



February 22, 2026

First Sunday in Lent

Worship Notes

There are offering trays located at each entrance to the sanctuary. If you would like to give, you can put your offering there before worship. You can also give online using the QR code below. If you have a prayer request, there are blue prayer cards in your pew racks that can be put in the trays, as well.



The ^ symbol indicates that you are invited to stand, as you are able.

Today is the first Sunday in Lent. Lent is a 40-day season (not counting Sundays) in which we prepare for the death and resurrection of Jesus, often through penitence and self-denial. It comes from an Old English word that means, "spring," after the season in which it is observed. The 40 days are modeled on Jesus' time in the wilderness, but Sundays are treated as "little Easters" of joy, renewal, and rest.

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 greeters located at the sanctuary doors. We would love for you to join us for refreshments downstairs in the Fellowship Hall after worship. We are so glad that you are here and hope you will worship with us again soon!

Welcome & Announcements

Introit

"Lift Thine Eyes"

Mendelssohn

Answering God's Call to Worship

One: The good news of the gospel is:

**All: manna in the desert, water turned to wine,
love after loss, forgiveness after pain.**

One: The good news of the gospel is:

**All: release for the captive, hope for the hopeless,
mourning turned to dancing, and strangers turned to friends.**

One: So come on in. There's no time to waste!

This surprising good news is here for you.

All: Let us worship this good-news God!

^Hymn

"Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days"

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 (#71 in the red hymnal)

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.

Faith is a response to the goodness of God. After hearing the good news that we are forgiven and loved by God, we affirm together what it is we believe. This particular creed was written by the Order of St. Columba at Patmos Abbey, a contemporary religious order rooted in Celtic Christianity that focuses on contemplative prayer and spiritual formation.

After the sermon, a brief musical interlude offers time for reflection.

After the Postlude, you are encouraged to greet one another (especially people you don't already know!) and come downstairs for a time of refreshments and fellowship.

^Affirming Our Faith

A Lenten Creed

**We believe that our lives are held within the encircling love of God,
who knows our names and recognizes our deepest needs.
We believe that Christ is the divine Son of the living God,
and that his grace is like living waters that can never be exhausted.
We believe in the birthing, renewing, enabling Spirit of God
who yearns over our welfare as a mother yearns for her child.
We believe that God is in the arid desert as well as in green pastures,
and that hard times and disciplines are also loving gifts.
We believe that our journey has a purpose and a destination,
and that our path leads to a glory that we cannot yet imagine.
We believe that in the church we are fellow pilgrims on the road,
and that we are called to love one another as God loves us.
This is our faith, and we are humbled to profess in Jesus the Christ. Amen.**

Scripture Reading

John 2:1-11

Nancy Arico

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

"Abide With Me"

Monk

Scripture Reading

Matthew 13:31-32

Sermon

"Surprisingly Good News"
Sermon Series: "Tell Me Something Good"

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 & Prayers of the People

^Hymn

"Hymn of Promise"

^Benediction

^Postlude

"Oh God Our Help in Ages Past"

St. Anne

Enriching Our Worship of God

Music Director Janet Kaido

Usher Alberto Urbina

Greeter Gavin Kerr

Coffee Servers Sandy Forbes, Jeanne Thompson

The Devon Brass Mark Ator, Jeff Estabrook, Frank Mercurio, Paul Steege

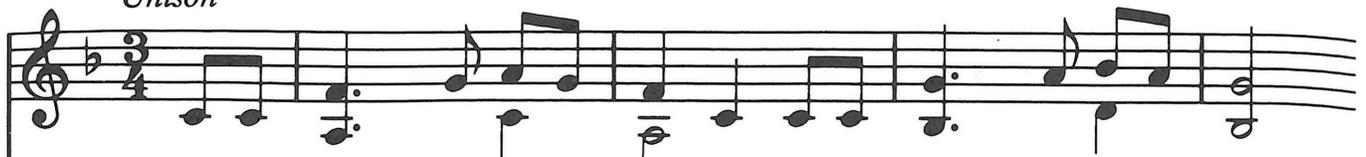
Flowers Given by Kathy Johnson and family in memory of Tom.

Lord, Who throughout These Forty Days 166

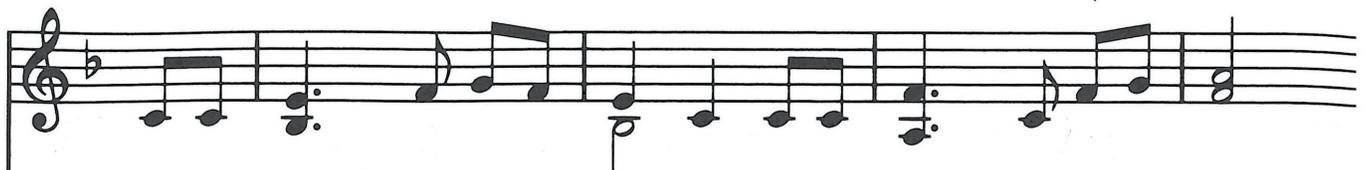
1 Lord, who through-out these for - ty days for us did fast and
 2 As you with Sa - tan did con-tend and did the vic-tory
 3 And through these days of pen - i - tence, and through this Pas-sion-
 4 A - bide with us, till when this life of suf - fering shall be

pray, teach us with you to mourn our sins and close by you to stay.
 win, O give us strength to per - se - vere, in you to con-quer sin.
 tide, yes, ev - er - more, in life and death, O Lord, with us a - bide.
 past, an Eas - ter of un - end - ing joy we may at-tain at last.

Hymn of Promise

Unison

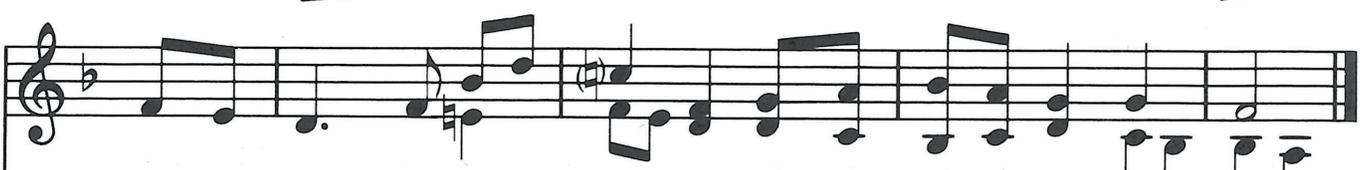
1. In the bulb there is a flow-er; in the seed, an ap-ple tree;
 2. There's a song in ev-ery si-lence, seek-ing word and mel-o - dy;
 3. In our end is our be - gin-ning; in our time, in-fin-i - ty;



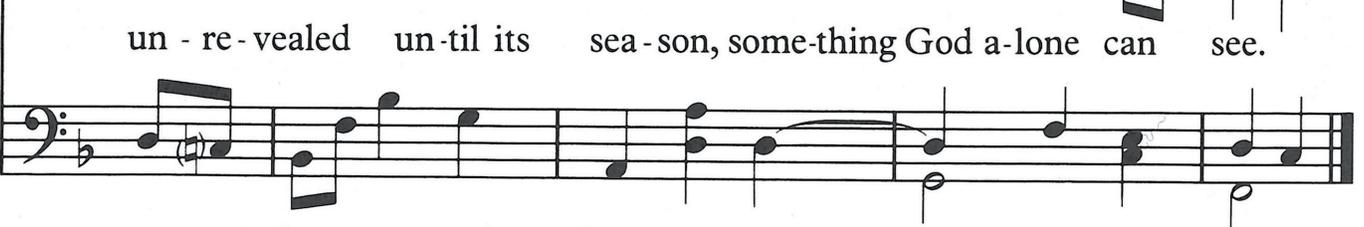
in co-coons, a hid-den prom-ise: but-ter - flies will soon be free!
 there's a dawn in ev-ery dark-ness, bring-ing hope to you and me.
 in our doubt there is be - liev-ing; in our life, e - ter - ni - ty.



In the cold and snow of win-ter there's a spring that waits to be,
 From the past will come the fu-ture; what it holds, a mys-ter - y,
 In our death, a res-ur - rec-tion; at the last, a vic-to - ry,



un - re - vealed un-til its sea-son, some-thing God a-lone can see.



Announcements

Called Congregational Meeting Sunday, March 1

A congregational meeting has been called for Sunday, March 1, immediately following worship, for the purpose of amending the church bylaws. The bylaws currently mandate that there be nine Trustees. With the board restructuring presented at the Feb. 1 Annual Meeting, the Session is proposing amending that number to "at least six" (although we will have seven active Trustees). We anticipate this being a very brief meeting.

Faith Formation

Sunday School

After the reception of new members, grades K-12 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.

Supper @ St. John's

We would love for you to join us on Wednesdays at 6 p.m. for a delicious "home cooked" meal in Fellowship Hall. There will not be a class after supper for these final five weeks, as we want you to be able to take your time and enjoy being in fellowship together!

Women's Book Study – 2 Opportunities

The Sunday book study meets at 8:15 a.m. in the Carriage House (except the first Sunday of each month). They are discussing "Appreciate these Things" 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 *Sabbath as Resistance* by Walter Brueggemann. 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, March 4 at 7 a.m. in the Carriage House to continue their study on the book of Isaiah. Contact Pastor Patrick to get more information.

Giving

Offering

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.



Financial Update for January

Operating income from all sources totaled \$95,098, above budget by \$38,357, due largely to full-year pledges received in January. Expenses for the month were \$75,163, over budget by \$225. Income minus Expenses yielded a surplus of \$19,935. The picture early in the year is always slightly inflated due to the prepaid pledges. That will average out over the course of the year. Thank you for all the ways that you make the life and ministry of our church family possible!

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).

Service

Rise Against Hunger

Join us today at 1:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall as we pack 10,000 meals for Rise Against Hunger. There is a signup sheet on the Outreach bulletin board, or you can email John Shaw (johnshaw55@gmail.com). Please feel free to invite friends, but make sure to add them to the signup sheet!

Coffee Drive for Great Valley Food Cupboard

On Sunday, March 1 we will begin accepting ground coffee or Keurig cups (decaf and caffeinated) for the Great Valley Food Cupboard. A collection box will be in Fellowship Hall.

Pastoral Update

Pastor Patrick will be out of the office this Tuesday for a Presbytery meeting in Strasburg. He will also be out on vacation from March 9-15.

Congregational Life

Discussion on Iran with the Enghetas

Join us on Sunday, March 1 after worship in the Carriage House for a discussion on Iran led by Nader & Susanne Engheta. They will discuss the recent Iranian political turmoil, exploring its effects not just on the people within Iran but also on Iranians globally. The discussion will also include a segment about the bestselling book, "The Lion Women of Tehran."

St. John's Guitar Club

Whether you play guitar, want to learn, or are just curious, all levels of ability are invited to the initial meeting of the St. John's Guitar Club on Wednesday, February 25 at 7 p.m. (after Supper). We just want to have fun, play together, and learn from each other. Bring your guitar! For questions, contact Brian Bouvier or John Senior.

February Birthdays

Happy birthday to everyone 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. Contact Barbara McConnell (blbmccconnell@aol.com) if you would like to be added to the list.

Feb. 3	Ken Dilloway
Feb. 4	Ken Coradi
Feb. 6	Deborah Bellew
Feb. 9	Ryan Crill, Julie Spahr, Katie Yoder
Feb. 10	Don Black, Caroline Carty
Feb. 11	Katie Holcomb, Lee McConnell
Feb. 15	Jeff Wagner
Feb. 17	Kathy Shaw, Janet Kaido
Feb. 24	Brigitte Belzer, Shintaro Kaido
Feb. 28	Jeanne Thompson
Feb. 29	Brynn Yoder

Henrietta Damiano Memorial Service

There will be a memorial service for Henrietta Damiano on Saturday, March 14 at 11:00 a.m. at St. John's. Please join us as we give thanks to God for the life of one of our longtime members!

Children & Youth

Children's Choir

Children in 4th grade and under are invited to join Ms. Janet in the sanctuary for Children's Choir every Sunday after worship. For more information contact our music director Janet Kaido (music@stjohnsdevon.com)

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 items to enrich their time. Please return to the brown basket when finished! In a hurry? Pre-made bags are available.

Upcoming Children/Youth Activities

Feb. 22: Rise Against Hunger 1-3 pm

Mar. 1: CCYC Pottery Painting 2-3:30 pm (RSVP by 2/22)

Mar. 15: Family Fun Day @ Arnold's 2-4pm (RSVP by 3/1)

Mar. 29: Palm Sunday Parade & Egg Hunt

Subscribe to our Children & Youth Newsletter Here:



Save the Date

March 15

Spring Family Fun Day (RSVP by March 1)

March 22

Church Family Game Night (RSVP by March 19)

March 29

Palm Sunday (Egg Hunt after worship)

April 15-17

Youth Mission Weekend (RSVP by February 15)

April 20

Lunch & Learn with Jed Koball

April 26

Education Seminar: "Faith, the Brain, and Mental Well-Being" by Rev. Miriam Diephouse-McMillan

Church Staff

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

Nancy Arico

Treasurer (outgoing funds)
treasurer@stjohnsdevon.com

Brian Bouvier

Financial Secretary
(incoming funds)
brianbouvier57@gmail.com

This Week at St. John's

Scan this QR code for the complete church calendar:



Sunday, February 22 (First Sunday in Lent)

8:15 am Women's Book Group (Kean Room)
9:30 am Worship & Sunday School
11:00 am New Officer Training (Kean Room)
1:00 pm Rise Against Hunger (Fellowship Hall)

Monday, February 23

10:00 am Women's Book Group (Kean Room)

Tuesday, February 24

4:30 pm Exercise Class (Fellowship Hall)

Wednesday, February 25

6:00 pm Supper at St. John's (Fellowship Hall)

Thursday, February 26

4:30 pm Exercise Class (Fellowship Hall)
7:00 pm Choir rehearsal

Saturday, February 28

9:00 am Exercise Class (Fellowship Hall)

Sunday, March 1 (Second Sunday in Lent)

8:15 am Deacons Meeting (Kean Room)
9:30 am Worship & Communion
10:30 am Congregational Meeting (Sanctuary)
11:00 am Discussion on Iran w/ the Enghetas (Carriage House)

Any announcements for next week's bulletin or email must be sent to Annie 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

St. John's Mission Statement

Reflecting God's unconditional love to all!

Core Values

Faith

We seek to grow in our faith and to recognize God's presence in our lives through scripture, worship, music, fellowship, study, and prayer.

Love

All people are welcome here. We are a caring, inclusive, intergenerational community, following Jesus Christ's example to love everyone, to be with one another in difficult times, and to share in each other's joys.

Service

We are passionate about helping those in need within our church family, in our local communities, across the country, and throughout the world.

Led by the Holy Spirit, we are generous with our time, talents, and resources to bring hope to others in tangible, transformative ways.

Vision Statement

A spiritual home for the community where...

- everyone is welcomed with open hearts, showing each other grace in a complicated world
- people find belonging as they are known, valued, and loved
- together, we grow in our knowledge and love of God
- Jesus inspires us to serve others with compassion

