



Glory to God

IN THE HIGHEST

Christmas Eve Worship

December 24, 2017



**St. James Presbyterian Church
Order for Worship**

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

A Time for Gathering and Quiet Meditation

Welcome. We are so glad you have joined us for worship today. Please fill out our Friendship Pad, located at the end of your pew, so we can get to know you. Prayer cards are also available in the pew pockets. If you would like to have your prayer shared in worship, please fill out the card and hand it to an usher during the Passing of the Peace.

We worship using a variety of liturgy, printed in your bulletin, and two song books. The purple hymnal called Glory to God (GTG) and the black book, The Faith We Sing (FWS). Please silence electronic devices before the service.

Prelude

Julian Fajardo, Pianist

“O Come, Little Children” (arr. Rogers) St. James Bell Choir

Welcome and Announcements

***Call to Worship**

Thomas Family

Do not be afraid; for see—

I am bringing you good news of great joy.

**To us is born this day in the city of David
a Savior, the Messiah, the Lord**

This will be a sign for you:
you will find a child wrapped in cloth
and lying in a manger.

**Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace!**

Let us go now to Bethlehem.

***Candle Lighting Hymn** “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” #88 GTG vs 1-7

Lighting of the Advent Candle

**Please stand as you are able.*

First Scripture Reading

Isaiah 9:2-7 (pg. 638 in pew Bible)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.**Call to Confession**

Dave Armstrong, Lector

In Jesus Christ our Lord
the grace of God has appeared,
bringing light to us all.
With confidence and joy,
let us confess our sin.

Prayer of Confession

**Great and glorious God,
through Jesus Christ our Savior you have shown us
that the blessed age of grace has appeared
and the hoped-for time of salvation has come.
Yet we cling to the glories of the present age—
worldly passions and impious pursuits,
self-indulgent, crooked, and ungodly ways.
We choose to walk in darkness,
unwilling to see the evil your light exposes.
Cleanse us and free us;
break the yoke we choose to carry
through Christ, who gave himself for us,
so the we might be your people,
holy and whole. Amen.**

Assurance of God's Grace***Response to Words of Forgiveness***"Angels We Have Heard On High" #113 GTG, chorus only***Invitation to Godly Play****The Peace**

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you.*Please pass prayer cards to an usher***Please stand as you are able.*

Giving Our Tithes and Offerings

Rejoice at the harvest the Lord has given.
Bring your first fruits with joy.
Bring honor to his name.

Offertory

Randy Bowers

***Doxology** “For the Life That You Have Given” #717 GTG

**For the life that you have given, for the love in Christ made known,
With these fruits of time and labor, with these gifts that are your own:
Here we offer, Lord, our praises; heart and mind and strength we bring;
Give us grace to love and serve you, living what we pray and sing.**

***Prayer of Thanksgiving**

We give thanks, Holy One,
for the world of wonder you have made—
forest and field,
sea and sky,
and for the gift of grace that you have given—
a little child,
lying in a manger.
Receive these gifts of tenderness and love,
of gratitude and praise,
and use them for your glory;
in the name of Jesus Christ,
the child of Bethlehem, we pray. **Amen.**

WE LISTEN FOR GOD’S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Loving God, by the gift of your Spirit,
teach us, like Mary, to treasure your words
and ponder them in our hearts;
through Jesus Christ, your Word made flesh. **Amen.**

Sermon Reading

Luke 2:1-14 (pg. 58 in pew Bible)

Choir Anthem “The Hands that First Held Mary’s Child” (Troeger/Forrest)

**Please stand as you are able.*

Sermon

“Behold, the Greatest Gift - Come Awake!” The Rev. Seth J. Thomas

***Hymn of Response**

“O Little Town Of Bethlehem” #121 GTG

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

Prayers of the People

The Lord’s Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be they 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.**

WE GO INTO THE WORLD AS GOD’S AMBASSADORS

***Closing Hymn**

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” #119 GTG

***Charge and Blessing**

Postlude

Randy Bowers

As our worship concludes, so our service begins.

We invite you to join us for fellowship and refreshments in the Horizon Room, to your right as you leave the sanctuary, overlooking the bay. Please introduce yourself to those new to you and extend the hand of peace, friendship, and welcome to everyone.

Next Sunday

Join us for a special service next Sunday at 10:30am as we look back on God’s faithfulness through the year and anticipate all that God is leading us into in the year to come.

“A Year In Review - An Examen for 2017”

First Reading: Hebrews 1:1-4

Second Reading: John 1:1-5

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Christmas Eve Service

There will be special Christmas Eve Candlelight service for all ages, this evening at 7:30pm. Come sing, hear the Christmas story, and welcome the dawning light of Christ.

Committee Chairs: Please begin working on your Annual Reports for 2017. Reports are due in the church office by January 5, 2018.

The nursery for children birth through 3 years of age is located downstairs at the south end of the building.

Godly Play, is our educational program for kids age 4 through 5th grade. Advent culminates in the incarnation. Classical artist renderings tell the story: The Annunciation; Visitation; Nativity; Adoration of the Magi; Presentation in the Temple; Massacre of the Innocents; and the Flight into Egypt. Nonreaders can label and order the pictures; older children can read the text of Madeleine L'Engle's *The Glorious Impossible*.

Parents: We would appreciate having your children registered for Godly Play, as a measure of security. You only need to register once. Please ask a teacher for a registration sheet.

Children of all ages are welcome throughout the service to worship with their families. Kid Packs are available in the Kids' Cupboard in the Narthex. Please see an Usher for details.

LOOKING AHEAD

This Week at St. James (December 24-December 30)

TODAY	7:30pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
Monday	Christmas Day Office Closed
Tuesday	Office Closed 10:15am Yoga 4pm Cross-fit 7:30pm WA Gender Alliance
Wednesday	* * *
Thursday	10:15am Yoga 4pm Cross-fit
Friday	* * *
Saturday	* * *

Next Sunday

New Year's Eve

9am Adult Church School

10:30am Worship

Programs sharing our St. James facility:

12 Step Programs

AA Men's Book Study Group: 7pm Mondays

Al Anon: 5:30pm Tuesdays

AA SOS Men's Group: 6pm Wednesdays

AA Fairhaven Group: 7:30pm Thursdays and Sundays

OA: 10am Saturdays

Bayside Co-op Preschool Information (360-733-3972)

Hawthorne Learning Solutions Contact Matt and Emily Hawthorne at hlearningsolutions@gmail.com for times and dates.

PROVIDING LEADERSHIP IN TODAY'S WORSHIP

Lector

Dave Armstrong

Ushers

Robb McGregor

Jean Seater

Sound System

Rick Seater

Coffee Hour

Deacons

Sacristan

Cheryl McGregor

The Saint James Staff

Pastor: The Rev. Seth J. Thomas

pastor@saintjamespres.org

Administrative Secretary: Natasha Orme

Music Director: Carolyn Mullen

Pianist/Accompanist: Julian Fajardo

Treasurer: Marina McLeod

Children's Ministry: Zadra Nolan, Coordinator

Teachers: Erika Singh-Cundy, Sophie Rose Kendrick, Lucy Sieczka

St. James Presbyterian Church

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www.saintjamespres.org

Office Hours

Tuesday-Friday, 9am-2pm

