



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

September 13, 2026

Twenty-fourth 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

"Change My Heart, O God"

Espinosa

Answering God's Call to Worship

One: Come as you are, with all that you carry.

All: We bring our joys and our worries, our hopes and our hurts.

One: We bring the weight of old wounds, hard words, and unfinished things, along with anticipation for what God may do among us.

All: In this place, God meets us with mercy.

In God's presence, we can breathe, release, and begin again.

One: Let us make room in our hearts for healing, for grace, and for one another.

All: We come to worship the God whose love sets us free.

^ Hymn

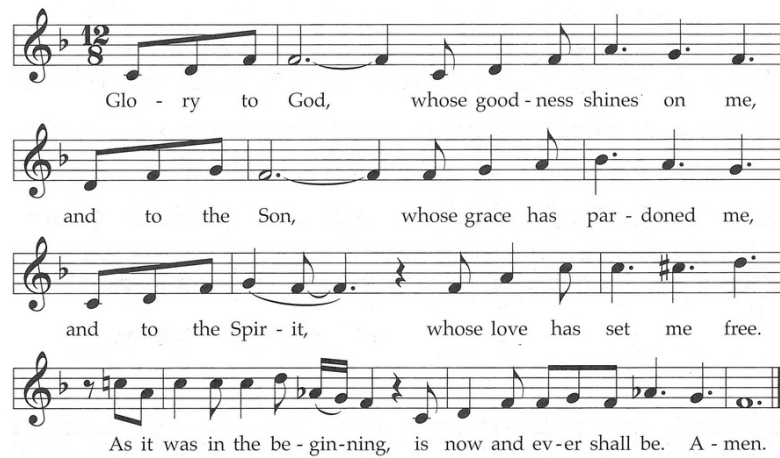
"All Creatures of Our God and King"

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 "Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me"



^ Affirming Our Faith

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father, Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

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

Scripture Reading

Matthew 18:21-35

Katy Love

Children's Time

Anthem

"Forgiveness"

Matthew West

Sermon

"Letting Go"

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

"God How Can We Forgive"

^ Benediction

Postlude

"Love Rains Down"

Jamgochian/Sadler

Enriching Our Worship of God

Music Director Janet Kaido

Usher Lynne Hay

Greeter Nancy Wolfe

Coffee Servers Brian & Chrissy Bouvier

Flowers Given in loving memory of John Humphrey by Doris, Heather, and Holly.

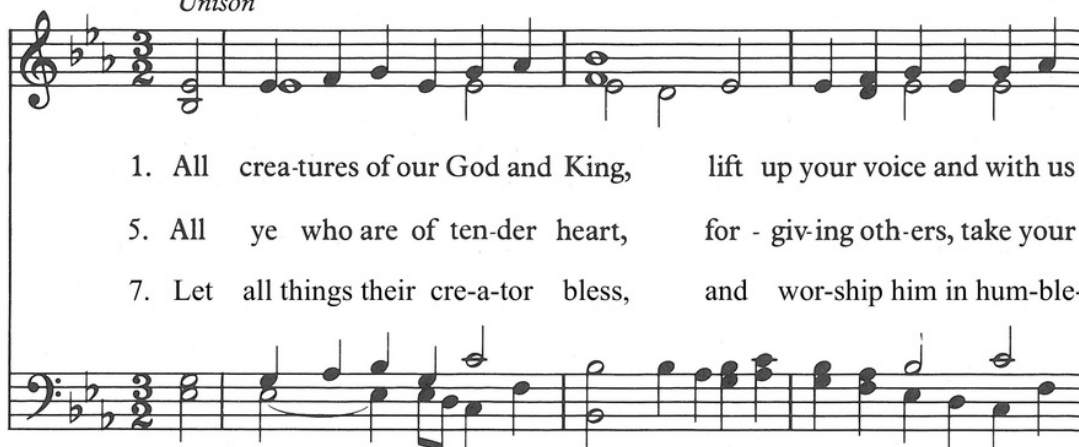
Joy Messengers Patrick Bullock, Lisa Howell, Nancy Kimmons, Katy Love, John Senior. Jeff Wagner

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!

62 All Creatures of Our God and King

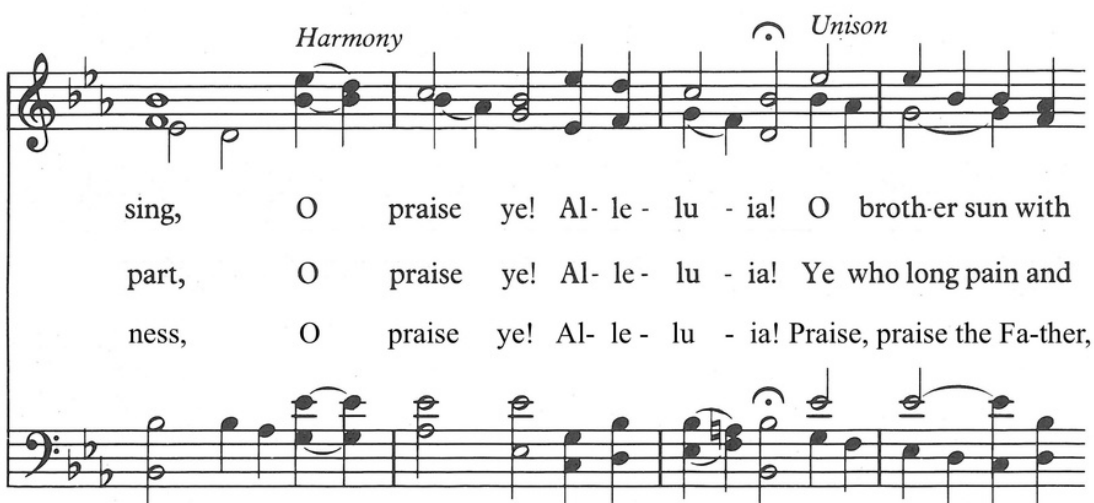
Unison



1. All crea-tures of our God and King, lift up your voice and with us
 5. All ye who are of ten-der heart, for - giv-ing oth-ers, take your
 7. Let all things their cre-a-tor bless, and wor-ship him in hum-ble-

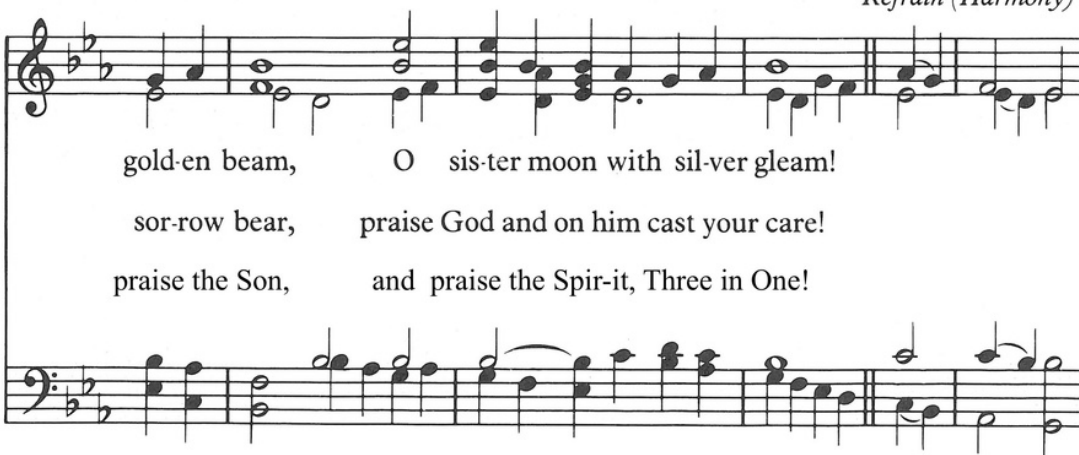
Harmony

Unison



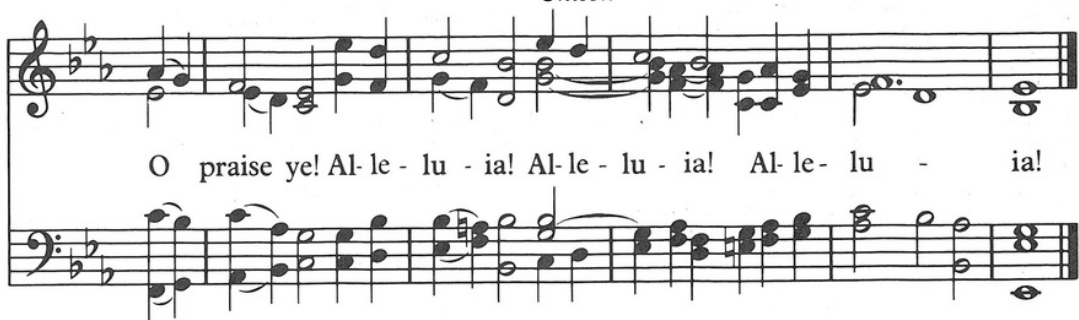
sing, O praise ye! Al-le-lu-ia! O broth-er sun with
 part, O praise ye! Al-le-lu-ia! Ye who long pain and
 ness, O praise ye! Al-le-lu-ia! Praise, praise the Fa-ther,

Refrain (Harmony)



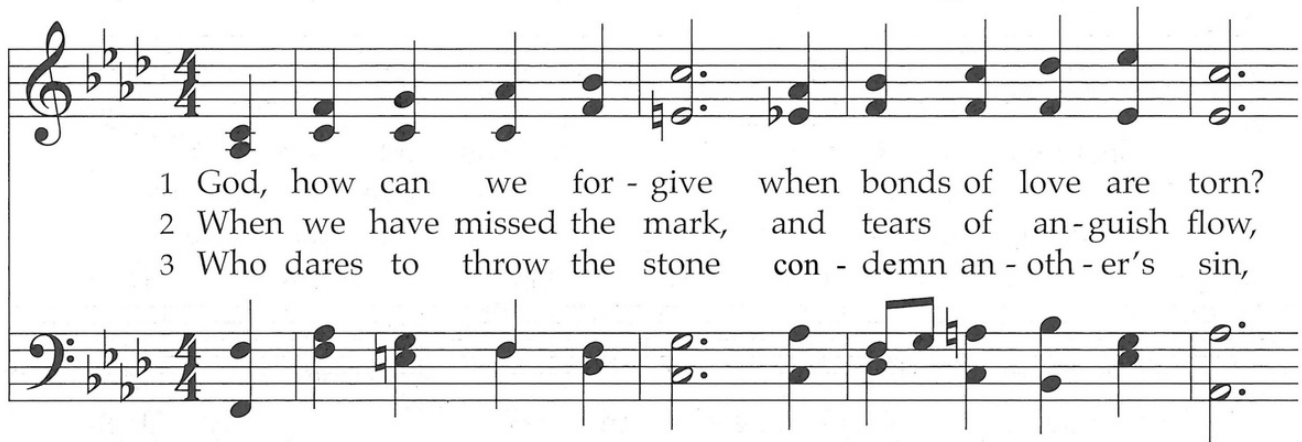
gold-en beam, O sis-ter moon with sil-ver gleam!
 sor-row bear, praise God and on him cast your care!
 praise the Son, and praise the Spir-it, Three in One!

Unison



O praise ye! Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!

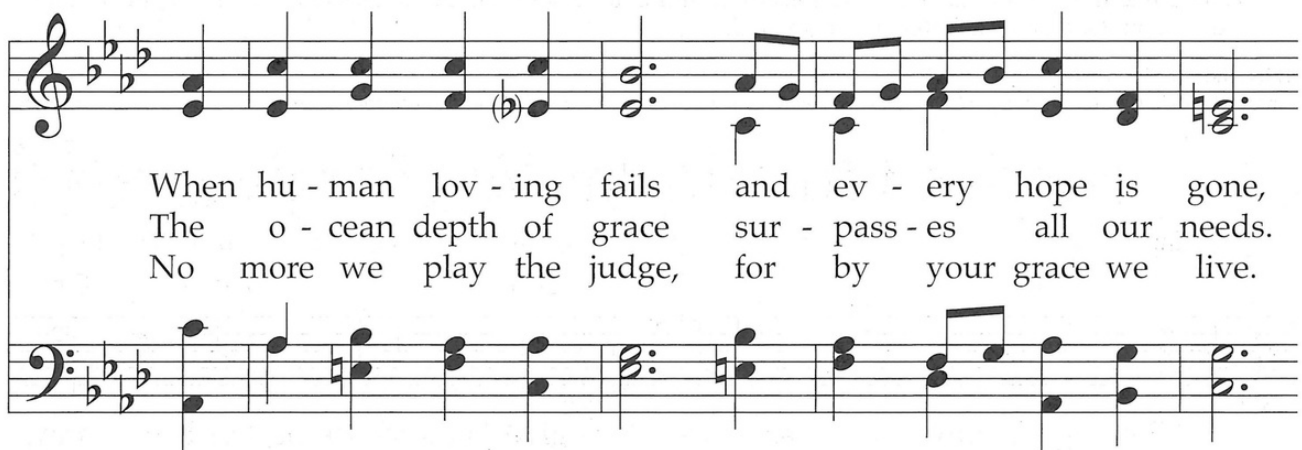
445 God, How Can We Forgive



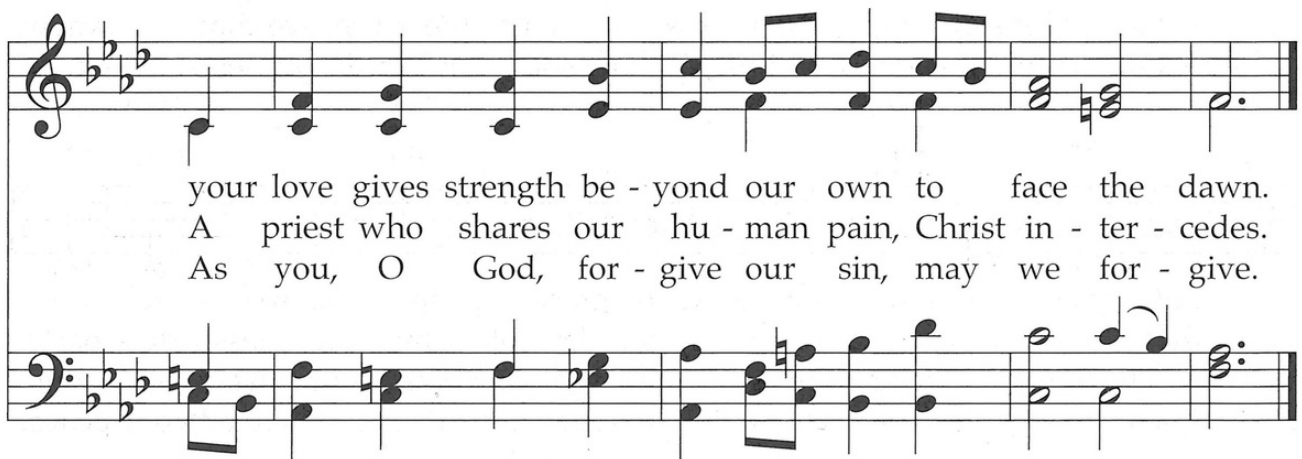
1 God, how can we for - give when bonds of love are torn?
 2 When we have missed the mark, and tears of an - guish flow,
 3 Who dares to throw the stone con - demn an - oth - er's sin,



How can we rise and start a - new, our trust re - born?
 how can you still re - lease our guilt, the debt we owe?
 when you, while know - ing all our past, for - give a - gain?



When hu - man lov - ing fails and ev - ery hope is gone,
 The o - cean depth of grace sur - pass - es all our needs.
 No more we play the judge, for by your grace we live.



your love gives strength be - yond our own to face the dawn.
 A priest who shares our hu - man pain, Christ in - ter - cedes.
 As you, O God, for - give our sin, may we for - give.

Announcements

Congregational Life

September 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).

Sept. 2 Stephanie Crill

Sept. 5 Linda Groves

Sept. 7 Stella Urbina

Sept. 7 Jim Ryland

Sept. 8 Liz Ward

Sept. 9 Nana Owusu-Ntow

Sept. 10 Pete Crawford

Sept. 11 Richard Hangen

Sept. 15 Virginia Holt

Sept. 16 Mark Ward

Sept. 17 Michael Whalen

Sept. 18 Katy Love

Sept. 19 Connor Feldman

Sept. 20 John Adams

Sept. 20 Chrissy Bouvier

Sept. 21 Cat Duncan

Sept. 22 Wanda Odom

Sept. 22 Pam Schafer

Sept. 23 Linda Duncan

Sept. 25 Sophie Coradi

Sept. 27 John McClintick

Sept. 28 Matthew Loftus

Sept. 29 Alice Bell

Sept. 29 Rowan Bellew

Wednesday Men's Day Lunch

Our next men's lunch will be this **Wednesday, Sept. 16 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.

Stewardship

Our 2027 stewardship campaign – *Gratitude in Action* – kicks off today! Over the next seven weeks, you will be hearing from members of the St John's community who will reflect on their gratitude for the life and ministry of our church family. If you have any questions about this year's campaign, please contact stewardship chair Jim Tiede (jim.tiede@gmail.com).

Children & Youth

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



Sunday School for grades 1-7 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, Sept. 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 group meets at 8:15 a.m., both in person in the Carriage house and on Zoom. They will be starting the book *Braving the Truth* by Rachel Held Evans on Sunday, October 11. If you would like to find out more or are interested in attending, please contact Nancy Wolfe at nj.wolfe@verizon.net.

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's Day 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.

This Week in the Church Office

The church office is open Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Any announcements for next week's bulletin or email must be sent to Annie by Noon on Wednesday.

Friday is Patrick and 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

Outreach

Rise Against Hunger - Today!

Join us at 1:00 p.m. today in Fellowship Hall as we work together to pack 10,000 meals through Rise Against Hunger to feed hungry people around the world. There are roles for all ages and abilities. Please feel free to bring friends! (We will be finished well before the Eagles kickoff at 4:25 p.m.!!)

Pillowcase Sewing Event - September 28

This September, in honor of Childhood Cancer Awareness Month, Ryan's Case for Smiles is hosting their Miles of Pillowcase Smiles Campaign. Their goal, nationally, with your help is to sew 40,000 pillowcases – one for every child in treatment. Join us on Monday, September 28 as the RCFS/St. John's group resumes its monthly gathering in Fellowship Hall from 1:00-4:00 p.m. We need sewers (bring your own machine or use one of ours), pinners, ironers, and baggers. There is a job for anyone! Contact Kathy Johnson with questions: kjohnson.1725@comcast.net

Music

Youth Handbells Orientation - September 20

Youth Grades 5-12 are invited to join Betsy Miller in the Music Room after worship to learn about our handbell program and ways you can be involved this year with our Handbell Choir! You do not need prior experience to join. This is a fun and relaxed environment to learn something new and explore a new way of worshipping God!



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

Looking Ahead

Sunday, September 20

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. **RSVP using link in the weekly email!**

Wednesday, September 23

Supper at St. John's returns!
Fall Class Starts
Youth Bible Study Begins

Sunday, September 27

Middle & High School Youth Kickoff at Skyzone (Exton)

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

An update for the month of August will be available next week. 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!

Stewardship

Our 2027 Stewardship campaign – Gratitude in Action – begins Sunday, September 13. Over the next 7 weeks, you will be hearing from members of the St John's community, some newer members and some longer term members, who will reflect on their gratitude for the actions of St Johns. Please contact Jim Tiede, Stewardship Chair, if you have any questions about this year's campaign.

Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give. You shouldn't give if you don't want to. You shouldn't give because you are forced to. God loves a cheerful giver.
2 Corinthians, 9:7

Church Staff

Rev. Dr. Patrick Marshall

Senior Pastor

patrick.marshall@stjohnsdevon.com

Rev. Ridgley Beckett

Associate Pastor

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Annie Carruthers

Church Administrator

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Janet Kaido

Director of Music

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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, September 13

8:30 am Trustees Meeting (Kean Room)

9:30 am Worship

1:00 pm Rise Against Hunger (Fellowship Hall)

Monday, September 14

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

Tuesday, September 15

5:00 pm Exercise Class (Fellowship Hall)

Wednesday, September 16

12:00 pm Men's Lunch (Fellowship Hall)

Thursday, September 17

5:00 pm Exercise Class (Fellowship Hall)

7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Saturday, September 19

9:00 am Exercise Class (Fellowship Hall)

Sunday, September 20

9:30 am Worship

10:30 am Fall Kickoff Brunch (Fellowship Hall)

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 Reading

Matthew 18:21–35

²¹Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" ²²Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

²³"For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; ²⁵and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. ²⁶So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' ²⁷And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt.

²⁸But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' ²⁹Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' ³⁰But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³²Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' ³⁴And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

Notes

[illegible]