



FAITH • LOVE • SERVICE
ST. JOHN'S
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Reflecting God's unconditional love to all!

217 Berkley Road
PO Box 399 (for mail)
Devon, PA 19333
610.688.5222
www.stjohnsdevon.com

August 23, 2026

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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 this QR code.



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.

The hymns can be found on pages 3 and 4 of the bulletin.

Please note: This service is being live-streamed and archived through our social media channels. While the video focuses on the worship leaders, participants may also appear in the recordings.

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

"The Lone, Wild Bird"

Southern Folktune

Answering God's Call to Worship

Based on 1 John 4

One: We come to God because God first came to us.

All: God sent Jesus into the world, that we might live through him.

One: We love God because God first loved us.

All: God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them!

One: There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear.

All: Let us live in love as we worship God!

^ Hymn

"O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing"

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.

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.

In response to the good news of our forgiveness in Jesus Christ, we profess our faith in Christ each week through the Affirmation of Faith. Today's Affirmation comes from the Presbyterian Church U.S.A.'s *Declaration of Faith*, written in 1977.

The scripture readings can be found on the back of the bulletin.

After the sermon, there will be a brief musical interlude, offering 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. If you see someone standing alone, go talk to them!

^ Affirming Our Faith

**Jesus lived with a constant sense of God's presence.
He put God's claim on his life above all else.
He joined others in God's worship and praise.
He drew strength from the Scriptures.
He prayed and taught his disciples to pray.
We believe Christ gives us and demands of us
personal lives that are centered in God
and open to God's reality and rule.
Christ teaches us to put obedience to God
above the interests of self, family, race, or nation;
to offer God joyously our money, ability, and time.
We need constantly to search out God's way in Scripture,
relying on the Word to tell us who God is,
to press God's present claim upon us,
and to assure us of God's grace and comfort.
Life in God's presence issues in life for others,
for if we do not love sisters and brothers whom we see,
we cannot love God whom we do not see.**

Scripture Reading Exodus 1:8-22 Bruce Phillips

Blessing of the Backpacks

All: May these tags remind you that God is always with you. As you sit and as you stand, as you learn and as you play, in every fear and every celebration, may you know God, your friend, is always there.

Anthem "When Israel Was in Egypt's Land" *Spiritual*

Scripture Reading Exodus 2:1-10

Sermon "Who Do You Fear?" Rev. Dr. Marshall
Summer Sermon Series: "Anything but Ordinary"

^ 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 "Open Our Eyes"

^ Benediction

Postlude "O, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing" *Hobby*

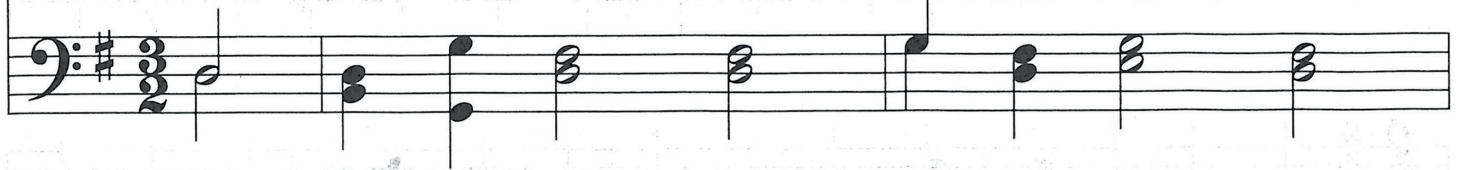
Enriching Our Worship of God

Pastors Rev. Dr. Patrick Marshall, Rev. Ridgley Beckett
Music Director Janet Kaido
Usher Bruce Phillips
Greeter John McClintick
Coffee Server Kathryn Hydier-Straub

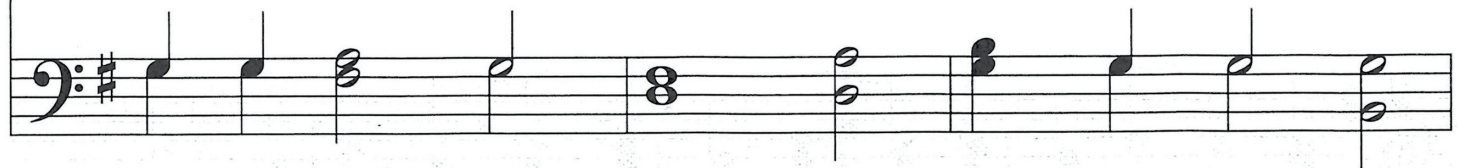
O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing 610



1 O for a thou - sand tongues to sing my
2 The name of Je - sus charms our fears, and
3 Christ speaks, and lis - tening to his voice new
4 My gra - cious Mas - ter and my God, as -
5 To God all glo - ry, praise, and love be



dear Re - deem - er's praise, the glo - ries of my
bids our sor - rows cease, sings mu - sic in the
life the dead re - ceive; the mourn - ful wak - en
sist me to pro - claim, to spread through all the
now and ev - er given by saints be - low and



God and King, the tri - umphs of God's grace!
sin - ner's ears, brings life, and health, and peace.
to re - joice; the poor in heart be - lieve.
earth a - broad the hon - ors of thy name.
saints a - bove, the church in earth and heaven.



Capo 1

Musical score for the hymn "Come set us free from the chains we have made." The score is written for four voices: Soprano (S), Alto (A), Tenor (T), and Bass (B). The key signature is one flat (B-flat major or D minor), and the time signature is common time (C). The lyrics are: "Come set us free from the chains we have made." The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a clear cadence at the end.

To stanzas; final time to Coda

The musical score is written on two systems. The first system has a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The second system has a bass clef and the same key signature. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are: 'o - pen our eyes once a - gain.' The chord progression is indicated by letters above the staff: E♭(D), D♭(C), B♭m 7 (A♭m 7), E♭2(D2), and E♭(D). The final measure of the second system is marked with a double bar line and a 'Coda' symbol.

o - pen our eyes once a - gain.

E♭(D) D♭(C) B♭m 7 (A♭m 7) E♭2(D2) E♭(D)

Fm(Em) Gm(F#m) A♭(G) B♭(A)

To the plight of the poor:

When the dark - ness sur - rounds us:

To the needs of the low - ly:

O - pen our eyes.

The musical notation for the Refrain is written on a single staff. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (Bb). The melody consists of the following notes: D4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), F4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), Bb4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (half). The lyrics 'Teach us com - pas - sion and love.' are written below the staff, aligned with the notes. The word 'Teach' is under D4, 'us' is under E4, 'com -' is under F4, 'pas -' is under G4, 'sion' is under A4, and 'and love.' is under the final Bb4-A4-G4-F4-E4-D4 sequence.

Coda



O - pen our eyes once a - gain.

A♭maj7(Gmaj7) D♭(C) B♭m7(Am7) E♭2(D2) E♭(D)

Announcements

Congregational Life

August Birthdays

Happy birthday to everyone in our church family who is celebrating a birthday this month! Please wish them a happy birthday in person at church or send them birthday wishes by text, email, or a card in the mail. If you would like to be included in our birthday lists, please contact Barbara McConnell (blbmccconnell@aol.com).

August 3 Jean Converse

August 6 Megan Hillier

August 10 Nancy Coradi

August 11 James Adams

August 11 Teagan Bullock

August 11 Connor Loftus

August 15 Michael Kaskey

August 17 Claire Hangen

August 17 Kate Little

August 17 Betsy Miller

August 18 Brian Binkley

August 18 Gavin Kerr

August 18 Brandon Marshall

August 18 Mark Ntow

August 19 Caroline Hillier

August 19 Ann Roberts

August 22 Emily Marshall

August 29 Brian Bouvier

August 29 Patricia Marshall

Wednesday Men'sDay Lunch

Our next men's lunch will be on **Wednesday, September 2 at Noon**. Men of all ages are invited to bring their lunch to the church and eat together in Fellowship Hall! No RSVP needed, and there's no agenda; just an informal time of food and fellowship together. Come a little late or leave early if you need to. If you have any questions, just ask Pastor Patrick.

Children & Youth

Scan the QR code to subscribe to our Children & Youth Newsletter:



Sunday School for K-7 begins September 20.

The Youth Fall Kick Off is on Sunday, September 27 at Covenant Pres. in Frazer.

Faith Formation

Camino de Santiago Interest Meeting

Last year Pastor Ridgley shared about her pilgrimage experience on the Camino de Santiago in Spain. Since then, other church members have expressed an interest in walking the Camino. So we decided to see if there is interest in putting together a church-wide trip open to anyone who wants to go! Join us on **Sunday, September 27 at 11:00 a.m.** for an informational meeting with *Progressive Pilgrimages* to learn more about walking the Camino de Santiago with your St. John's family!

Women's Book Study – 2 Opportunities

The Sunday book group is taking the summer off and will resume with a new book study in September. 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 Resources). They are reading *From Widows to Warriors: Women's Stories from the Old Testament* by Lynn Japinga. Copies are available in the church office. If you would like to find out more, Contact Nancy Arico (nancy.arico@verizon.net) for more info.

Men's Group

The Wednesday morning men's group will resume on September 23 at 7:00 a.m. in the Carriage House. Until then, come to one of our Wednesday Men'sDay lunches!

Interested in Joining St. John's?

We would love for you to become a part of our church family! You can indicate your interest on the Fellowship Pad or contact one of our pastors. They will get in touch with you to set up time for coffee to discuss your interest.

Scan this QR code to subscribe to our weekly email update:



This Week in the Church Office

Pastor Ridgley will be out of the office on vacation starting this Friday, August 28. She will be back in the office on Tuesday, September 8. During this time she will be unavailable by email or phone.

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

Looking Ahead

Sunday, September 13

We will once again be packing 10,000 meals for *Rise Against Hunger* in the afternoon.

Sunday, September 20

Save the date for our Fall Kickoff! We will gather for our first Sunday School class of the year followed by a meal together as a church family after worship.

Sunday, September 27

Middle & High School Youth Kickoff at Covenant Pres.

Wednesday, September 23

Supper at St. John's returns!

Nursery Help Needed

We are looking for volunteers to help our nursery worker on Sundays this Summer. We already have people in the nursery who can pick up kids and handle any physical parts of the role, but we need another adult to sit in the rocking chair and engage with our kids to help fulfill our child protection policy requirements. If we cannot have two adults in the nursery, then we cannot provide nursery care, which is one of the most hospitable things we can do for our young families (and visitors!) Please contact Pastor Ridgley or click the link in the weekly newsletter if you can help!

Giving

If you would like to support the life and ministry of St. John's, you can scan this QR code to give online.



Financial Update

As of July 31, year-to-date operating income from all sources totaled \$471,015, above budget by \$56,690, due largely to some people already giving their full pledges for the year. That always slightly inflates the financial picture in the first part of the year, but averages out as the year progresses.

Expenses year-to-date are \$431,314, under budget by \$16,741.

Income minus Expenses yielded a surplus of \$39,700. Thank you for all the ways that you make the life and ministry of our church family possible!

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, August 23

9:30 am Worship

11:00 am Stewardship Committee Meeting (Kean Room)

Monday, August 24

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

Tuesday, August 25

5:00 pm Exercise Class (Fellowship Hall)

Thursday, August 27

5:00 pm Exercise Class (Fellowship Hall)

Saturday, August 29

9:00 am Exercise Class (Fellowship Hall)

Sunday, August 30

9:30 am Worship

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

Today's Scripture Readings

Exodus 1:8–22

⁸Now a new king arose over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. ⁹He said to his people, "Look, the Israelite people are more numerous and more powerful than we. ¹⁰Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, or they will increase and, in the event of war, join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land." ¹¹Therefore they set taskmasters over them to oppress them with forced labor. They built supply cities, Pithom and Rameses, for Pharaoh. ¹²But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread, so that the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites. ¹³The Egyptians became ruthless in imposing tasks on the Israelites, ¹⁴and made their lives bitter with hard service in mortar and brick and in every kind of field labor. They were ruthless in all the tasks that they imposed on them.

¹⁵The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, ¹⁶"When you act as midwives to the Hebrew women, and see them on the birthstool, if it is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, she shall live." ¹⁷But the midwives feared God; they did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but they let the boys live. ¹⁸So the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and said to them, "Why have you done this, and allowed the boys to live?" ¹⁹The midwives said to Pharaoh, "Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women; for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them." ²⁰So God dealt well with the midwives; and the people multiplied and became very strong. ²¹And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families. ²²Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, "Every boy that is born to the Hebrews you shall throw into the Nile, but you shall let every girl live."

Exodus 2:1–10

¹Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. ²The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him three months. ³When she could hide him no longer, she got a papyrus basket for him and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. ⁴His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him.

⁵The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. ⁶When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him. "This must be one of the Hebrews' children," she said. ⁷Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?" ⁸Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Yes." So the girl went and called the child's mother. ⁹Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages." So the woman took the child and nursed it. ¹⁰When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and she took him as her son. She named him Moses, "because," she said, "I drew him out of the water."

Notes
