



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

Reflecting God's unconditional love to all!

217 Berkley Road
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Devon, PA 19333
610.688.5222
www.stjohnsdevon.com

October 18, 2026

Twenty-ninth 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

"Open Hands"

Porter's Gate

Answering God's Call to Worship

One: Come to the mountain of the LORD, all you people:

All: We come to hear the voice of the God who calls us.

One: Remember what God has done: how God saw the misery of the people in Egypt, God broke the power of Pharaoh, and God bore them out of oppression on eagles' wings.

All: The LORD has graciously saved us.

One: God speaks to the whole community: the old and the young, the stranger and the neighbor, the least and the greatest together.

All: We are the people whom God has called.

One: The whole earth belongs to God, yet God has chosen a people to be a priestly kingdom, a holy nation, a blessing to all the families of the earth.

All: We are called to bring blessing to all, just as Christ came among us as one who serves.

One: So let us answer God together, with one voice:

**All: All that the LORD has spoken, we will do!
With glad hearts, we come to worship!**

^ Hymn

"Glorious Things of Thee are Spoken"

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

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

This morning we are happy to welcome the Rev. Dr. Brennan Breed as our guest preacher! He is the Associate Professor of Old Testament at Princeton Seminary and parish associate at the Presbyterian Church in Morristown, NJ. Rev. Dr. Breed researches wisdom and apocalyptic literature in ancient Israel and the use and influence of biblical texts throughout history. He lives in Princeton with his wife, Catherine (a fellow PTS graduate), their two children, and two unruly but cute miniature schnauzers.

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!

^ 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.**

^ Affirming Our Faith

Scripture Reading Exodus 19:1 Jeanne Lynam

Children's Time
As Pre-K-7th 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 "I Hear a Call" Arata

Sermon Rev. Dr. Brennan Breed
After the sermon, there will be a brief musical interlude, offering time for reflection.

^ 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 "Leaning on The Everlasting Arms"

^ Benediction

^ Postlude "Every Time I Feel the Spirit" traditional
Every time I feel the Spirit, movin' in my heart, I will pray

Enriching Our Worship of God

Music Director Janet Kaido
Greeter Jeanne Lynam
Coffee Servers Mark & Liz Ward
Joy Messengers Patrick Bullock, Lisa Howell, Janet Kaido,
Nancy Kimmons, John Senior

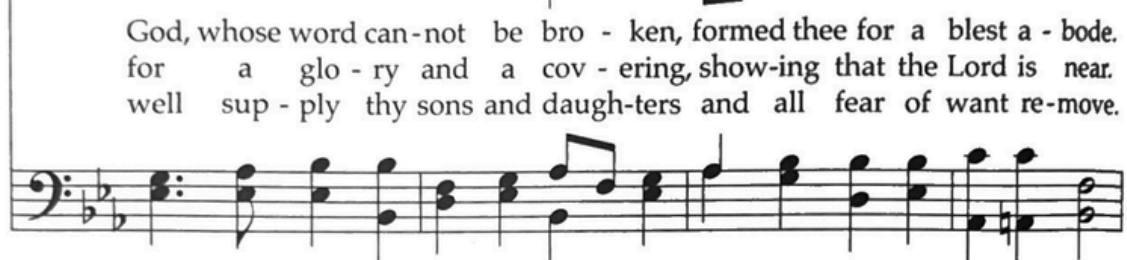
81 Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken



1 Glo - rious things of thee are spo - ken, Zi - on, cit - y of our God.
 2 Round each hab - i - ta - tion hov - ering, see the cloud and fire ap - pear
 3 See, the streams of liv - ing wa - ters, spring - ing from e - ter - nal love,



God, whose word can - not be bro - ken, formed thee for a blest a - bode.
 for a glo - ry and a cov - ering, show - ing that the Lord is near.
 well sup - ply thy sons and daugh - ters and all fear of want re - move.



On the rock of a - ges found - ed, what can shake thy sure re - pose?
 Thus de - riv - ing from their ban - ner light by night and shade by day,
 Who can faint while such a riv - er ev - er flows, their thirst to as - suage?



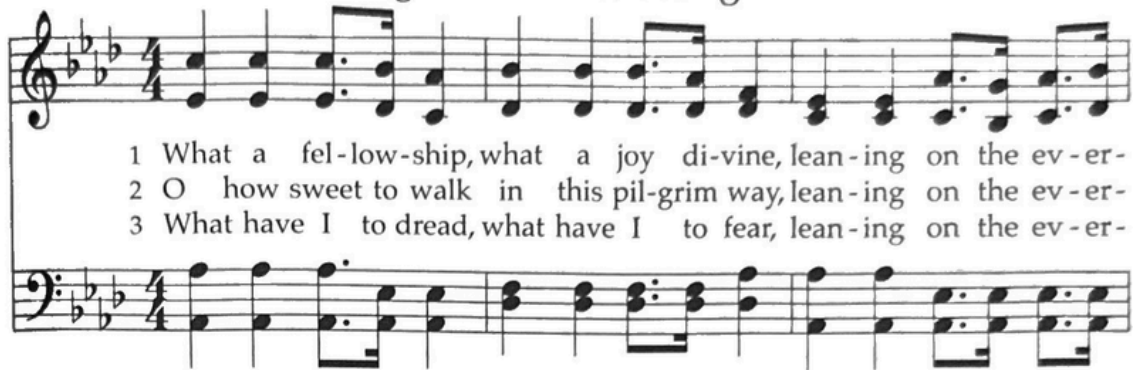
With sal - va - tion's walls sur - round - ed, thou may'st smile at all thy foes.
 safe they feed up - on the man - na which God gives them when they pray.
 Grace, so like the Lord the giv - er, nev - er fails from age to age.



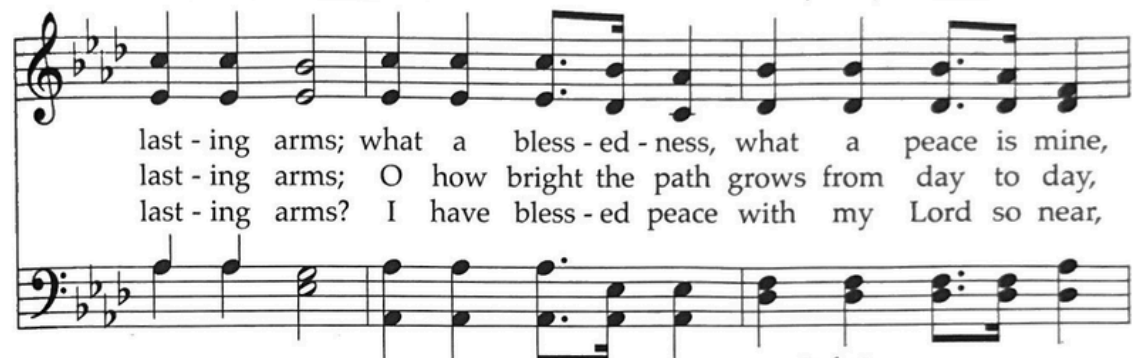
The Nazi appropriation of this tune for propaganda purposes has clouded a noble piece of music first associated with this text in 1889. In a 1779 collection, the author indicated that this hymn is primarily based on Isaiah 33:20–21 with allusions to several other passages.

What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine 837

Leaning on the Everlasting Arms



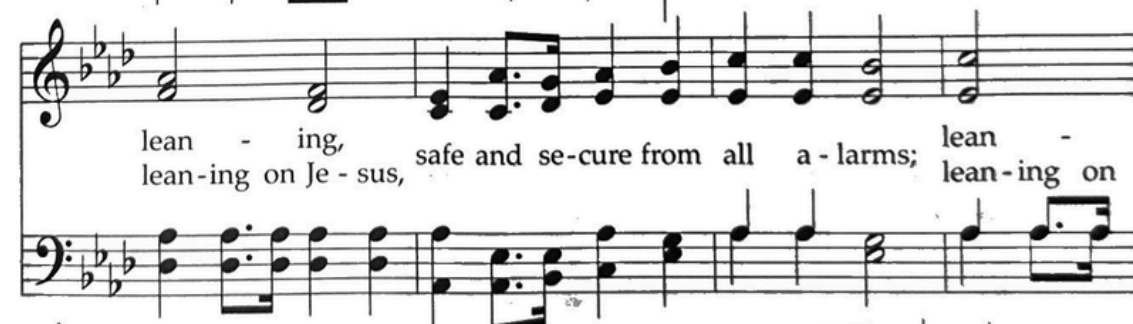
1 What a fel-low-ship, what a joy di-vine, lean-ing on the ev-er-
 2 O how sweet to walk in this pil-grim way, lean-ing on the ev-er-
 3 What have I to dread, what have I to fear, lean-ing on the ev-er-



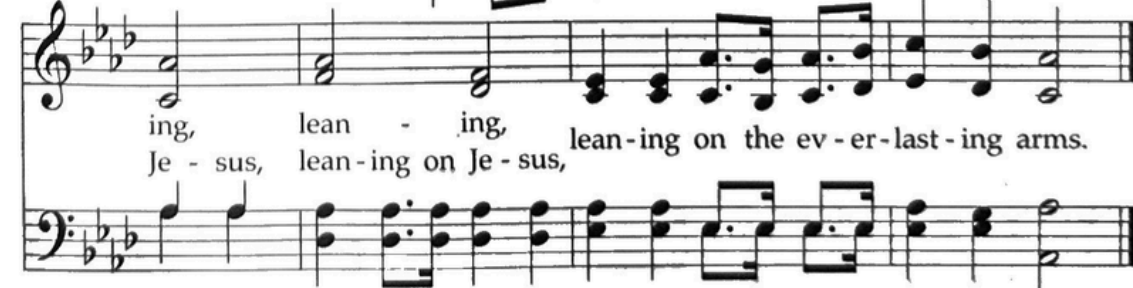
last-ing arms; what a bless-ed-ness, what a peace is mine,
 last-ing arms; O how bright the path grows from day to day,
 last-ing arms? I have bless-ed peace with my Lord so near,



lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms. *Refrain*
 Lean-ing, Lean-ing on Je-sus,



lean-ing, safe and se-cure from all a-larms; lean-ing on
 lean-ing on Je-sus, lean-ing on Je-sus,



ing, lean-ing, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms.
 Je-sus, lean-ing on Je-sus,

The composer of the tune (and creator of the refrain) asked the author of the stanzas to write a hymn based on the latter part of Deuteronomy 33:27 (as worded in the King James Version): "Underneath are the everlasting arms." Their joint effort has proved very popular.

Announcements

Congregational Life

October 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 (blbmconnell@aol.com).

October 1 Steve Oliver	October 15 Jim Little
October 1 Joe Loomis	October 17 Patrick Marshall
October 7 Garrick Bellew	October 19 Andrew Ward
October 8 Nader Engheta	October 21 Christian McGreevy
October 12 John Shaw	October 23 Ben Loomis
October 13 Troy Fisher	October 26 Tom Higgins
October 15 Jim Little	October 28 Matt Crill

Supper at St. John's

Join us on Wednesday at 6 p.m. for a delicious dinner, followed by a class at 7:00. This week will be our last class with Rev. Miriam Diephouse-McMillan on the mental health benefits of spiritual practices. You can come just for dinner, just for the class, or for both! We hope that you will take a break in the middle of the week and join us for a wonderful evening together!

Lunch & Learn

Join us **this Tuesday, October 20 from 11:30–1:00** for lunch and a presentation by Rev. Dr. Jeff Smith from *Love Justice International*, who will share the realities of human trafficking and how we can pray, partner, and participate in this life-saving mission. Please RSVP using the link in the weekly email, so that we know how much food to prepare.

Children & Youth

Sunday School - After the children's time, children in grades 1-7 will leave for Sunday School. Youth in grades 8-12 gather for weekly Bible Study on Wednesdays from 7-8 p.m. in the youth room.

CCYC: (Chester County Youth Collective) 4:30-6 PM

Grades 5-12 are invited to join us for dinner, games, and a bonfire at Covenant Pres (400 Lancaster Ave). Don't forget to bring items for the church clothing drive!

Scan to subscribe to our Children & Youth Newsletter:



Congregational Life Contd.

Coming in Spring: A Do-It-Ourselves Photo Directory!

A number of folks have requested that we update our paper photo directory. For the first time ever, we are going to make our own picture directory! Stephanie Crill has kindly volunteered to take photographs of individuals, couples and family groups following worship on Oct. 25 and Nov. 1 in Fellowship Hall. For the first two weeks, this is on a first-come, first-served basis. Additional dates will be provided in November, December and January. If you are unavailable to have your picture taken, you may send a favorite picture to Stephanie (sacrill@yahoo.com) Thank you for your participation in helping our homemade St. John's Picture Directory become a reality!

Fall Fun Day at Linvilla Orchards

We hope you'll join us on Sunday, November 1 from 1:45-3:00 p.m. for an afternoon at Linvilla Orchards as a church family. We will ride in a private hayride together, wind our way through a corn maze, enjoy apple cider donuts, and catapult apples in the field! To RSVP, click the link in the weekly email

Faith Formation

Pop-up Sunday School on Exodus - October 18 & 25

Join us after worship in the Carriage House on Sunday, October 18 & 25 for a two-week Pop-up Sunday School on the book of Exodus! The class will be led by Rev. Dr. Brennan Breed, the Associate Professor of Old Testament at Princeton Seminary. Brennan will also be preaching for us on October 18.

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 started the book *Braving the Truth* by Rachel Held Evans this morning. 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. Contact Nancy Arico (nancy.arico@verizon.net) for more info.

Men's Group

The Wednesday morning men's group meets on **Wednesday, October 21 at 7:00 a.m.** in the Carriage House. All men are welcome!

This Week in the Church Office

Pastor Patrick is out of the office on vacation, returning on Tuesday, October 20. During that time he is unavailable by email or phone.

The church office is open Monday-Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Friday 9:00 a.m. to Noon. 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

Gemma Services Classroom Volunteers Needed!

Gemma Services is looking for classroom volunteers for their new autism-centered program for students in grades K-5. The program is housed at the Plymouth Meeting campus of the Martin Luther School. For more information, please contact Nancy Higgins at nrhiggins76@gmail.com.

"Everything but the Turkey" with Gemma Services

This year, the Outreach Committee is working with the "Everything but the Turkey" project at Gemma Services to provide the supplies to help 30 Philadelphia families enjoy a delicious Thanksgiving dinner. You can help in two ways:

1. Plan to join us after church on Sunday, October 18 to pack the food into bags
2. Donate \$25 Walmart gift cards so families can shop for fresh items. If you don't live near a Walmart store, their gift cards are also available at CVS.

After you purchase the Walmart Gift Card(s), you can return them to Nancy Higgins during coffee fellowship, or to the church office no later than October 18. If you would like a receipt from Gemma Services for your donation, please include a note with your name and address. Thank you so much for your generous support for these families!

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 September 30, year-to-date operating income from all sources totaled \$542,852, above budget by \$14,844. Expenses year-to-date are \$552,114, under budget by \$14,752. Income minus Expenses yielded a deficit of \$9,263.

Thank you for all the ways that you make the life and ministry of our church family possible!

Music

Choir Rehearsals

The choir rehearses on Thursday nights at 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Email Janet Kaido at music@stjohnsdevon.com for more information.

Adult Handbells are back!

The Devon Chapel Bells (older teens and adults) rehearse on Thursday evenings from 6 to 7 in the Music Room. New ringers are always welcome! Contact Betsy Miller with any questions.

Looking Ahead

Tuesday October 20

Lunch & Learn (11:30 a.m., Fellowship Hall)

Sunday October 25

Pop-Up Sunday School on Exodus with Brennan Breed
Fall Festival (4-6 p.m.) Dinner is Served!

Saturday, November 1

Fall Fun Day at Linvilla for ALL AGES 1:45 p.m. to 4 p.m.)

Saturday, November 14

David Sheep Memorial Service (10:30 a.m.)

Sunday, November 15

Consecration Sunday (worship & brunch)

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:



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

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, October 18

9:30 am Worship

11:00 am Pop-Up Sunday School with Brennan Breed (Carriage House)

4:30 pm Youth Group (Covenant Pres. Frazer)

Monday, October 19

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

Tuesday, October 20

11:30 am Lunch & Learn (Fellowship Hall)

5:00 pm Exercise Class (Fellowship Hall)

Wednesday, October 21

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

7:00 pm Sacred Balance Class (Carriage House)

Youth Bible Study (Youth Room)

Thursday, October 22

5:00 pm Exercise Class (Fellowship Hall)

6:00 pm Adult Bells Rehearsal (Bell Room)

7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Saturday, October 24

9:00 am Exercise Class (Fellowship Hall)

Sunday, October 25

9:30 am Worship

11:00 am Pop-Up Sunday School with Brennan Breed (Carriage House)

4:00 pm Fall Festival

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

Exodus 19:1-9.

¹ On the third new moon after the Israelites had gone out of the land of Egypt, on that very day, they came into the wilderness of Sinai. ² They had journeyed from Rephidim, entered the wilderness of Sinai, and camped in the wilderness; Israel camped there in front of the mountain. ³ Then Moses went up to God; the Lord called to him from the mountain, saying, "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the Israelites: ⁴ You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. ⁵ Now therefore, if you obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession out of all the peoples. Indeed, the whole earth is mine, ⁶ but you shall be for me a priestly kingdom and a holy nation. These are the words that you shall speak to the Israelites."

⁷ So Moses came, summoned the elders of the people, and set before them all these words that the Lord had commanded him. ⁸ The people all answered as one: "Everything that the Lord has spoken we will do." Moses reported the words of the people to the Lord. ⁹ Then the Lord said to Moses, "I am going to come to you in a dense cloud, in order that the people may hear when I speak with you and so trust you ever after."

Notes

[illegible]