

St. John's at Worship Third Sunday in Lent

Welcome and Announcements

Introit "May You Find a Light" *Garrels*

Answering God's Call to Worship

One: Worship is a place to rest;

**All: to breathe deeply, catch our breath,
and find peace for our bodies and our spirits.**

One: Worship is a place to grow;

**All: to ask questions, listen for God's word,
and allow it to challenge us.**

One: Christ invites us to meet him here,
to find rest and growth in him.

**All: For where two or more are gathered in his name,
Christ is always there.**

One: Let us worship our gracious God.

*Hymn 11 (Green) "Be Still, for the Presence"

Prayer of Invocation & Confession

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

**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

**We believe in a God who loves us
and tends to us like a gardener.**

**We believe that like the trees and flowers,
there are seasons for growth and seasons for rest;
there are days for pruning and days for planting.**

**This world is God's garden,
and we trust that our green-thumbed God
can grow in us the sweetest fruit and the most beautiful flowers.**

**So may we plant roots, reach for the sky,
grow where we can, and rest when we need,
for we believe that God is at work in the pruning and the planting.**

**We do not grow alone.
Thanks be to God! Amen.**

Scripture Reading Luke 13:6-9 (pg. 76, N.T.) Brian Binkley

Ordination, Installation, and Commissioning of Officers

Presentation of Elders for Installation: Sue Chudy, Lynne Hay

Presentation of Deacons for Ordination: Tom Higgins, Caroline Hillier

Constitutional Questions of Ordination/Installation

Prayer of Ordination and Installation

All those who have previously been ordained as Deacons, Ruling Elders, or Teaching Elders are invited to come forward for the laying on of hands.

Declaration of Ordination/Installation and Charge

Commissioning of Trustees: John Adams, Chuck Lynam

Recognition of Outgoing Elders, Deacons, and Trustees

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 "But for the Cross of Christ" *Fowler, Getty, Waterman*

Sermon REST & GROWTH Rev. Dr. Marshall
Lenten Sermon Series:

Everything in Between: Navigating the Polarities of Life and Faith

*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

*Hymn 707 "Hymn of Promise"

*Benediction

*Postlude "Calling All Angels" *Colin, Monahan*

ENRICHING OUR WORSHIP OF GOD

Music Director Janet Kaido

Joy Messengers Linda Duncan, Troy Fisher, Lisa Howell, Nancy Kimmons,
John McClintick, Pam Schafer, John Senior, Jeff Wagner

Greeter Kate Johnson

Coffee Jeanne Thompson, Sandy Forbes

WELCOME TO ST. JOHN'S!

No matter who you are, where you're 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

After the installation of officers, grades K-12th are invited to leave with their teachers for Sunday School. 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.

FREE CONCERT – TONIGHT AT 5:00 P.M.

St. John's is hosting a concert tonight at 5:00 p.m. in the sanctuary! Pianist Jonathan Kreamer, soprano Bethann Dilione, and tenor Chris Lorge will present a program titled, "Love & Devotion," featuring a diverse selection of songs ranging from Verdi and Dvorak to Bernstein and Rodgers & Hammerstein, each offering a poignant reflection on the spectrum of human emotion. This concert is free and open to the whole community, so please bring friends/family and join us for an evening of beautiful music!

TRANSFORMATION PROCESS UPDATE

The chairs of the various ministry teams have all been confirmed, and they will now begin contacting the members of their teams. There will be a meeting of the chairs on Sunday, April 13 to walk them through the implementation process.

MEN'S GROUP

The Men's Group will meet **Wednesday, April 2 at 7:00 a.m.** in the Carriage House. They are reading, *Sitting at the Feet of Rabbi Jesus* by Ann Spangler, and will be discussing chapters 10 and 11. All men are welcome!

WOMEN'S BOOK STUDY – 2 OPPORTUNITIES!

The Sunday book group meets from 8:15-9:20 a.m. in the Kean Room to discuss *The Book of Forgiving: The Fourfold Path for Healing Ourselves and Our World* by Desmond & Mpho Tutu. Contact Nancy Wolfe (nj.wolfe@verizon.net) with any questions.

The Monday group is doing a Lenten study of the book *Pause: Spending Lent with the Psalms*, by Elizabeth Caldwell. They meet at 10:00 a.m., both in person in the Kean Room and on Zoom (use the church Zoom room link on the website). A copy of the book is available in the Book Nook in Fellowship Hall, if you want to check it out. Contact Nancy Arico (nancy.arico@verizon.net or 610-550-9547) for more information.

DEACON'S CLOTHING DRIVE

This month we are collecting new and gently-used clothing for CityTeam based in Chester. Donations can be dropped off in the front closet of the Carriage House from March 16-31. Please contact Ann Roberts (610-952-1128 or annroberts204@gmail.com) with any questions.

TEAM OLIVER'S 6TH ANNUAL PILLOWCASE SEWING EVENT – APRIL 5!

Join us on Saturday, April 5 for Team Oliver's 6th Annual Pillowcase Sewing Day to support Ryan's Case for Smiles! No experience is needed, all are invited to participate! These pillowcases will help brighten the day of a critically ill child. We will pair novice volunteers with others who can help guide them. You may sign up for one or more sessions. Food and fun music will be provided! Donations gladly accepted to help cover the cost of fabric. If you have a Team Oliver shirt, please wear it!

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

We are saddened to share the news that former St. John's member **Joan Anderson** died on March 7 in Cheyenne, Wyoming. Unfortunately, we have no other information to share at this time.

SUPPER AT ST. JOHN'S

There are two more weeks left in this season of Supper at St. John's! Join us on Wednesday at 6 p.m. for a delicious home-cooked meal, followed by a class starting at 7 p.m. This is a wonderful time of food, fellowship, and education; a great chance to slow down in the middle of the week, enjoy a meal that you do not have to cook, and catch up with your church family! You are welcome to come for dinner, even if you cannot stay for the class (or just come for the class). After supper we will continue with our class led by Dr. Brennan Breed of Columbia Theological Seminary:

Is God in Control of a World Out of Balance? *Reading the Book of Daniel in the 21st Century.* Many of us feel like the world is getting stranger, more complex, and more unbalanced with every passing year. Several books of the Bible address an ancient situation that resembles ours in many ways, and one of them is the book of Daniel. In this study we will learn from the example of Daniel and his friends how can we retain faith in God's sovereignty in the midst of a world that seems to have lost its moorings.

NEW WAYS TO CONNECT WITH OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Do you have a special skill, interest, or hobby that you would like to share with your St. John's family? Would you like to know who else shares a common interest? If so, please take five minutes to indicate your skills and interests on the survey below. You are not signing up for anything; we just want to connect people with shared interests! Everyone who participates will receive a link providing them with a compilation of our church family's many talents, hobbies, and interests.

<https://mator.wufoo.com/forms/skills-interests-inventory/>

If you would prefer to fill out a paper copy of the survey, just contact Annie in the church office.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS AT ST. JOHN'S

Happy birthday to those 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.

March 4	Janice Rosencrance
March 5	Steve Scolari
March 7	John Lieberman
March 8	Ryan Marshall, Chris Oliver
March 10	Colvin Oliver
March 11	Peter Oliver
March 17	Charlie Scott
March 20	Jen Marshall
March 21	Susanne Engheta
March 27	Pat Churchill
March 29	Ellie Fisher

If you have a March birthday and would like to be included on this list, please contact Barbara McConnell (blbmconnell@aol.com).

PASTOR RIDGLEY'S SABBATICAL

Pastor Ridgley is on sabbatical until April 2. During this time, she has no pastoral responsibilities and is unavailable by email, phone, and in person. Her purple stole remains on the communion table as a reminder to pray for her, that God would use this time of rest to nourish her body, mind, and spirit.

ST. JOHN'S CALENDAR

Sun, Mar. 23	8:15 am	Women's Book Group (Kean Room)
	9:30 am	Worship & Sunday School
	5:00 pm	Community Concert (Sanctuary)
Mon, Mar. 24	10:00 am	Women's Book Group (Kean)
Tues, Mar. 25	5:00 pm	Exercise Class (Fellowship Hall)
Wed, Mar. 26	6:00 pm	Supper at St. John's (Fell. Hall)
Thurs, Mar. 27	5:00 pm	Exercise Class (Fell. Hall)
	7:00 pm	Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
Sat, Mar. 29	9:00 am	Exercise Class (Fell. Hall)
Sun, Mar. 30	8:15 am	Women's Book Group (Kean)
	9:30 am	Worship & Sunday School

This Week in the Church Office

Any announcements for next week's bulletin or email can be sent to Annie at admin@stjohnsdevon.com 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



www.stjohnsdevon.com

217 Berkley Road | Box 399 | Devon, PA 19333
610-688-5222

Rev. Dr. Patrick Marshall, Senior Pastor (patrick.marshall@stjohnsdevon.com)
Rev. Ridgley Joyner, Associate Pastor (on sabbatical until April 2)
Annie Carruthers, Church Administrator (admin@stjohnsdevon.com)
Janet Kaido, Director of Music (music@stjohnsdevon.com)
Sue Chudy, Clerk of Session (susan.chudy@stjohnsdevon.com)



A CHURCH FAMILY, A FAMILY CHURCH

Slow Growth
by Rev. Sarah Speed

There's a vine in the South that covers everything.
It chokes out the light.
Grows up to twelve inches per day.
In a matter of years, it will blanket a forest.
If you saw it from space, you'd marvel at its reach.
If you saw it from the passenger seat,
you'd weep at what it covers.
Those looking for fast shade plant this invasive vine.
Who can blame them? We're all impatient.
But if it's fruit you want—
the tart cherry, the sticky sweet kumquat,
the soft side of a peach, the crisp bite of an apple—
then bless the rain.
Thank the sun.
Put your hands in the dirt,
and wait.

March 23, 2025
For the latest information and news about St. John's:
www.stjohnsdevon.com
facebook.com/stjohnspresbyterianeandevonpa