEC. 14 - 4:30PM-6:00PM

Join Pastor Ridgley and Michael Whalen for our best Christmas party yet! Wear your Christmas PJs and join us for a waffle bar! We will do an ABSURD Santa Gift Exchange so don’t forget to bring the most absurd (wrapped) gift you can find for under \$20 to the party!

ST. JOHN’S CALENDAR

Scan the QR code below or visit our website for the complete calendar:

Sun, Dec. 7	The Second Sunday of Advent	
	8:15 am	Deacons Meeting (Kean)
	9:30 am	Worship & Communion
	10:30 am	Advent Crafternoon (Fell. Hall)
	Noon	TE Care Drive (Carriage House)
Mon, Dec. 8	All Day	TE Care Drive (CH)
Tues, Dec. 9	10:00 am	Women’s Book Group (Kean)
	All Day	TE Care Drive (CH)
Wed, Dec. 10	5:00 pm	Exercise Class (FH)
	All Day	TE Care Drive (CH)
Thurs, Dec. 11	5:00 pm	Exercise Class (FH)
	7:00 pm	Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
Sat, Dec. 13	9:00 am	Exercise Class (FH)
Sun, Dec. 14	The Third Sunday of Advent	
	8:15 am	Trustees Meeting (Kean)
	8:15 am	Women’s Book Group (CH)
	9:30 am	Worship & Sunday School
	11:00 am	Implementation Team Meeting (Kean)
	4:30 pm	Youth Christmas Party (CH)



This Week in the Church Office

Please send any bulletin announcements to 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



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Janet Kaido, Director of Music (music@stjohnsdevon.com)
Sue Chudy, Clerk of Session (susan.chudy@stjohnsdevon.com)



A CHURCH FAMILY, A FAMILY CHURCH

“God in the Kitchen”
By Rev. Sarah Speed

I called home my first semester of college.
I told my mom I was fine, but I was homesick.
She must have heard the truth in my voice.
The ache ate at me.
It was a long, slow song,
a million tiny ants slurping the juice from a peach.
I was tender and bruised, in the doldrums of it all.
But she could hear all of that.
So three states away, she preheated the oven.
Three states away, she tossed blueberries in a thin layer of flour.
Three states away, she dusted a layer of streusel
over the soft peaks of a dozen warm muffins.
And three days later, I unboxed a package from home—
a dozen blueberry muffins, a love letter with my name on it,
a reminder that I was not alone.

If you’re running out of hope, count to three.
God is in the kitchen, just waiting for the yeast to rise.

Sunday, December 7, 2025
The Second Sunday of Advent