

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,
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.) Jim Ryland
Isaiah 11:1–9 (pg. 640, O.T.)

Hymn 219, vss. 1, 3 "What Child Is This"

The Annunciation

Scripture Reading Luke 1:26–38 (pg. 56, N.T.) Wanda Odom

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.) Janet Kaido
Hymn 230, v. 1, 2 "O Little Town of Bethlehem" Joe & Nancy Arico
Scripture Reading Luke 2:1–7 (pg. 58, N.T.) Lynne Hay
Hymn 217, v. 1, 2 "Away in a Manger" Jeff Estabrook, Frank Mercurio

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"

Our Response to Christ's Birth

Scripture Reading Titus 2:11–14 (pg. 215, N.T.)
*Presentation of Offering "Joy to the World"
Hymn 246, v. 1 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

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

*Benediction

*Postlude "Now Sing We Now Rejoice" J. S. Bach

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

ENRICHING OUR WORSHIP OF GOD

Organist Janet Kaido
Greeters Joe & Nancy Arico
Usher Lynne Hay
Musicians Jeff Estabrook, Frank Mercurio

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

Sunday School for grades K–12 will resume next Sunday. As always, nursery care is provided for children ages 5 and under.

NEW 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.

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.



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.

WOMEN'S BOOK STUDY – 2 OPPORTUNITIES!

The Sunday 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 is taking a short break and will resume January 5 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. Contact Nancy Arico (nancy.arico@verizon.net or 610-550-9547) for more information.

MEN'S GROUP

The Men's Group will meet Wednesday, January 7 at 7:00 a.m. in the Carriage House to continue their study on the book of Isaiah. Contact Pastor Patrick to get more information.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Thank you to everyone who donated a poinsettia to help make our sanctuary so beautiful for Advent and Christmas! Feel free to take your poinsettia home after worship.

Barbara Beucler
Peggy Billian
Ken & Nancy Coradi
Peter & Nancy Crawford
Ken & Mary Dilloway
Kermit & Earline Eck
Sandy Forbes
John & Sharon Griffin
Jim & Ann Hatfield
Tom & Lynne Hay
Tom & Nancy Higgins
Sam & Megan Hillier
Doris Humphrey
Kathy and Kate Johnson
John & Julie Lieberman

Jim & Kate Little
Dan & Jen Lortz
Chuck & Jeanne Lynam
Skip & Marieanne McClennen
John & Barbara McClintick
Lee & Barbara McConnell
Chris & Judy Miletto
Dick & Chris Oliver
Bruce & Nancy Phillips
Ann Roberts & Frank Lewandowski
Pamela Schafer
Steve & Lisa Scolari
Bob & Sue Severi
John Senior & Nancy Kimmons
Jim & Sue Tiede

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. Contact Barbara McConnell (blbmcconnell@aol.com) if you would like to be added to the list!

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 (brianbouvier57@gmail.com).

PLEDGES FOR 2026

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 2026! 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.

2026 OFFERING ENVELOPES

Offering envelopes for 2026 are available for pickup in Fellowship Hall. If there is not a box of envelopes with your name on it, but you would like one, please email Brian Bouvier (brianbouvier57@gmail.com).

Sun, Dec 28

Tues, Dec. 30

Thurs, Jan. 1

Sat, Jan. 4

Sun, Jan. 5

ST. JOHN'S CALENDAR

The First Sunday of Christmas

9:30 am Worship (Lessons & Carols)

5:00 pm Exercise Class (Fellowship Hall)

New Year's Day (church office closed)

9:00 am Exercise Class (Fellowship Hall)

The Second Sunday of Christmas

9:30 am Worship & Communion

Sunday School (Pre-K-4th)

This Week in the Church Office

Pastor Ridgley will be out this week, returning next Sunday.

Please note that the church office will be closed on Thursday. Any announcements for the January 4 bulletin or email must be sent to admin@stjohnsdevon.com by **Noon on Tuesday**.

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.



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.



www.stjohnsdevon.com

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Rev. Dr. Patrick Marshall, Senior Pastor (patrick.marshall@stjohnsdevon.com)

Rev. Ridgley Beckett, Associate Pastor (rbeckett@stjohnsdevon.com)

Annie Carruthers, Church Administrator (admin@stjohnsdevon.com)

Janet Kaido, Director of Music (music@stjohnsdevon.com)

Sue Chudy, Clerk of Session (susan.chudy@stjohnsdevon.com)

Sunday, December 28, 2025

The First Sunday of Christmas